

AAUW MEMBERSHIP DIALOGUE November 2004

There were 35 responses to the survey received by me, 34 were tabulated; one was in narrative format. The results are as follows:

1. Are your perceptions of AAUWs programs and activities consistent with AAUWs Mission, Diversity Statement, and Strategic Plan?
 - a. Yes 33
 - b. No 1
2. What is the best membership requirement for AAUW, if any?
 - a. No change to baccalaureate degree 25
 - b. Add category for other degrees 7
 - c. Add category for community partner 2
 - d. No degree requirement 1
3. How would each of the following impact on AAUWs strategic direction?
 - a. No change
 - i. Strong positive impact 25
 - ii. No impact 6
 - iii. Strong negative impact 3
 - b. Add category for other degrees
 - i. Strong positive impact 11
 - ii. No impact 8
 - iii. Strong negative impact 25
 - c. Add community partners
 - i. Strong positive impact 4
 - ii. No impact 1
 - iii. Strong negative impact 25
 - d. No degree requirement
 - i. Strong positive impact 2
 - ii. No impact 3
 - iii. Strong negative impact 25
4. Geographic area?
 - a. Small city 8
 - b. Suburb 14
 - c. Rural 5

COMMENTS:

- The name of the organization is self-explanatory. It promotes higher education for all.
- If AAUW wanted to support an Auxiliary, for 2-year degrees, RNs, non-degrees, that would be in support of educating women, it would be in keeping with our mission.
- Membership without an academic prerequisite would seem to dilute or abandon our identity.
- An academic prerequisite promotes educational equity among both old and new members as they work together toward AAUW strategic plan.
- If we are University Women, then let's keep it that way.
- The possibility of membership without an academic prerequisite would seem to dilute or abandon our identity.
- If changes are made in membership requirement, everyone should have equal status, i.e. hold office, etc.
- Adding a membership category for 2 or 3 year degrees would increase membership and at least give some importance to an education.

- Why be called University Women? We worked for it.
- There are more women in college than men. There should be a large pool to attract. Maybe we are too political.
- AAUW has always been an organization for University Women. Those without the current requirements to join AAUW; who have an interest in the same goals as AAUW, should feel free to join any number of other worthwhile organizations out there. Do not change AAUW.
- No degree requirement will cause us to lose at least half of our membership in protest.
- Many members, at this point in time, feel very negative about opening membership by adding a community partner category. This might bring in new participants but we could easily lose members proportionately.
- Would changing membership categories require a change in the name of the organization?
- Although other degrees are significant achievements for individuals, we should strongly encourage the higher degree.
- This is a poorly designed survey. The questions are not meant to elicit our opinion, they are meant to confuse and propagandize us. Someone at National is trying to force a dilution of membership standards down our throats and I resent it. I also resent spending our dues on this issue that has already been voted down. If we value education than we should keep it as a prerequisite and for membership. Reducing the requirement of holding a 4 year degree will reduce our effectiveness as an organization. I strongly oppose this.
- One of the reasons I joined this organization was to associate with women (discuss issues etc.) of similar background and interests. Changing the membership requirement would change the makeup of the organization in my opinion.
- It is the unanimous decision of the Massapequa Area branch, AAUW, that reducing requirements for membership in AAUW would erode the esteem, respect and influence that the organization now enjoys on a local, state, national and international level.

Anything less than the requirement of a baccalaureate or higher degree would reduce us to the level of any women's club, whether or not they espoused and upheld the tenets, aims and goals of AAUW.

We recognize that there are many women who would be an asset to AAUW but without a degree we cannot admit them for the above reasons.