

SGB EC Update

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March 21, 2014

Agenda

- Task Force: Retiree Policy
- SIGSCA – CCS / NSA Issue
- ACM Retreat
- Survey Results from last SGB Meeting

Task Force: Retiree Policy

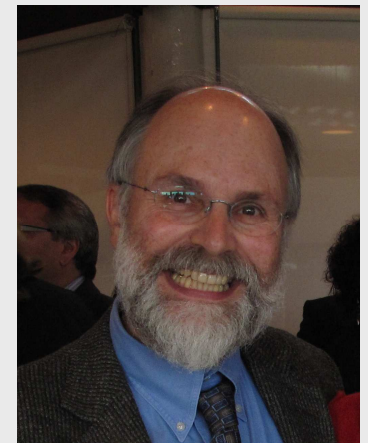
Joe Konstan: Conversations with HCI members near retirement

- Concerns: *Can they afford to keep coming to conferences?*
Many members near retirement.
- IEEE Approach: Life Member Program →
 - Waived membership dues.
 - Conference discounts for people:
 - Over 65
 - Age + Years of Membership ≥ 100
 - Discounts at or below student registration rates



Task Force: Examine retiree policy

- Conferences, SIG membership, other SIG policies
- Chair: **Wolfgang Banzhaf** (SIGEVO)



SIGSAC CCS Conference

NSA complained about Jacob Appelbaum keynote at November SIGSAC **CCS** Conference in Berlin.

Invited Talk by Jacob Appelbaum

Independent Security Analyst and The Tor Project

Title: The New Threat Models

Time: Wednesday, Nov 6th, 2013 at 4:30 pm in Room B07-B08

Abstract: The recent leaks of information by Edward Snowden teach us about the behaviors, specific goals, various techniques, as well as the overall motivations behind certain well funded attackers. The information presented by journalists raise extremely serious questions about the trade-offs being made by these attackers. The subverting of academics, industry and scientific standardization bodies is not only concerning, it threatens to undermine analysis performed on the basis of certain ground truths. How does this impact society? How does it impact industry? What empowers these attackers and how is it that it does not empower other attackers? What problems and threat models need to be considered? What are the key problems that we must consider with regard to security, privacy, anonymity and society?

Bio: Jacob Appelbaum works as a journalist, a photographer, and as a software developer and researcher with **The Tor Project**. He also trains interested parties globally on how to effectively use and contribute to the Tor network, an anonymity network for everyone. He is a founding member of the hacklab Noisebridge in San Francisco where he indulges his interests in magnetism, cryptography and consensus based governance. He was a driving force in the team behind the creation of the Cold Boot Attacks; winning both the Pwnie for Most Innovative Research award and the Usenix Security best student paper award in 2008. Additionally, he was part of the MD5 Collisions Inc. team that created a rogue CA certificate by using a cluster of 200 PlayStations funded by the Swiss taxpayers. The "MD5 considered harmful today" research was awarded the best paper award at CRYPTO 2009.



CCS =
Computer and
Communications
Security



- NSA complaints about Jacob Appelbaum keynote:
 - “made unkind comments”
 - “took advantage of his invited lecture to express personal views on NSA”
 - **Result:**
 - NSA employee felt that her personal safety was at risk.
 - Immediately exited the conference.
 - Arrangements made to fly her home that day.
- Sample Comments from Appelbaum:
 - “If you find RC6 malware on your box it is NSA”
 - “to NSA a terrorist is any Muslim man over the age of 18”
 - “NSA was involved in drone assassinations and murdered children”
 - “NSA was not only targeting terrorists but also people in the research community, and more specifically, the audience”
 - “it is the security community’s responsibility to make the ‘social cost’ of those known to work for the NSA so high that they are forced to become whistleblowers or quit the agency.”

CCS / NSA: ACM Actions



- Investigation by Trent Jaeger, SIGSAC Chair:
 - Spoke to CCS General Chair + Others who attended conference and Jacob's talk
 - **General view:** Everyone took the talk with a grain of salt.
 - Those with experience working with folks at the NSA were sympathetic to the NSA's challenges in getting their job done.
 - Some indicated that they supported the NSA.
 - Some were more inclined to identify the difficult position that congress had put the NSA in with the Patriot Act.
 - Others generally did not associate the NSA with malice.
 - They are interested in the challenges of privacy.
 - → Believe that more discussions are to be had about an appropriate foundation for protecting privacy.
- Deliberations about response by SGB EC and ACM EC.
- Official response to NSA from Vint Cerf as ACM President:
 - Careful investigation conducted by ACM, but no transcript or recording available.
 - ACM expects attendees and speakers to abide by ACM Anti-Harassment Policy.
 - Personal regret that employee experienced this unwelcome treatment.



John White – October CACM

- ACM membership is growing.
- But SIG membership has declined:
 - Hovers around 40% of ACM membership.
- The current role of conferences in computing research is being questioned.
- OA is changing community expectations:
 - Regarding how publications should be financed and distributed.



- Membership
- Publications
- Conferences and SIGs

Retreat → SGB Task Forces

- **Taskforce on Journals-Conferences:**
 - Conduct an in-depth and coherent analysis of the publishing issues surrounding conferences.
 - Develop recommendations for fundamental changes to ACM's conference model and related conference publishing model.
- **Taskforce on ACM SIG Structure** (*with ACM HQ Staff*):
 - Recommend changes:
 - Simplify, strengthen, and empower the SIG communities.
 - Address how ACM Technical Communities and their activities can:
 - Achieve greater coherence.
 - More consistent level of quality.
 - *Opportunities to use Umbrella Groupings of SIGs?*

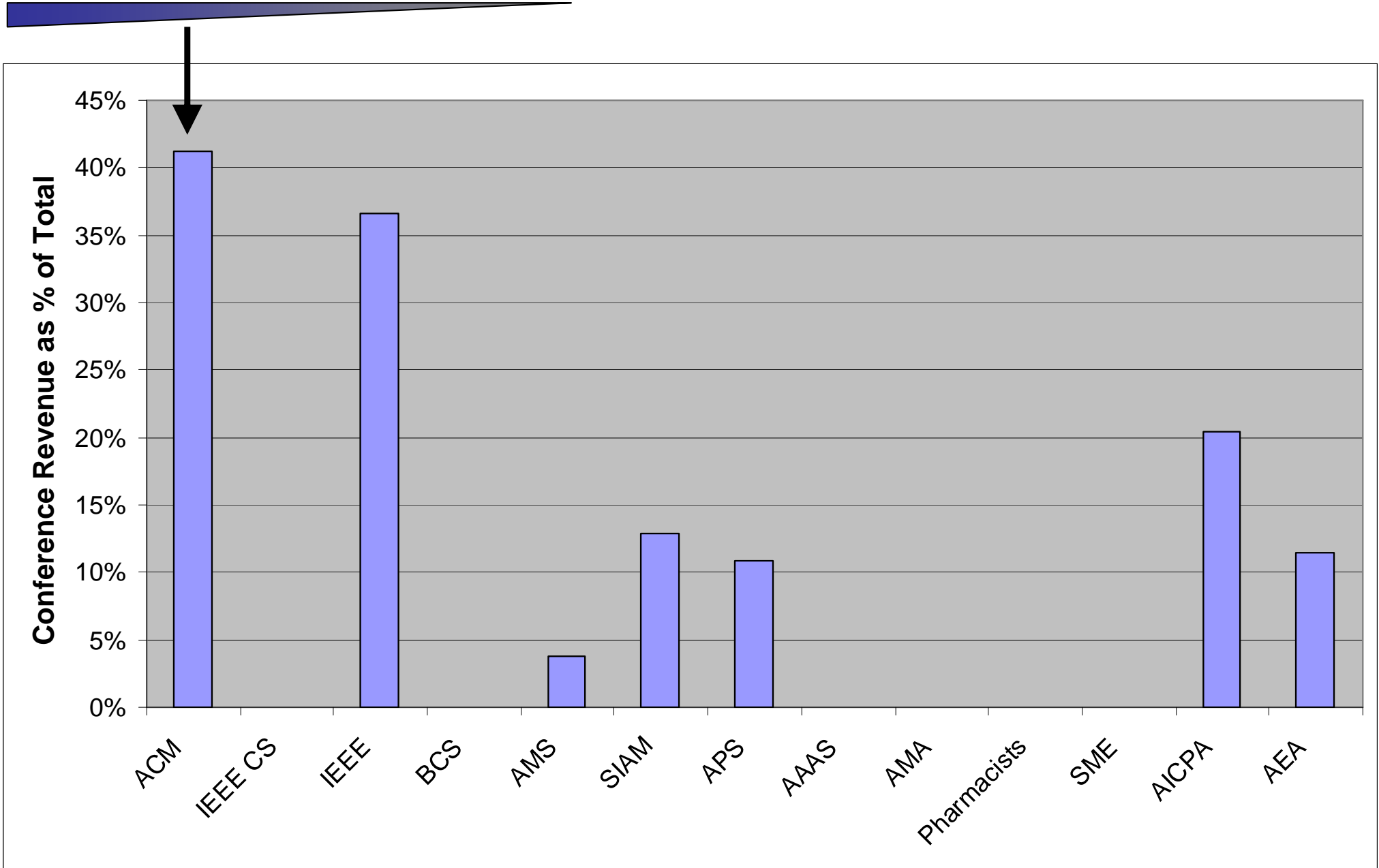
Challenges

- Conferences are about revenue/expense on the one hand.
- But they are also about:
 - The ACM model for technical communities (SIGs)
 - Conferences relationship to other parts of the ACM mission.
- *Are conferences proliferating?*
- *Are conferences too expensive?*
- *Will conferences continue to be a key dimension of computer science?*

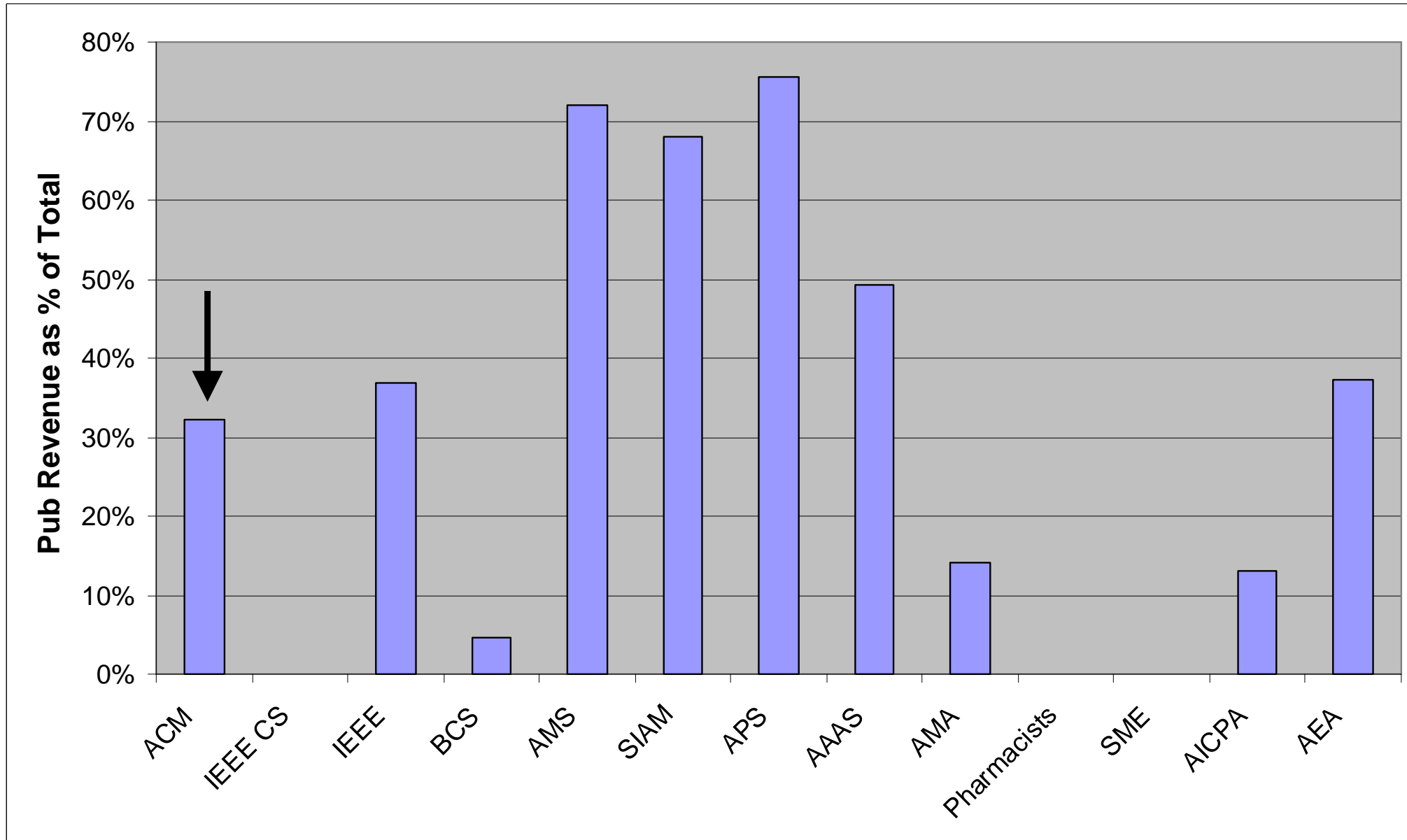
ACM Retreat - Conferences

- Some observations about ACM conferences:
 - ACM relies more heavily on conferences than other professional societies.
 - Large majority of SIG Conferences are healthy and vital.
 - Conferences are not too expensive.
 - Most SIGs are healthy and can tolerate experimentation.
 - But there is wide variation among SIGs in almost every metric.
 - SIG membership is slowly declining, possibly due to US concentration.
 - Not clear if membership is the right model for SIGs.

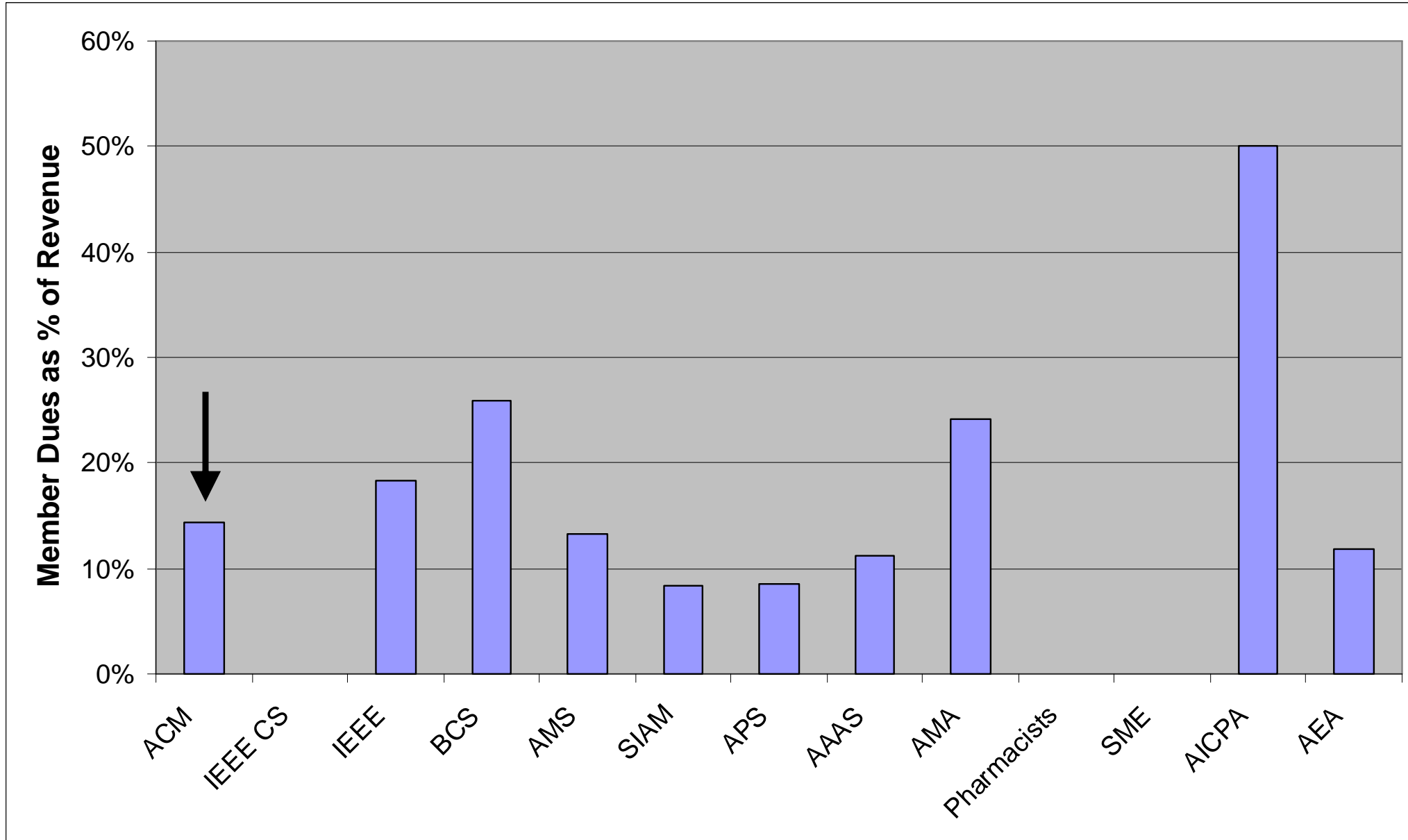
Reliance on Conferences



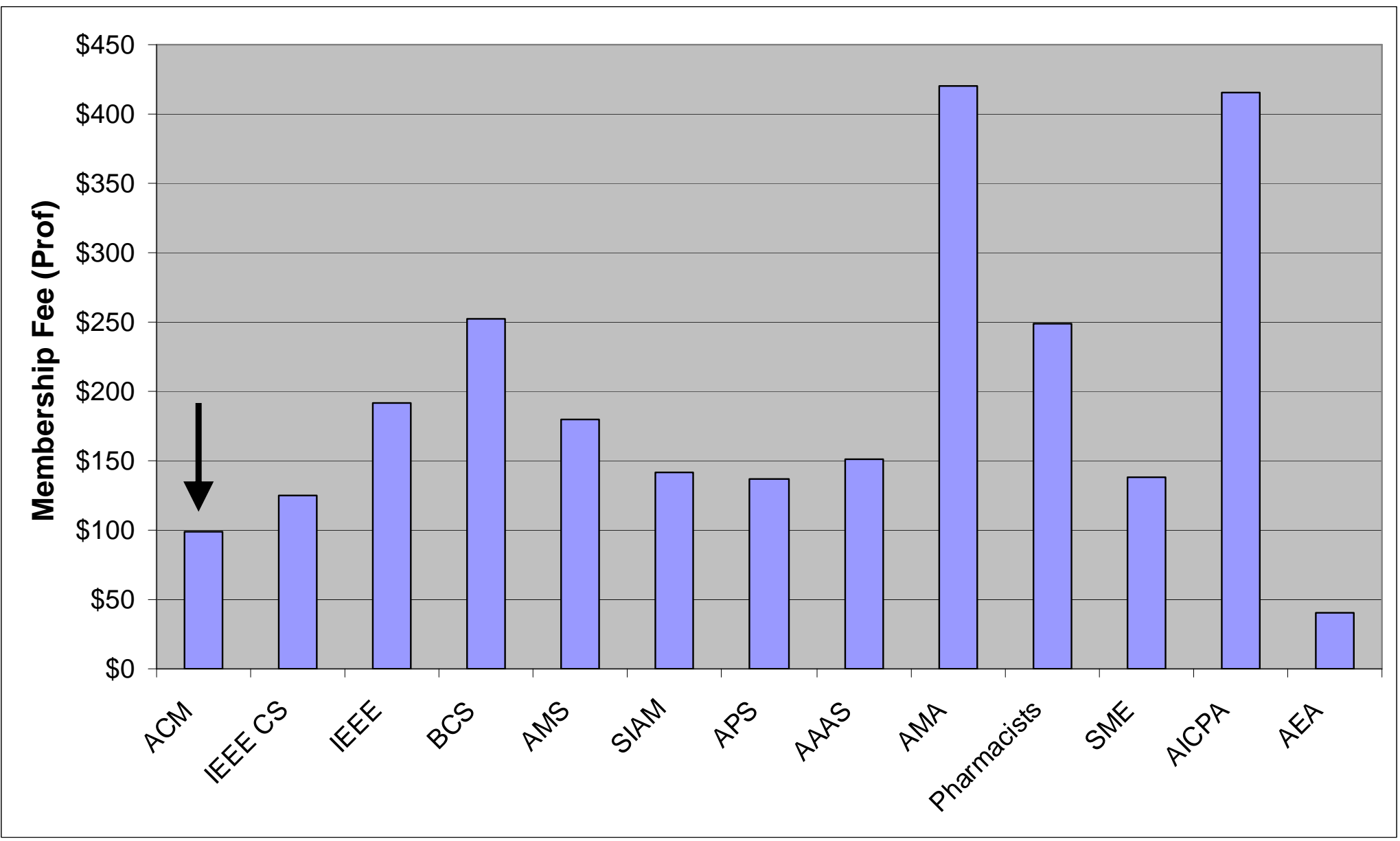
Reliance on Pubs



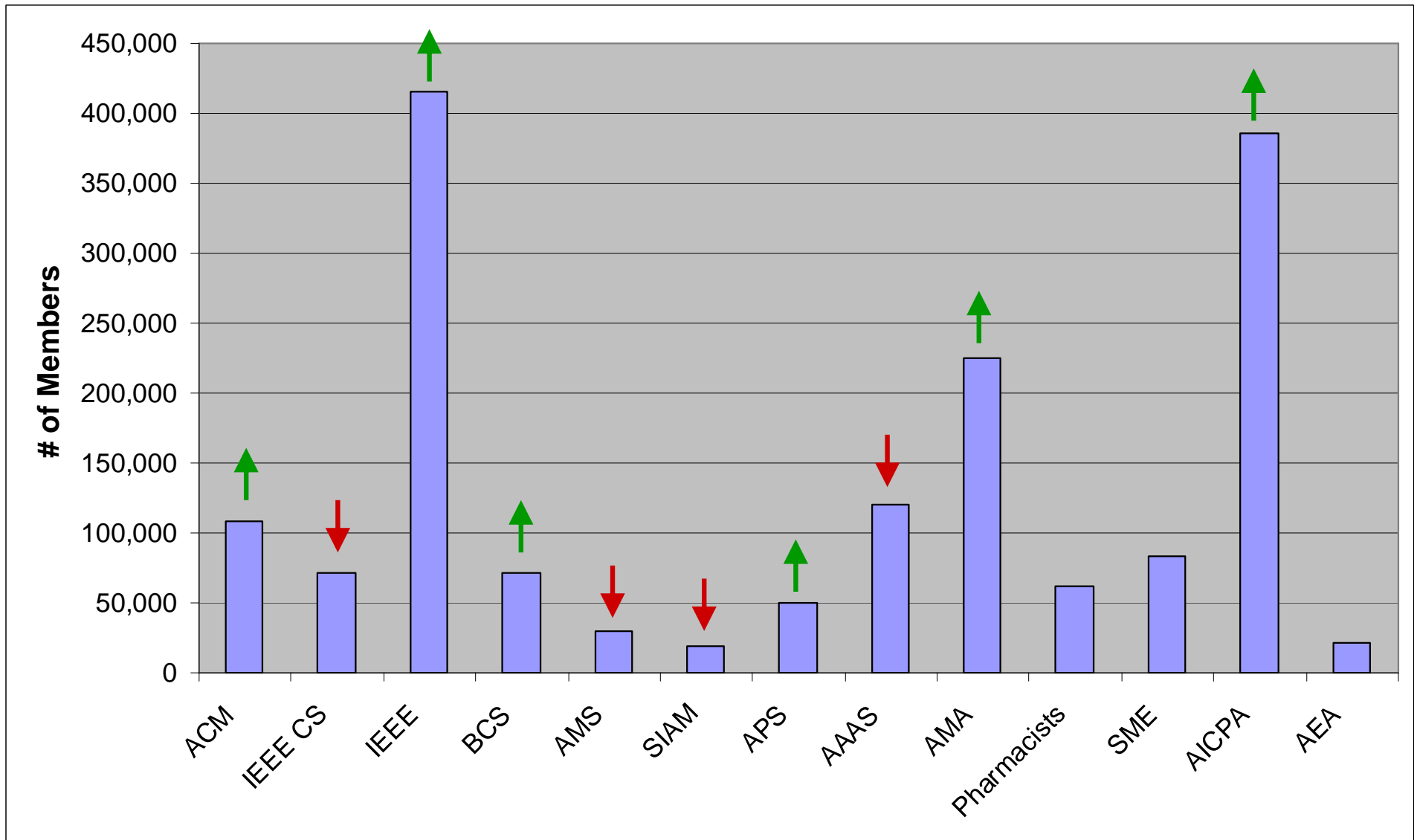
Reliance on Member Dues



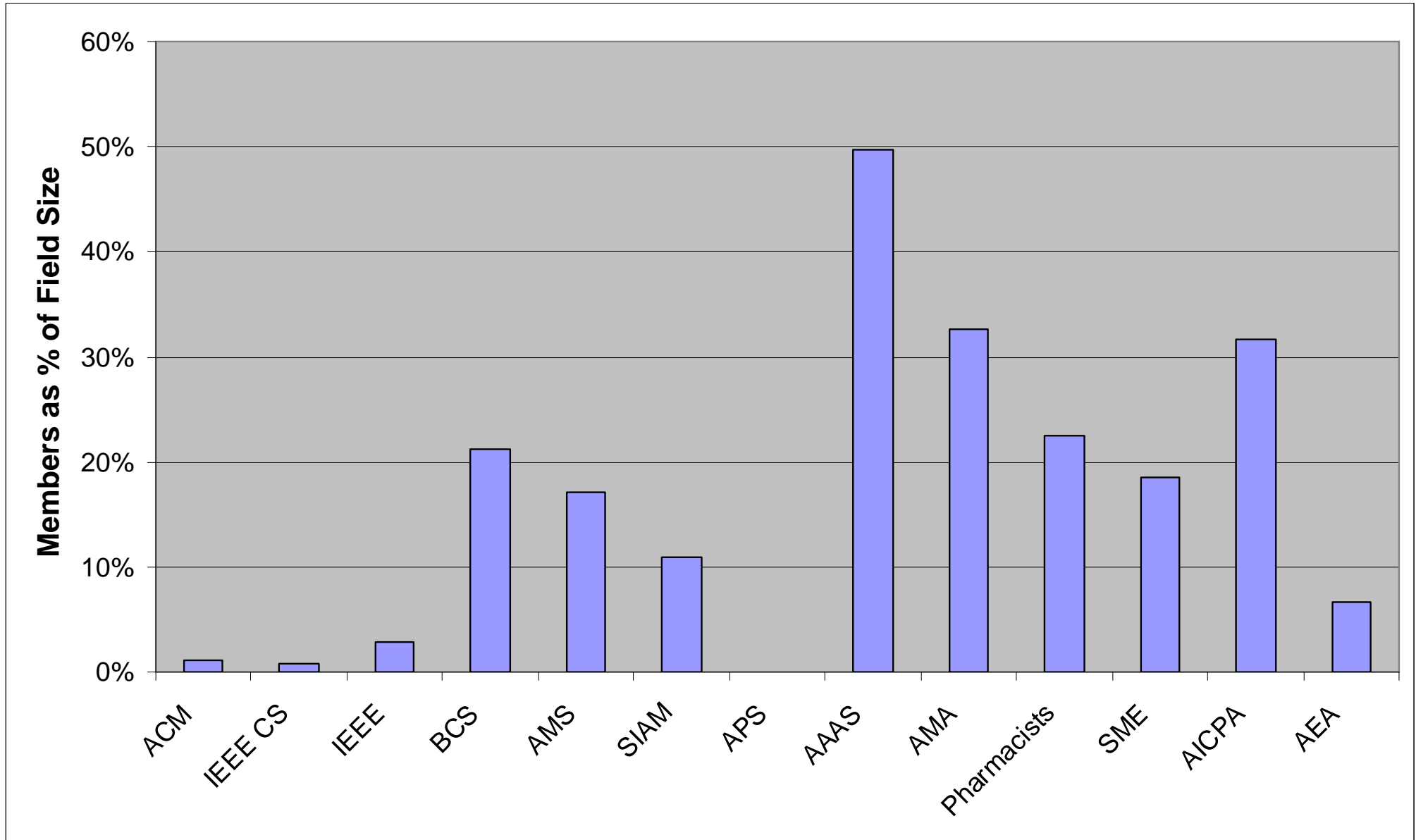
Member Fees Across Orgs



Member Counts

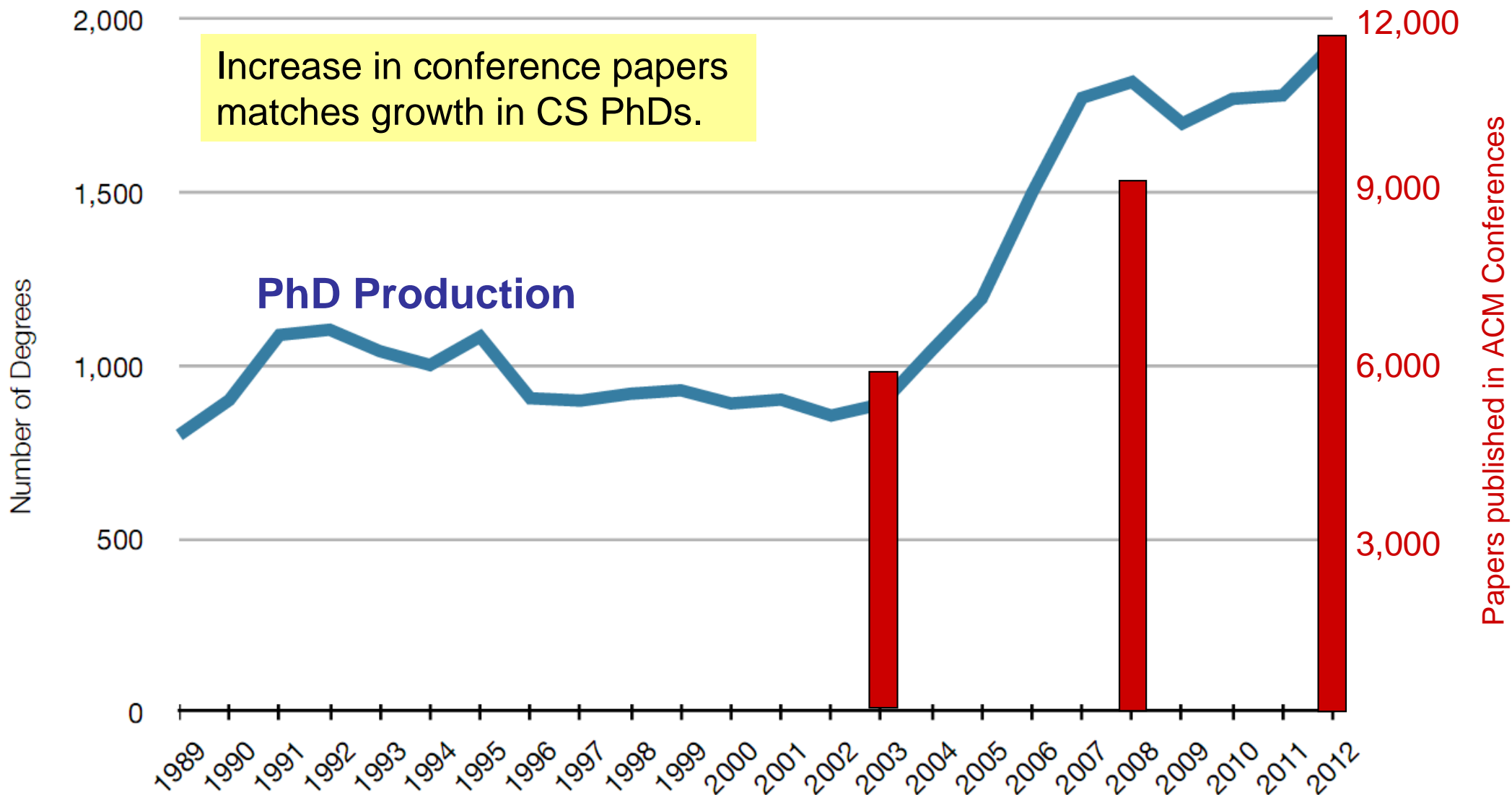


% of Field Joining



CS PhD Production vs ACM Conference Papers

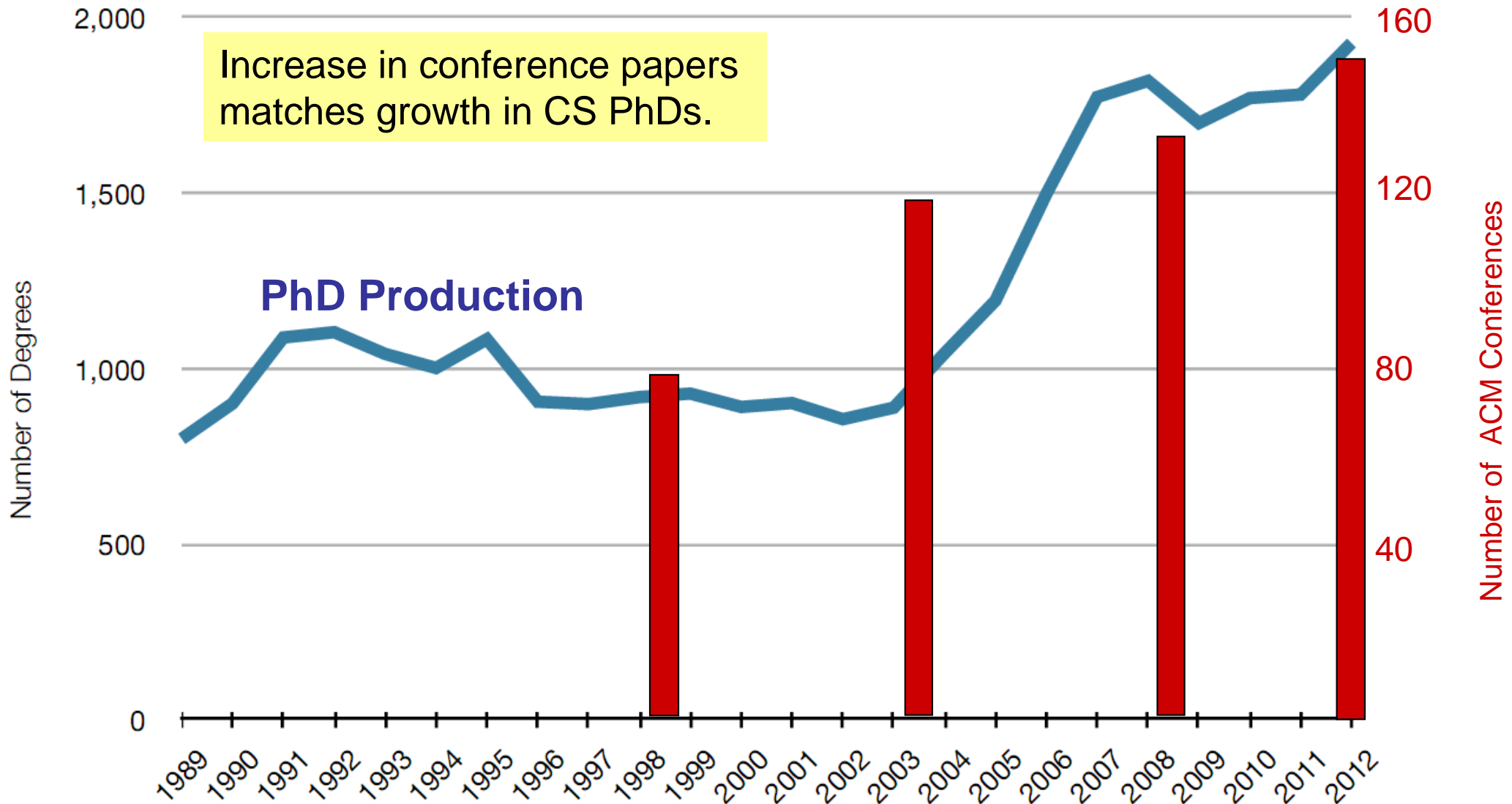
Figure 3. Total Ph.D. Production (CS & CE, US and Canada)



Source: Table 11: PhD Production and Pipeline by Department Type

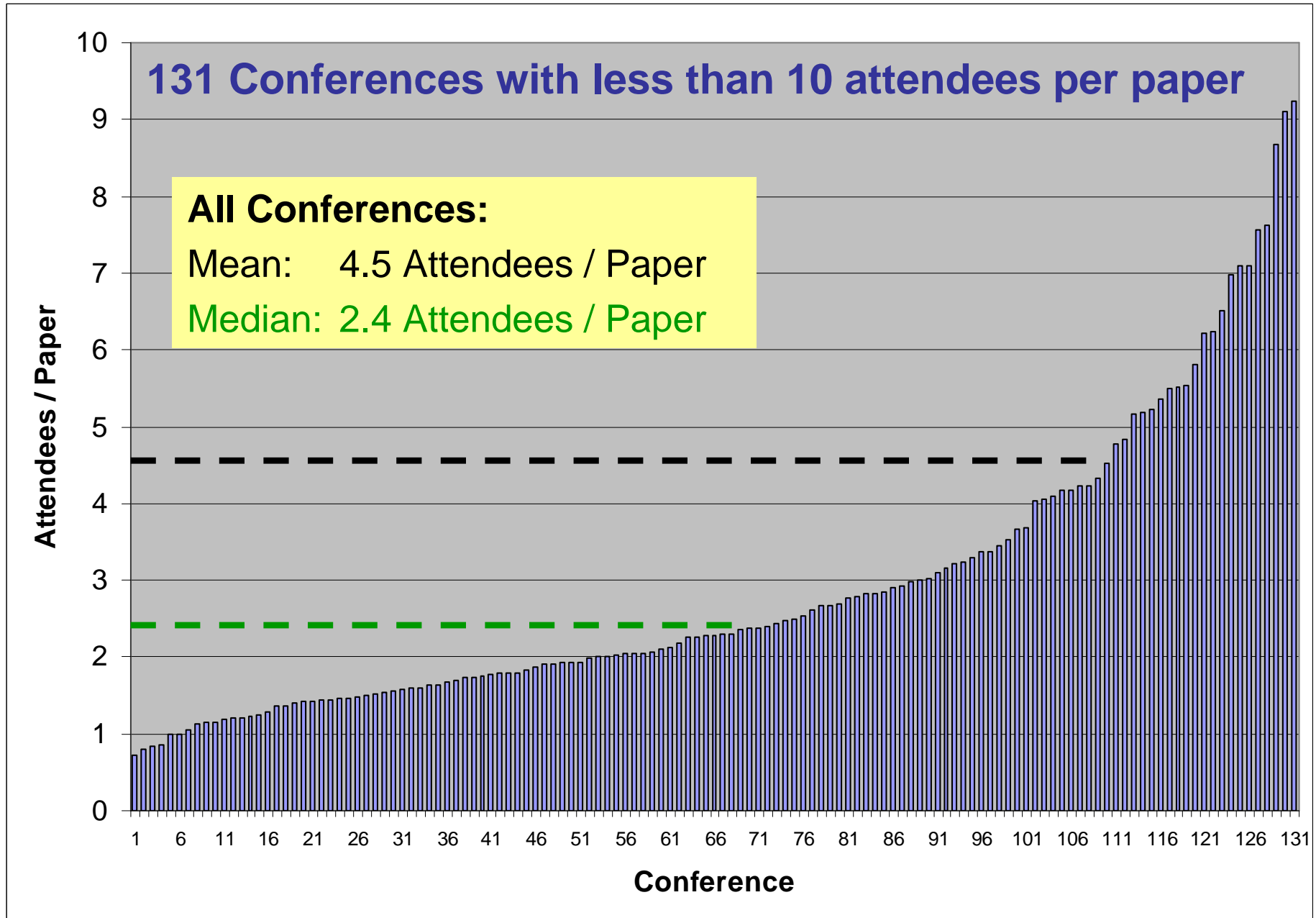
CS PhD Production vs ACM Conferences

Figure 3. Total Ph.D. Production (CS & CE, US and Canada)

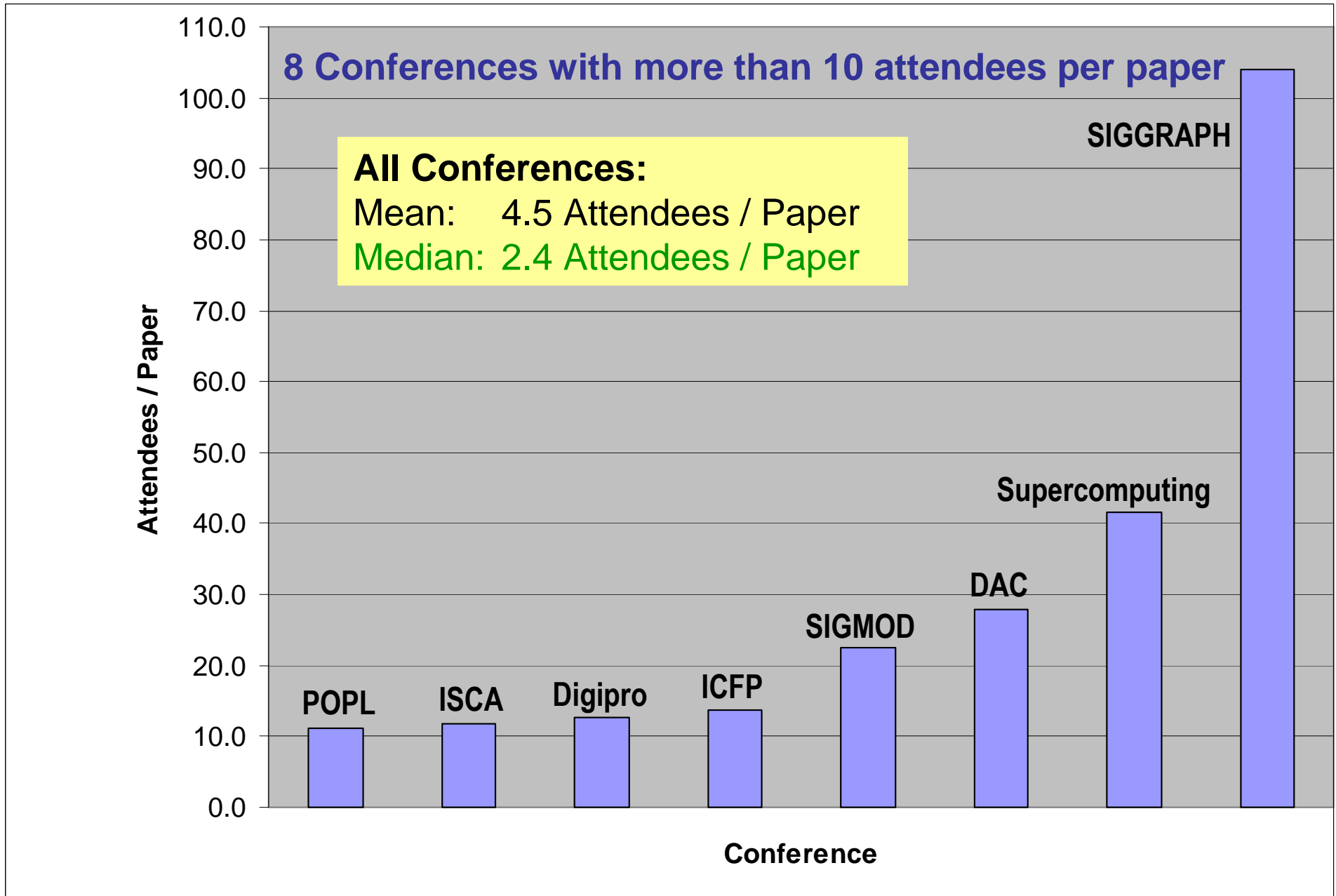


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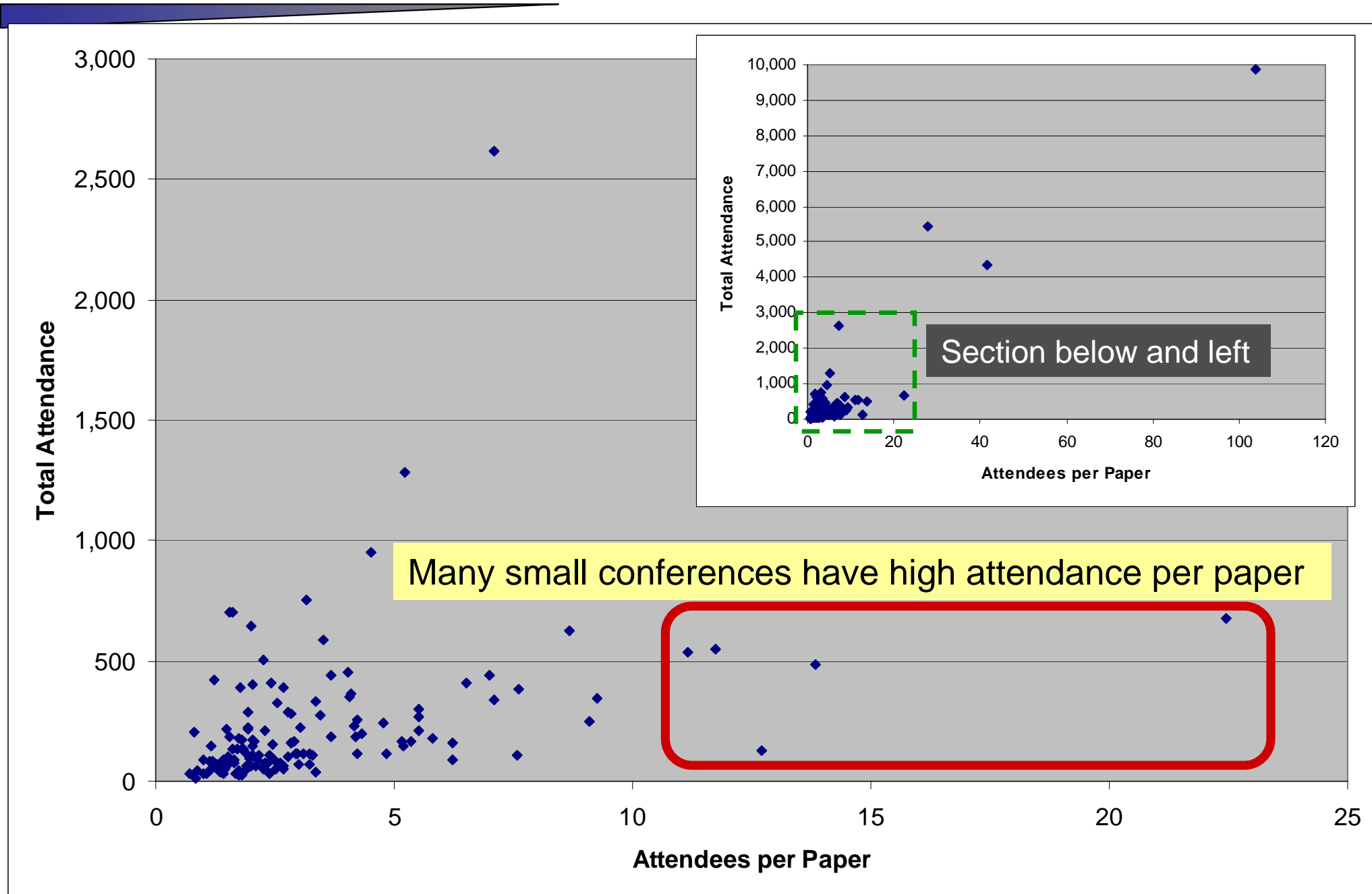
Attendees per Paper – Mainstream



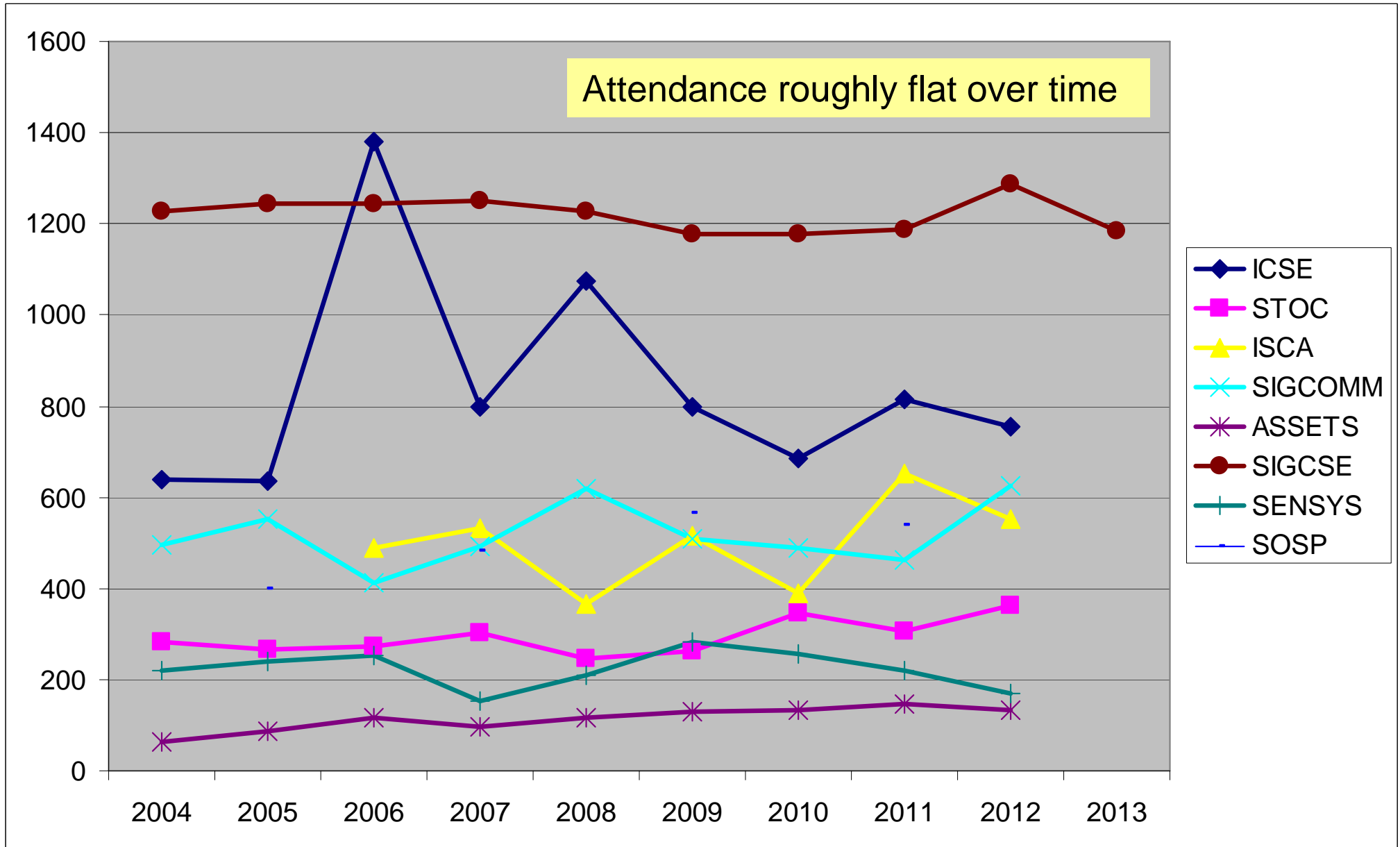
Attendees per Paper – Max



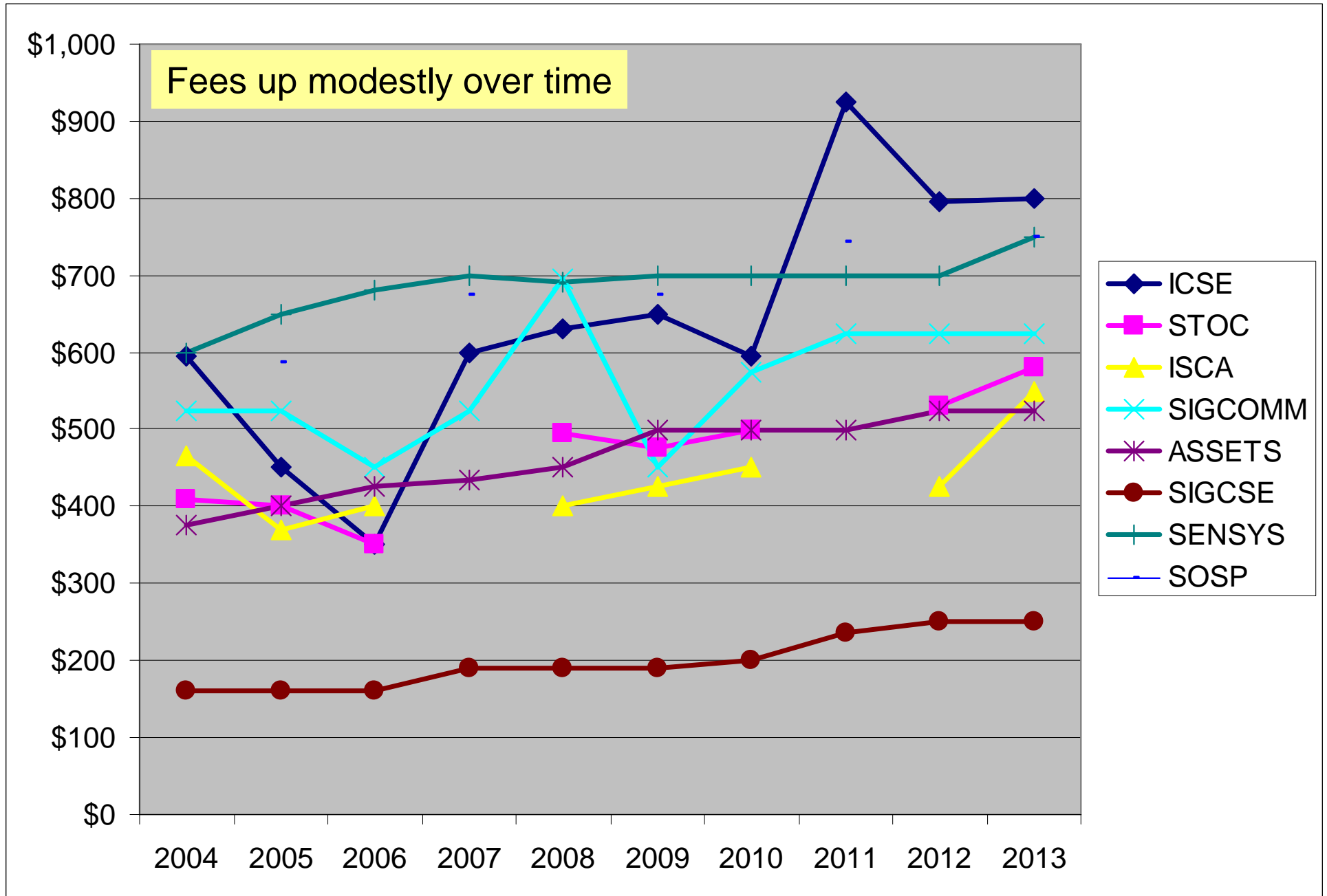
Attendance vs Attendees per Paper



Conference Attendance

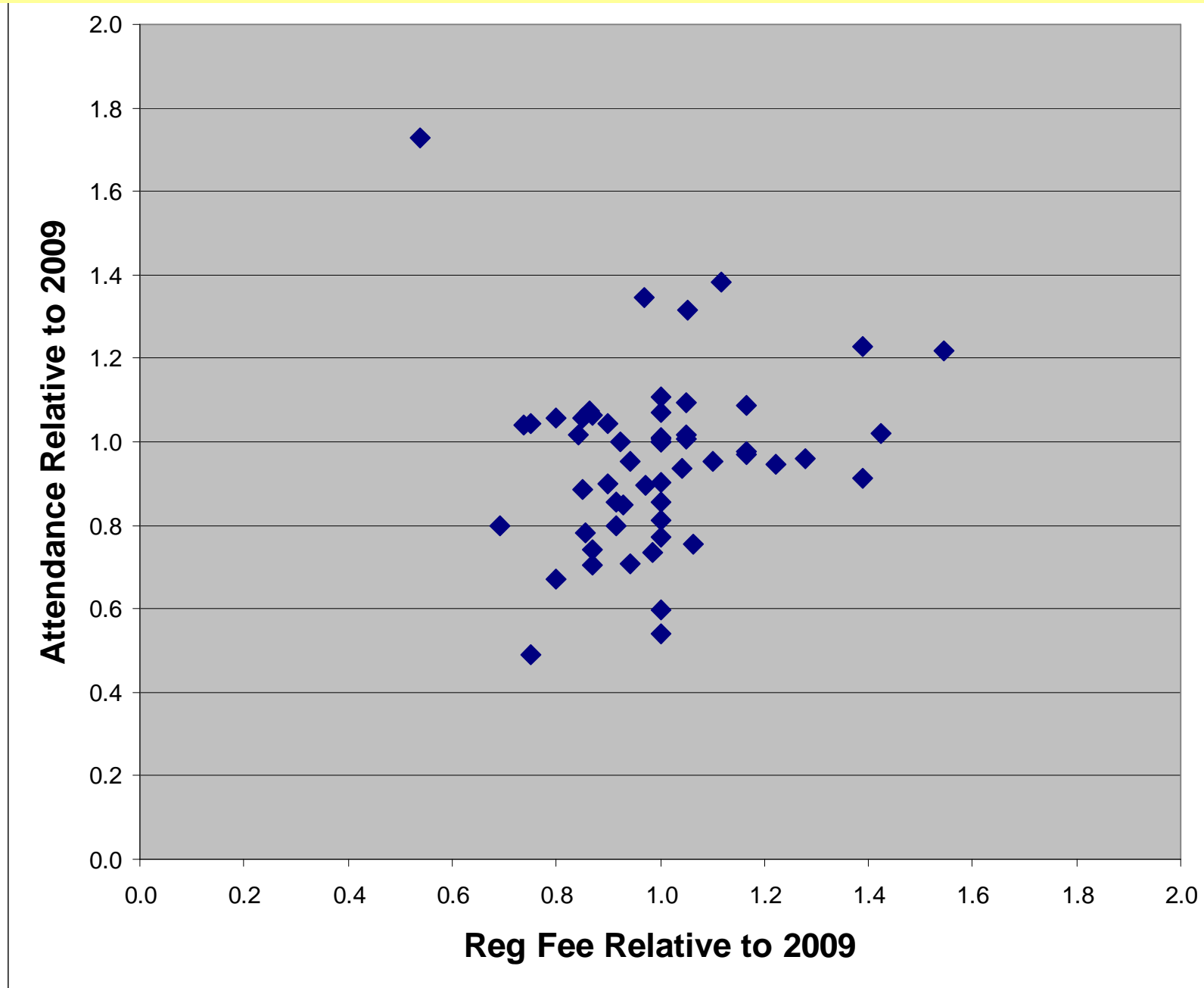


Conference Fees



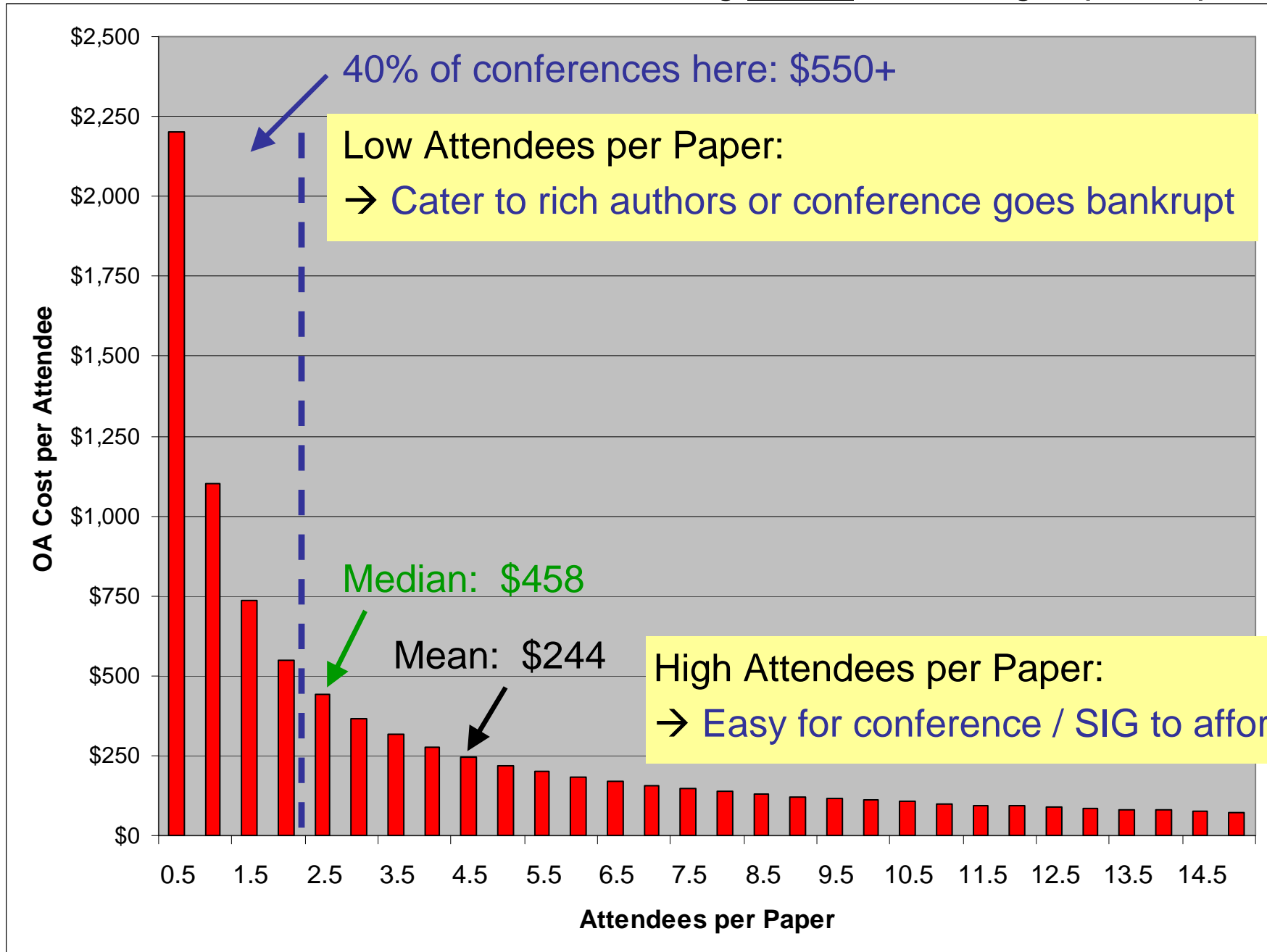
Attendance vs Reg Fee

No relationship between conference attendance and registration fee



OA Cost and Attendance

→ Assuming **\$1100** OA Charges per Paper



Survey Results:

October 1 SGB Meeting

25 Responses

SGB Meeting Agenda: Oct 2013

9:00 am - 9:10 am

1.0 Welcome

1.1 Welcome, Introductions (Altman, Madden)

9:10 am - 10:00 am

2.0 Report from the ACM CEO (White)

10:00 am - 10:45 am

3.0 Updates

3.1 USACM (Matthews - 15 minutes) [Report](#)

3.2 Athena Lecturer (Irwin - 15 minutes) [Report](#)

3.3 Citizen Scientists and ACM (Harper - 15 minutes) [Report](#)

10:45 am - 11:00 am

Break

11:00 am - 11:50 am

Updates Continued

3.4 CSTA (Stephenson - 30 minutes) [Report](#)

3.5 Publications (Madden)

11:50 am - 12:05 pm

4.0 SIGBIO Transition Review [Slides](#) [Viability](#) [Reach](#)

1:00 pm - 2:15 pm

5.0 Program Reviews

5.1 SIGAPP (Shin) [Slides](#) [Viability](#) [Reach](#)

5.2 SIGOPS (Matthews) [Slides](#) [Viability](#) [Reach](#)

5.3 SIGSOFT (Tracz) [Slides](#) [Viability](#) [Reach](#)

5.4 SIGUCCS (Wainwright) [Slides](#) [Viability](#) [Reach](#)

5.5 SIGWEB (Harper) [Slides](#) [Viability](#) [Reach](#)

2:15 pm - 2:30 pm

Break

2:30 pm - 3:00 pm

6.0 SGB EC Reports and Updates (Altman) [Report](#)

6.1 Nurturing Taskforce (Madden)

6.2 Newsfeeds (Altman)

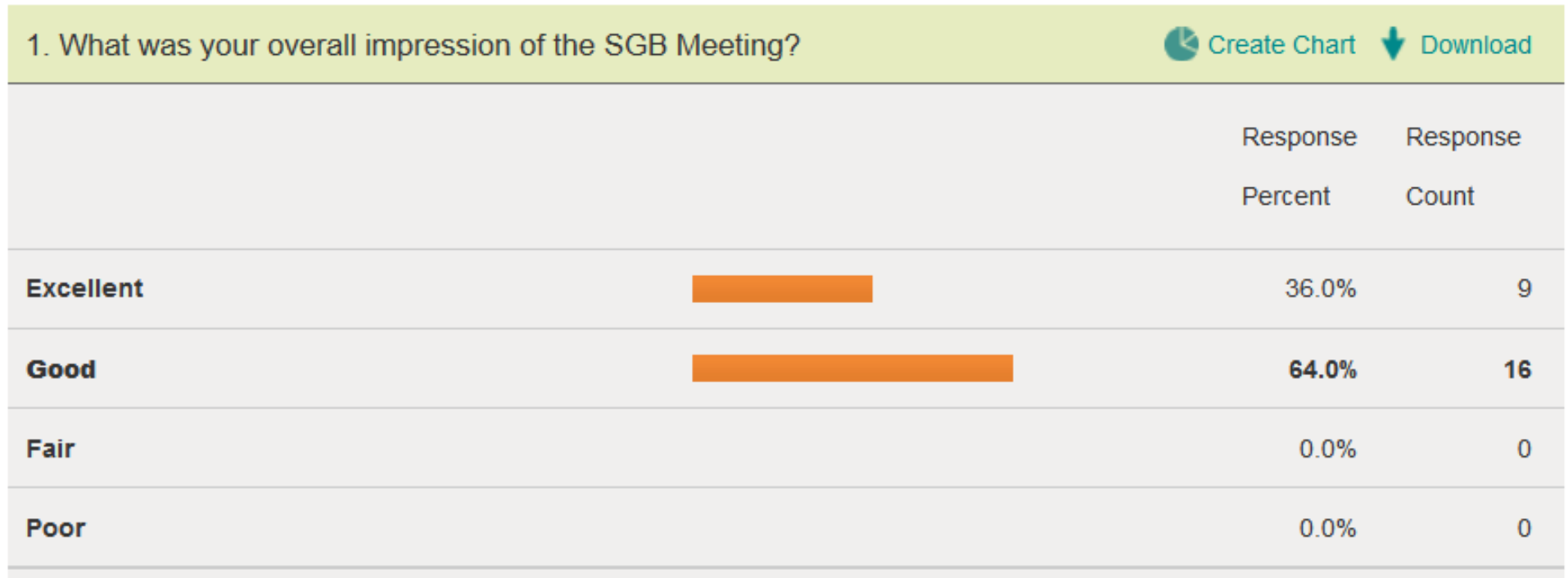
6.3 Full Inclusion Task Force (Harper) [Report](#) [Slides](#)

6.4 Umbrella Groups (Altman)

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

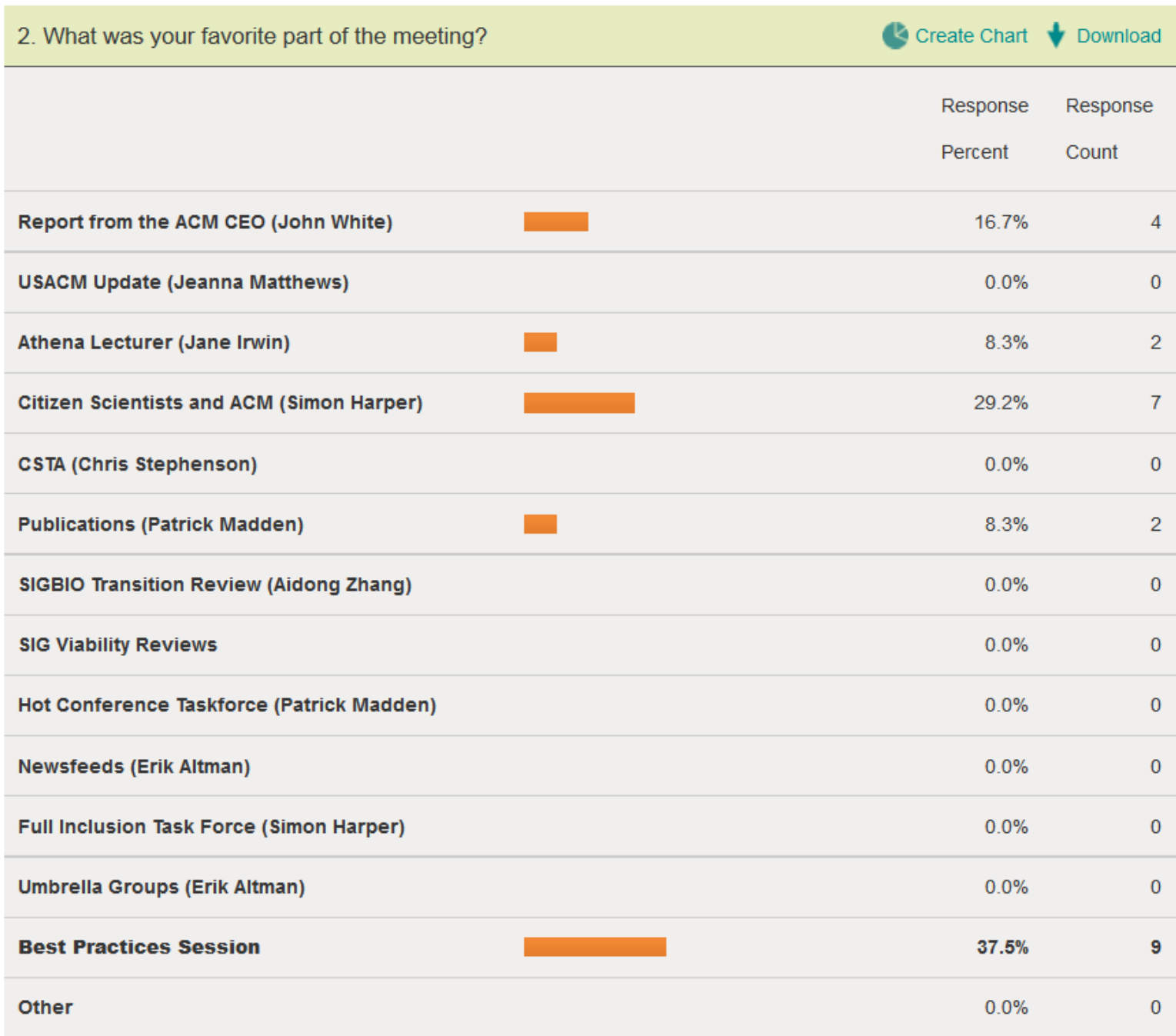
7.0 [Best Practices Session](#) (All)

Overall Impression of SGB Meeting



- “I learned a lot about ACM's new and old programs and initiatives.”
- “The viability reviews were better but there seemed to less content than usual to the rest of the meeting.”
- “Some.”
- “The votes for SIG viability felt much like the Congress of the Communist Party of China with pre-determined outcomes.”
- “The slide projection problem needs to be solved. For a long narrow room, two screens on short sides of room might be more readable. Also, slides need to be made with larger font and, when possible, less text.”














Favorite Part of Meeting



Favorite Part of Meeting – Comments

- “ACN-W is a very important initiative that i plan to present to my SIG in more detail.”
- “Great idea!”
 - Citizen Scientists and ACM talk by Simon Harper
- “Tough decision as all were informative”
- “All talks are brief and good.”

Least Favorite Part of Meeting

3. What was your least favorite part of the meeting?			 Create Chart	 Download
		Response Percent	Response Count	
Report from the ACM CEO (John White)		4.3%	1	
USACM Update (Jeanna Matthews)		17.4%	4	
Athena Lecturer (Jane Irwin)		4.3%	1	
Citizen Scientists and ACM (Simon Harper)		4.3%	1	
CSTA (Chris Stephenson)		4.3%	1	
Publications (Patrick Madden)		0.0%	0	
SIGBIO Transition Review (Aidong Zhang)		0.0%	0	
SIG Viability Reviews		26.1%	6	
Hot Conference Taskforce (Patrick Madden)		0.0%	0	
Newsfeeds (Erik Altman)		4.3%	1	
Full Inclusion Task Force (Simon Harper)		8.7%	2	
Umbrella Groups (Erik Altman)		4.3%	1	
Best Practices Session		8.7%	2	
Other		13.0%	3	

Least Favorite Part of Meeting – Comments

- “All were informative re what is happening in various areas of ACM.”
- “None.” [No least favorite part]
- “Disappointing lack of follow-up on publication items from the March meeting.”
- “The ideas were not cohesive.” [Best Practices Session]
- Viability Reviews:
 - “Seemed rote.”
 - “Given the nature of the voting and the decision-making process, what's the point?”
 - “I couldn't believe how fast the vote was pushed for SIGUCCS. if there is a problem with a SIG and there is a negative recommendation then there should be more discussion about it, the reasons why, etc. There was a quick vote after the negative decision and then there was discussion. This was handled poorly.”
- “USACM too long, too US-centric (and I am from the US).”

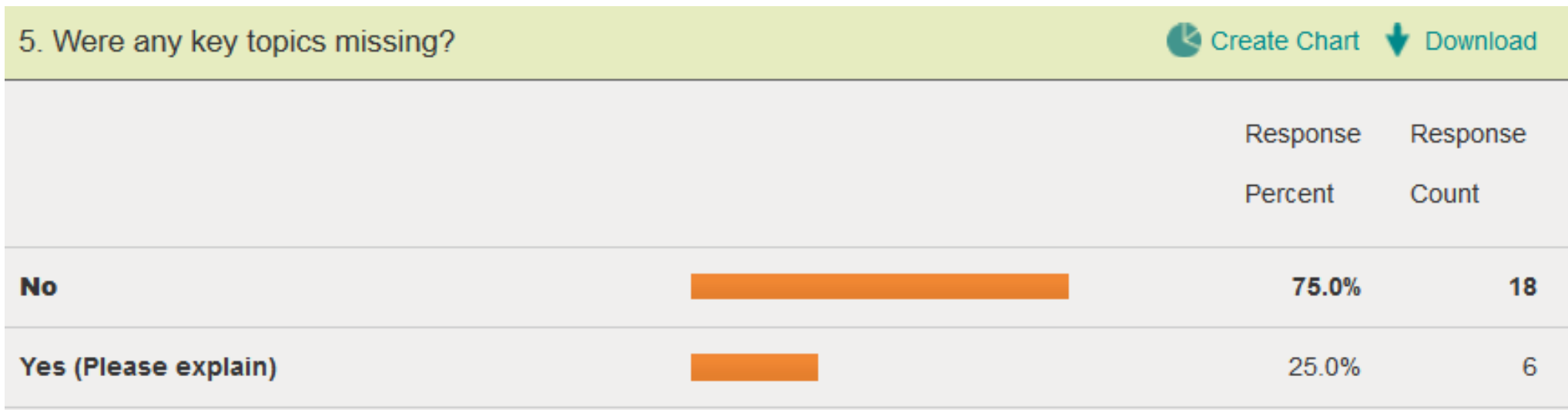
What was the most valuable thing you learned from the SGB meeting?

- Several ideas that other SIGs are following and would be beneficial to our own as well.
- The services provided by ACM to SIG conferences.
- Understanding ACM and other SIGs' activities.
- Open access changes -- this is important stuff.
- ACM wanting to own conference presentation videos, which seems a bad thing. Now I get the opportunity to try to lobby against it.
- Alternative approaches to SIG functioning.
- some of the tips from other members.
- Best practices, makes me wonder if we should make a SGB resource for these so they can be curated and passed to SIG / conference leaders.

What was the most valuable thing you learned from the SGB meeting?

- F2F Networking.
- ACM-W Athena program.
- What the IT group is doing.
- Details about the Heidelberg forum attendees.
- Several new ideas what we could do in our SIG.
- some practices. Also valuable to talk to other SIG Chairs.
- good to have a non-paying "friends" of the SIG group/ mailing list.
- The Best Practices session included very useful things for both my work as a SIG leader and other activities.

Were any key topics missing?



- It will be nice to have an interactive and Q&A session for newly elected SIG leaders and existing leaders.
- More discussion of how SIGs could get involved in ACM's international efforts.
- USACM talk should have at least had the courtesy to mention the other regional councils - even if just to say that they weren't yet in a position to do lobbying.
- More discussion on how to improve review quality. It seems to be a major concern across computer science.
- Report from ACM Ed Council/Board.
- Progress in internal discussion of APC charges.

Most Valuable Best Practice

6. What was the most valuable Best Practice?			Create Chart	Download
		Response Percent	Response Count	
1.SIGACCESS: Accessible Conference Guide		25.0%	6	
2.SIGARCH: Increasing Student Participation		8.3%	2	
3.SIGART: Webinar Series		8.3%	2	
4.SIGCAS: Reaching Out to Sister Societies		4.2%	1	
5.SIGDA: PhD Forum/University Booth		4.2%	1	
6.SIGITE: Peer Review		0.0%	0	
7.SIGGRAPH: Technical Session Recording		4.2%	1	
8.SIGMICRO: Supporting Minority Outreach		0.0%	0	
9.SIGMIS: Journal Editors/Industry Panel		4.2%	1	
10.SIGOPS: Professional Travel Scholarship		4.2%	1	
11.SIGSPLAN: Mentoring Workshop / Online vs Print Subscriptions		0.0%	0	
12.SIGSOFT: PC-miner/SEES		16.7%	4	
13.SIGSPATIAL: Keeping Conference F&B Costs in Check		16.7%	4	
14.SIGUCCS: Peer Webinars		0.0%	0	
15.SIGWEB: Volunteer Jobs/Steering Committee Involvement		4.2%	1	

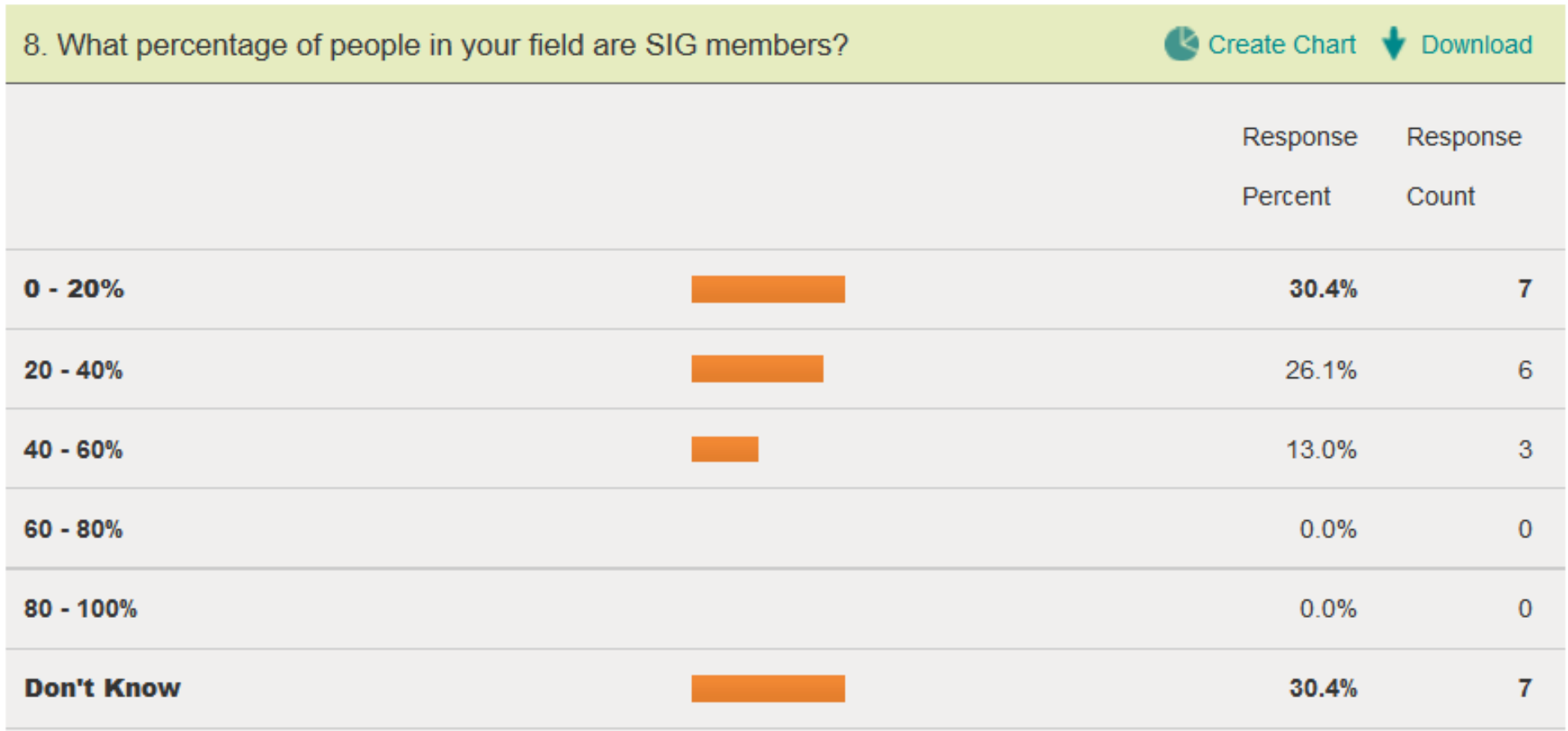
What initiatives would you like to see ACM pursue?

- Push the idea of umbrella groups to the next level and establish a hierarchy for real. Identify a successful business model that, nevertheless, has open access to the ACM DL fully and well integrated.
- Expanding the ACM community (more members).
- Citizen Scientist ideas -- support and embrace the maker community.
- Better support for community-building to complement SIG members lists.
- Decline in US-based membership.
- Doing what's needed so DL can push updates when new papers are added in particular CCS categories - and have it available ONLY through the SIGs, at least for a couple of years. That could really increase everyone's memberships.

What initiatives would you like to see ACM pursue?

- I think we lose a lot of good advice or duplicate work and best practices. So I'd like to see more on not loosening outcomes of meetings.
- Lifetime membership for SIGs. They should be able to follow the same model that ACM lifetime membership has.
- Small fund/application process for people to attend non-ACM venues to represent ACM (e.g. Makers Faires) - don't need to promise certain number of awards but good to get applications and consider them - Consider making all conference attendees SIG members.

% of People Belonging to SIG



- We lose out on big chunks of industry members who do not see ACM as a professional society, but as a scholarly society.
- Rather than answer "Don't know," I've guessed:
 - 0-20%
- Really I don't know for sure:
 - 20-40%

Other Comments

- Very informative meeting!
- Well-organized and well worth my time! Thanks for your efforts!
- Lots of good lessons learned - I wish I could have voted for more than one.

- Always enjoy the meeting and learn lots. However, it is embarrassing to have such poor technical projection of slides from an organization of the caliber of ACM.
- Wireless networking was a disaster. This survey timed out and wouldn't work during the meeting. E-mail sometimes took several minutes for send to complete and sometimes timed out. Orientation was excellent, so NYC makes sense but as a west-coast participant it costs an extra day solely for travel when compared to Chicago.

- Many people complain the ACM membership policy such that the previous membership history is wiped out if a member misses payment just once. IEEE reactivates the membership once payment is received.
- It's hard to market SIG membership, when conference discounts aren't enough (people say they can charge the non-member registration to their company/institution, but would have to pay dues themselves). We need some services that are only offered through the SIGs.

Survey for Today's Meeting

1. What was your overall impression of the SGB Meeting?
2. What was your favorite part of the meeting?
3. What was your least favorite part of the meeting?
4. Were any key topics missing?
5. Have you installed the DL App on your phone?
6. How helpful was the Best Practices session for your SIG - Steering Committee relations?
7. How would attendance change at your SIG's conferences with a \$250 registration fee increase for ACM Professional members?
8. How would attendance change at your SIG's conferences with a \$500 registration fee increase for ACM Professional members?
9. Please provide any other comments.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RM2CZGY>



The End