The Academic Sections Coordinating Committee (ASCC) serves as an important interface between the seven academic Sections and the Association Officers and Staff. The Chair of the ASCC represents the Sections on the AACP Board of Directors and communicates Section issues to the Board, as well as Board actions and discussions to the Section officers.

ABSTRACT REVIEW
Abstracts for posters to be presented at the annual meeting are peer reviewed and fall into two general categories: 1) Section-specific or 2) non-Section-specific. The guidelines and criteria for submission and review of these abstracts were developed by the ASCC in 1997. In the past, abstracts submitted in the non-Section-specific category, were reviewed by subcommittee(s) of the ASCC. Each reviewer rates the abstracts on objectives, methodology, results, and implications as stated in the published criteria. In 1998 and 1999 there were 100 abstracts submitted in the non-Section-specific categories of Administrative, Institutional, and Programmatic Issues; Educational Research; or Educational Strategies. This created a tremendous responsibility and time commitment for the five volunteers who reviewed all the submissions. To lessen this workload, all Officers of the seven Sections were apprised of the previous problems and requested to help with the 2000 review process. In total six teams, each consisting of three reviewers, were established and these 18 reviewers shared the responsibility for the reviews. The process was greatly improved. In 2000 there were 126 non-Section-specific abstracts reviewed, of which 105 were accepted.

PLANNING OF THE TEACHERS SEMINAR
The ASCC assists in the planning of the Teachers Seminar associated with the Annual Meeting. The topic for this year’s meeting in San Diego will be “Developing Professional Attitudes and Behaviors in Pharmacy Students and Faculty.” The ASCC selected civility and professionalism as the focus for the 2000 meeting. The seminar will provide a forum to discuss and update faculty skills required in an educational environment for productive interactions with pharmacy students. Working in small groups under the direction of Bruce A. Berger (Auburn), participants will consider cases of incivility in class and outside of class, and share preventive and corrective measures faculty may employ. David A. Latif (Shenandoah) will introduce the concept of cognitive moral development, how cognitive moral development is related to clinical decision making, and how faculty can encourage the moral development of students. In the afternoon session, Dana P. Hammer (Colorado) will facilitate small group considerations of professionalism, professional behaviors, and professional attitudes: how they are defined, taught, and assessed. The AACP staff did an excellent job of finalizing the contents and speakers for this seminar.

JOINT MEETINGS WITH THE COF ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD
The ASCC and the Council of Faculties (COF) Administrative Board conducted two joint meetings this year on Saturday, July 3, 1999 in Boston, MA and February 24, 2000 in Richmond, VA. Those in attendance at the joint ASCC/COF meeting discussed several topics of mutual interest and addressed the problems associated with reviewing the non-Section-specific abstracts. The Administrative Board of the COF generously offered to help review the posters, but such assistance was not necessary with this year’s review process.

SECTION ACTIVITIES

Biological Sciences. Due to several illnesses of the Section Officers this past year has been a quiet one, given to reviewing goals for upcoming years and assessment of the roles of teachers of biological sciences in pharmacy curricula as they convert to entry-level Pharm.D. programs. The election for new chair-elect of the Section was unusual in that it ended in a tie between the two candidates. A runoff election was necessitated and resulted in election of Tim Tracy (University of West Virginia). The Section has planned a robust program for the San Diego meeting. In conjunction with medicinal chemists and pharmaceutics faculty, the Section will present a discussion on Pharm.D./Ph.D. degree programs. Also, Dr. Robert Jacobs (University of California Santa Barbara) will discuss the pharmacology of anti-inflammatory drugs and marine organism models of inflammation. There will be some discussion of natural product anti-inflammatory isolates from marine organisms. Finally, the Section will co-sponsor the addresses by the Paul Dawson Biotechnology Award winner and the Volwiler Research Achievement Award winner.

Chemistry. The organization and assignment of Chemistry Section committees began in late August and was completed by mid-September. A complete list of all committee Chairs and members can be found on the Chemistry Section Web Page (http://www.aacp.org/Sections/chem/main/chemistry.html). Each committee was given an initial charge of reviewing existing documents and establishing and prioritizing goals for the year. These goals were submitted to the Chairs by the end of October and have provided direction for all of the committees. A summary of committee activities reported are summarized as follows. The Awards Committee (Chair: Michael Mokotoff, University of Pittsburgh) submitted nominations for the Distinguished Pharmacy Educator Award and the Volwiler Research Achievement Award. The committee did not choose anyone for the Paul Dawson Biotechnology Award since a member the committee was nominated for this award by his school. The Nominating Committee (Chair: Paul Schiff, University of Pittsburgh) has submitted the names of Michael Mokotoff and Robin Zavad (Midwestern University) as candidates for election to the position of Chair-elect beginning July, 2001. A call for additional nominations will be accepted at the July 2000 business meeting. The Program Committee (Chair: Jim Knittel, University of Cincinnati) has developed a session entitled “How Should Chemistry be Taught in the New Pharm.D Curriculum?” which will be presented during the Wednesday morning (July 12) Section Program Session. Additionally, the committee has worked in conjunction with the Sections of Biological Sciences and Pharmaceutics to establish a jointly sponsored program which will review the state of PharmD/PhD dual degree programs in member institutions. The Mentoring Committee (Chair: Paul Schiff, University of Pittsburgh) has been active in recruiting junior,
medicinal chemistry faculty to participate in the Section Mentoring Program. One hundred letters were sent to faculty located at 47 Colleges/Schools of Pharmacy within 36 states. The committee is currently working to establish mentoring groups for those who have responded. In addition, previously established groups have been retained, and three new groups were formed as a result of meetings and discussion at the 1999 Annual Meeting. The Communications Committee (Chair: Marvin Pankaskie) has maintained and improved the Section web site, has assisted other Committee chairs in conducting online surveys and reporting their results, has initiated a monthly “mini-newsletter” via the Section listserv, and has established liaisons with other chemistry-related organizations such as the American Chemical Society, the American Society of Pharmacognosy, the American Pharmaceutical Association, and the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists. The Excellence in Teaching Committee (Chair: Mattias Lu, UIC) has developed, and with the help of the Communications Committee, distributed a survey instrument to help them in their goal of promoting, facilitating and recognizing excellence in and scholarship of teaching. As of March 15, 2000, the committee has received 40 responses (26 institutions) to the survey. The committee is currently investigating options for an electronic discussion group. Additionally, the committee is collecting topics (and titles) of teaching materials which can be shared with other Section members. Plans to distribute a list to sharing of innovative handouts, problem-solving exercises, etc. are currently in place. The Membership Committee (Chair: Shirley Glover Milton, Texas Southern University) has been busy identifying and implementing the use of membership facilitators for each College of Pharmacy. Additionally, the committee has plans for identifying reasons why medicinal chemists are not joining the Section, formalizing a recruitment plan that will become a permanent function of the committee, developing a brochure to promote the Section, and possibly organizing a membership campaign. Additionally, Vickie Roche (Creighton University), has been working with the previous Chemistry Curriculum Survey Group. An initial draft of a publication has been submitted to the Journal.

Continuing Professional Education. Section Chair Alan Escovitz, addressed five primary initiatives as part of the committee charges: (1) develop a mentoring process for new members to work with the “seasoned” members of the Section on collaborative research, administrative issues, and the preparation of a Self-Assessment Report for submission as an ACPE approved provider; (2) identify roles for new members with committee assignments that foster future leadership roles and contributions for the Section; (3) identify “best practices” which demonstrate and exemplify ACPE Criteria for Quality to be posted on the CPE Section Web page: (4) move the Section into an electronic environment (“paperless”) for purposes of distributing committee reports, the Section Newsletter, CE resources, and related communications; and (5) develop a “white paper” for the Section on areas that require needed research, including pedagogical issues, in the discipline of continuing pharmaceutical education. A new Section mission statement was drafted for membership approval. Pam Joyner, chair-elect and chair of the program committee, continued last year’s theme of technology and pedagogy to deliver distance education and organized an exceptional program directed at issues impacting online learning. The Section’s Special Committee on ACPE Relations, under the leadership of Glen Farr and Jonathan Marquess again convened with the ACPE staff and the new Executive Director, Peter Vlasses. The committee, which serves as a strong advocate for membership concerns related to the continuing pharmaceutical education provider approval process, discussed a number of key issues with the ACPE staff. The Section also embarked on an experiment to transition its Newsletter into an electronic format. That change proved successful as evidenced by the membership’s ability to access the publication with minimal difficulty. The chair proposed that the Newsletter evolve into a more scholarly forum for articles, reviews, thought-pieces, and other kinds of contributions to discipline of continuing professional education.

Library/Educational Resources. Winfred Sewell coordinated the efforts to prepare a preliminary edition of the AACP Basic Booklist for Pharmaceutical Education in 1996. The booklist was placed on AACP home page in preliminary form. Many of the original members of the Basic Resources Committee are still actively working on updating the Basic Booklist. The booklist is currently utilized by a large number of pharmacy libraries to evaluate and update their collection. The committee will complete a second revision of the booklist in June 2000. Among the enhancements the committee anticipates publishing a list of periodicals and non-print sources including commercial databases, CD-ROMS audiovisual materials, web and other internet resources. A separate list of publishers with their addresses will also be provided in future revisions of the list. Heidi Marleau (Wisconsin) established the “Electronic Expansion List” for the Section in January 1999. The list is an informal link for Pharmacy Information Professionals. Over the past year the list has become an effective and invaluable communication tool for both Pharmacy and Medical information professionals. Nancy Fuller (Mississippi) coordinates the Section’s membership growth. She has successfully developed an orientation session for the new members attending our Section for the first time. The “Newcomers Session” is usually scheduled prior to the official opening session. The Section has seen an increase in the number of new attendees over the past years. The Program chair for this year is Virginia Stone (Maryland) and the program for the Annual Meeting will focus on 1) web tools for course development; 2) experiences in developing pharmacy courses on the world wide web; 3) teaching students to evaluate web sites; 4) tips on electronic journals; and 5) managing library mergers and alliances.

Pharmaceutics. Section Officers are Elizabeth Topp, University of Kansas (chair), Gayle Brazeau, University of Florida (chair-elect), Maureen Donovan, University of Iowa (past-chair), Jeff Hughes, University of Florida (secretary). Three major activities of the Teachers of Pharmaceutics Section are listed below. First, a review of New Investigator Proposals. Seven reviewers considered ten proposals submitted in the pharmaceutics area. The proposals were classified into “physical” and “biological” subpanels, with three to four reviewers per panel. As a result of this review, NIP awards were ultimately made to Peter Swaan (Ohio State University) for his project, “Targeted drug delivery to pancreatic tumors using the oligopeptide transporter”, and to Russell J. Mumper, (University of Kentucky) for his project “Ethanol-in-fluorocarbon microemulsions as in vitro/in vivo precursors for solid nanoparticle drug delivery systems”. Reviewers were Elizabeth Topp (University of Kansas), Suzanna Wu-Pong (Virginia Commonwealth University), Janet Wolfe (University of Tennessee), Jeff Hughes (University of Florida), Raj Suryanarayanan (University of Minnesota), Glen Kwon (University of Wisconsin) and Nair Rodriguez (University of Michigan). Second, the programming for the AACP Annual Meeting. Under the direction of chair-elect Gayle Brazeau, a committee developed Section programming for the annual meeting in San Diego. The speaker will be Marie Chisholm (University of Georgia), who will present “Introductory Grantsmanship: The Quest for a Perfect Specific Aim” on Wednesday, July 12th, from 8:00 to 10:15 AM. Committee members were Catherine White (University of Georgia) and Lane Brunner (University of Texas). Third, a review of Section abstracts. Three abstracts were submitted for presentation at the annual meeting in the Pharmaceutics Section. Due to the small number of submissions, they were reviewed by Section Chair Elizabeth Topp. All were approved for poster presentation.

Pharmacy Practice. The Program Committee conducted a successful Section Meeting at the ASHP Mid-Year Meeting. The Topic was on Faculty Serving Two Masters (answering to both an Academic Department Head and a Department of Pharmacy Director). This program was very well received. The Program Committee has completed planning for the Section’s Annual Meeting Sessions. They are as follows: Sunday, July 9, Integrations of Computer-Assisted Learning into the Curriculum; Monday, July 10, Practice Section Business Meeting; and Wednesday, July 12, Applications of Technology in
Experiential Learning. Poster and Abstract Review Subcommittee will complete their charges over by the end of March. The Resolutions Committee is reviewing the Section's Standing Rules of Procedure concerning the length of term of committee members and the number of members on each Standing Committee. The Awards Committee have prepared a new process for identifying potential award nominees, submitted a recommendation for the Lyman Award and are completing development of a packet of materials that will help next year’s Committee Chair in accomplishing the Committee responsibilities. The Quality Assurance in Experiential Education Task Force is preparing a Section White Paper with recommendations for quality assurance of pharmacy experiential programs and have almost completed their charge. The Computer Technology in Pharmacy Practice Education Task Force conducted an interactive Task Force meeting via the web during the Fall. This helped the group get ideas on use of this technology for Pharmacy Practice Education. During this session, they discussed strategies for developing a closer relationship with EBiR-SIG and how to better communicate the use of Computer Technology with Section Members. The Section Membership Outreach group is looking at the potential value and viability of having a Section Meeting at the ACCP Spring Meeting. The Entry-level Practice Expectations Task Force has involved Christine Nimmo (Director of Education at ASHP) and are reviewing some new objectives for pharmacy residencies. Measuring Student Performance Subcommittee sent out a request to Section members to submit materials their School is using for simulation-type exams. The Sub-committee is currently reviewing these materials. They are waiting for the Measuring Student Performance Sub-Committee to complete their charge so that they can begin developing model rubrics and exams to measure student achievement during and at the end of the Advanced Practice Experiences.

Social Administrative Sciences. The Social and Administrative Sciences (SAS) Section enjoyed a busy year characterized by a resurgence in committee activities. A summary of these committees’ progress follows. The Curriculum Committee (Chair: Donna Dolinsky, A&M Schwartz) has completed work on the Model SADs Curriculum, which will be presented at the San Diego meeting. They have also surveyed Section members regarding the teaching of research design and statistics in entry-level Pharm.D. curricula. The results of this survey will also be shared at the San Diego meeting. The External Constituencies Committee’s (Chair: Lucinda Maine, APHA) leading charge was to establish a directory of Section member information, including contact data and research interests or expertise. It was discovered that AACP was interested in potentially doing this for all members using web-based technology and the AACP membership system. As of this report, the on-line roster of faculty currently exists on the AACP website. It lists individuals by name, academic title, school (address) and provides an e-mail link. AACP information systems staff is currently evaluating what it would take to add a dialogue box for the “areas of expertise” section. An individual’s degrees, grants record and recent publications would be accessible via a link between the record on the AACP site and the person’s C.V. which would be posted on a university site or an individual web-page. Links to AAAS Community of Science postings is also being evaluated. It is anticipated that the work needed to execute this plan can be completed by year-end 2000. The Graduate Programs Standards Committee (Chair: Karen Rascati, Texas) activities were addressed by three subcommittees. The Recruitment Issues Subcommittee (Chair: David Holdford, MCV) has generated a draft marketing plan for recruiting graduate students into SAS graduate programs. This report could reasonably (and likely will) be expanded to address recruitment of students into undergraduate pharmacy programs and recruitment of advanced-degreed pharmacists into academia. This report will likely appear in revised form in an upcoming issue of AJPE. The Graduate Student Program Subcommittee (Chair: Dana Parkerson Hammer, Colorado) has planned a couple of graduate student events for the San Diego meeting. The Academic Careers Subcommittee (Chair: Jean Carter, Montana) has developed a list of teaching competencies which should be possessed by graduates of SAS graduate programs. This list should be ready for dissemination at the San Diego meeting. The Program Committee (Chair: Heidi Anderson Harper, Auburn) has prepared the program for the San Diego meeting which will start with a presentation by Section members representing different disciplines about what is being taught in colleges and schools of pharmacy, followed by commentary from a reactor panel of pharmacists representing different practice areas. The second program session will have Section member Jean Paul Gagnon conducting a presentation regarding what pharmacy educators and pharmacy students need to know about on-line pharmacies. The Strategic Planning Implementation Committee (Chair: Lucy Ngoh, Ferris State) has identified several major areas where the Section should focus its attention in coming years. Two examples include forging collaborative research relationships with colleagues from other AACP Sections as well as with pharmacies in a variety of settings and with the pharmaceutical industry, and establishing a system where committee members are assigned specific pharmacy-related associations to monitor current issues and up-date members on changes from these organizations’ perspectives. The Section Web-Page Committee (Chair: Matt Murawski, Purdue) identified several issues to be addressed in the coming year, including the location of the Section’s Web sub page behind the membership firewall of AACP’s Web page, and the scarcity of new content from Section members to be posted. The Committee recommends that a more public placement for the Section Web page be achieved to better serve our stakeholders, and one or more Section members who possess the abilities and interest necessary to create a more professional-appearing Web page suitable for broad dissemination be appointed to the Committee. The Section Web page should be revised, either building upon the page’s current content, or may undergo complete revision. The Committee further recommends that the Committee be provided a budget to purchase the software or supportive hardware necessary for the Committee to fulfill its mission. The Administrative Committee (Chair: Tim Stratton, Montana) surveyed Section members regarding their opinions as to what types of research the Section should accept for poster presentations at Annual Meetings. The main issues examined included accepting completed research only or work-in-progress as well, and accepting research addressing pharmacy education topics only vs. topics from any SAS field. Survey results will be shared at the Section Business Meeting in San Diego.

SUMMARY
The ASCC and the seven Academic Sections have had a very productive year. In addition, there has been a good and cooperative working relationship between the ASCC and the COF. Problems association with the review of abstracts have been minimized by the cooperative sharing of responsibilities among the Section Officers. It has been an honor and pleasure to serve the Association as Chair of the ASCC for the past year.