

REPORT OF AAAS REPRESENTATIVE
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The Council Meeting of the AAAS was held in Chicago in February 2009. As in past years, there was little that was directly applicable to plant systematists, but a number of points came up that are relevant to all scientists. These included the following:

- 1) The need for broadening the purview of undergraduate biology classes. We need to be sure that we are educating students who may not be professional scientists. Bruce Alberts (editor of *Science*) pointed out the need for scientifically trained people in all professions.
- 2) Communicating Science is an AAAS program that provides information and training for scientists in communicating their work to the general public. The program offers workshops at universities, and also an informative web site. <http://communicatingscience.aaas.org/Pages/newmain.aspx>
- 3) The business model for the journal *Science* is based on circulation. Two new journals have been started. Institutional print subscriptions are declining.

In my report to ASPT last year, I noted that the continued decline of institutional print subscriptions is affecting the high profile, high impact journals such as *Science* in the same way as it is affecting our journal *Systematic Botany*. Simply urging members to lobby their librarians is not likely to change this trend. We in ASPT need to be aware that the loss of institutional subscriptions means that ASPT, just like, AAAS will need to consider other streams of revenue and other ways to disseminate information on plant systematics.