Message from Jim Ulvestad – July 10, 2015

For the number of AAS members, you can look at Figure 4.11 of NWNH to see the data up through 2008.  This shows about 3200 full members in 1989, 3400 in 1990.  This had grown to 4100-4200 in the 2007-2008 time frame.  The number of 4500 in 2014 came from AAS data, but I don’t remember where they presented it or if it was estimated.

The number of AAG proposals that we have gotten in a given year is in a plot I have shown at any number of meetings.  For example, slide 28 of my November 2014 AAAC presentation, showing 238 AAG proposals in 1990, and 732 in 2014.  From slide 30 of the same presentation, you estimate that 10-15% of those proposals are the second (or more) proposal from an individual PI, so the number of individual PIs is about 210 in 1990, 630 in 2014.

Then you just divide 210 by 3200-3400 in 1990 to get 6-7% of AAS members proposing. For 2014, you divide 630 by 4500 to get roughly 14% proposing.

Of course, not all proposers are AAS members, this is just a way of scaling to show that there are double the number of proposals per AAS full member compared to 25 years ago.

So, to reference this, I would say something like “using NSF proposal data as presented to AAAC, and AAS membership data as shown in Figure 4.11 of NWNH, updated with data from later years.”