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An Examination of AEJMC Member Perceptions of the Integrity of the Competitive Paper Review Process

Standing Committee on Research
and

Task Force on the Integrity of the Review Process

Overview

- History of the Task Force
- Rationale for this report
- Methodology
- Results
- Summary
- Panel Discussion
- Audience Q&A

History

- 2006 Standing Committee Report
- Creating of the Task Force on the Integrity of the Review Process
- Focus of the Plenary Session
 - Report the findings of an association-wide survey
 - Discuss the ramifications of the findings

Rationale

- 2006 findings looked at tenure/promotion and journal reviewing
- Task Force/Standing Committee discussions
 - Concerns of members regarding competitive papers
 - Standing Committee on Research input
 - Impact on socializing new members into AEJMC

Methodology

- Creation of a survey instrument to tap into perceptions of AEJMC members regarding the integrity of the competitive paper reviewing process
 - Extend the work of the 2006 study
 - Offer some comparison to other communication associations' competitive paper processes
 - Better understand how AEJMC members perceived the competitive paper review process

Questionnaire

- Web-based survey of AEJMC members
 - Carried out over a several week period immediately after the 2009 competitive paper results were announced
 - Initial call May 21/Follow-up call June 1
 - Closed June 7
 - Consisted of three sections (demographics, competitive paper submission background, and integrity) asking 37 individual closed- and open-ended questions

Sample

- Open to all AEJMC members via the Internet
 - Self-selective sample
 - Questionable generalization
- An incentive to respond within 48 hours to the first call was a 2009 conference registration
- Yielded a sample of 582 AEJMC members or a 16.7% response rate
 - Similar to the 2006 response rate

Personal Demographics (%)*

- Gender:
 - Female 48.9 (44.6%)
 - Male 51.1 (55.4%)
- Ethnicity:
 - White 78.8(76.4)
 - African-American 5.8(5.8)
 - Hispanic/Latino 2.9(1.7)
 - Asian 9.1(3.4)
 - Native American 0.4(0.4)
- Highest Degree Held:
 - Bachelor's 1.0
 - Master's 22.0
 - Doctoral 74.9
 - Other 2.0
- Academic Classification:
 - Student 17.9
 - Lecturer/Adjunct 2.0
 - Assistant Professor 26.7
 - Associate Professor 28.2
 - Professor 22.4
- Academic Duty:
 - Research primarily 14.0
 - Teaching primarily 27.6
 - Teaching & Research 48.5
 - Administration 6.8
- Institution:
 - Public 80.2
 - Private 19.4

*Respondent (AEJMC)

AEJMC Demographics

- Years of AEJMC membership:
 - $M = 11.35$
 - $Md = 8.00$
 - $Mo = 2.00$
 - Standard Deviation = 9.74
- 42.0% Held Div/IG leadership position
- 25.6% Served as Research Chair
- 92.6% Submitted a competitive research paper to AEJMC
- Of those,
 - 97.2% Submitted to Annual meeting
 - 43.8% Submitted to Regional meeting
 - 35.6% Submitted to an annual summer meeting
 - 35.0% Submitted for a specialized meeting associated with AEJMC division interest group or commission

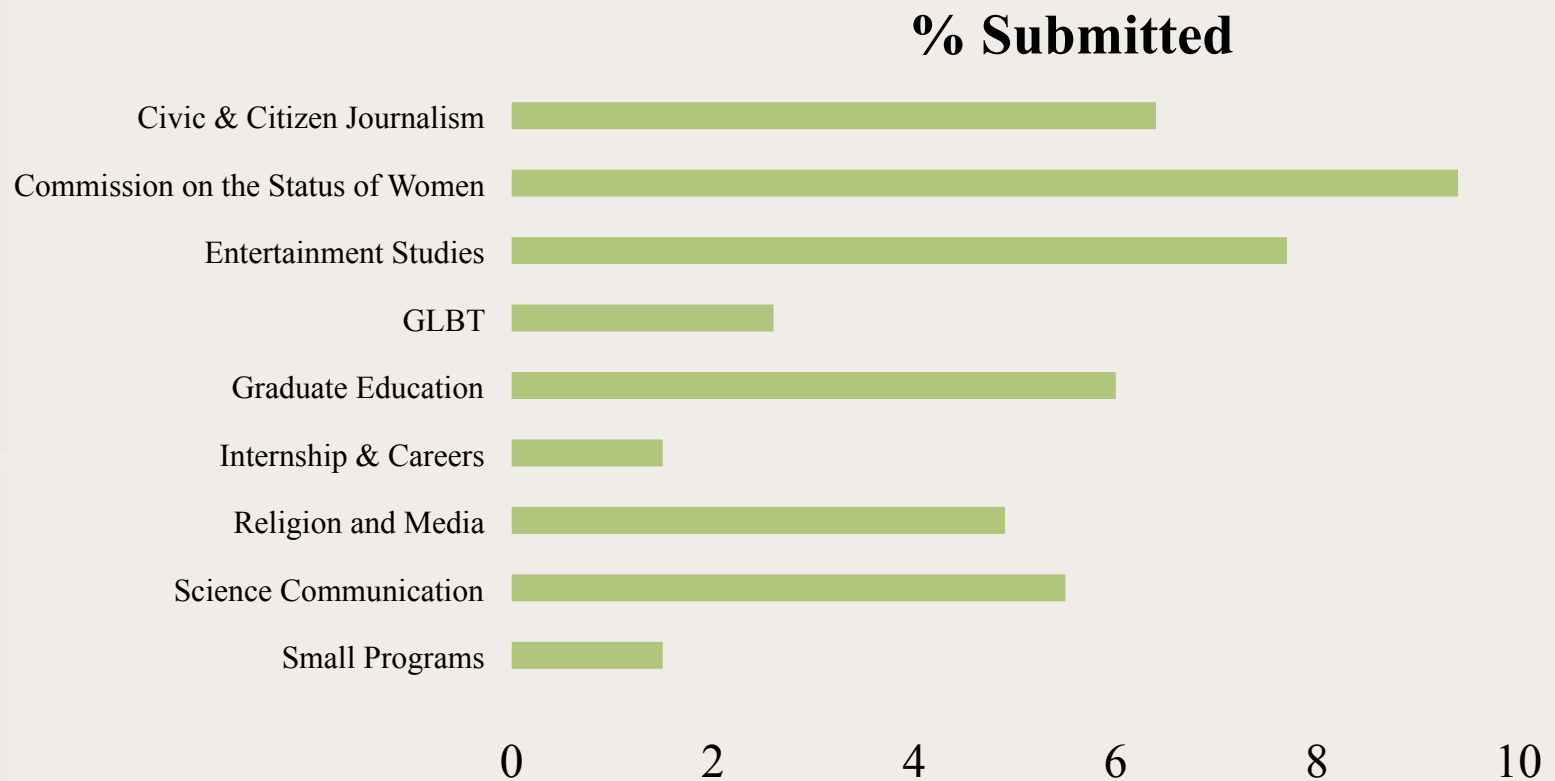
Divisions Submitted To

% Submitted



*Multiple submissions allowed

Interest Groups/Commissions Submitted To*



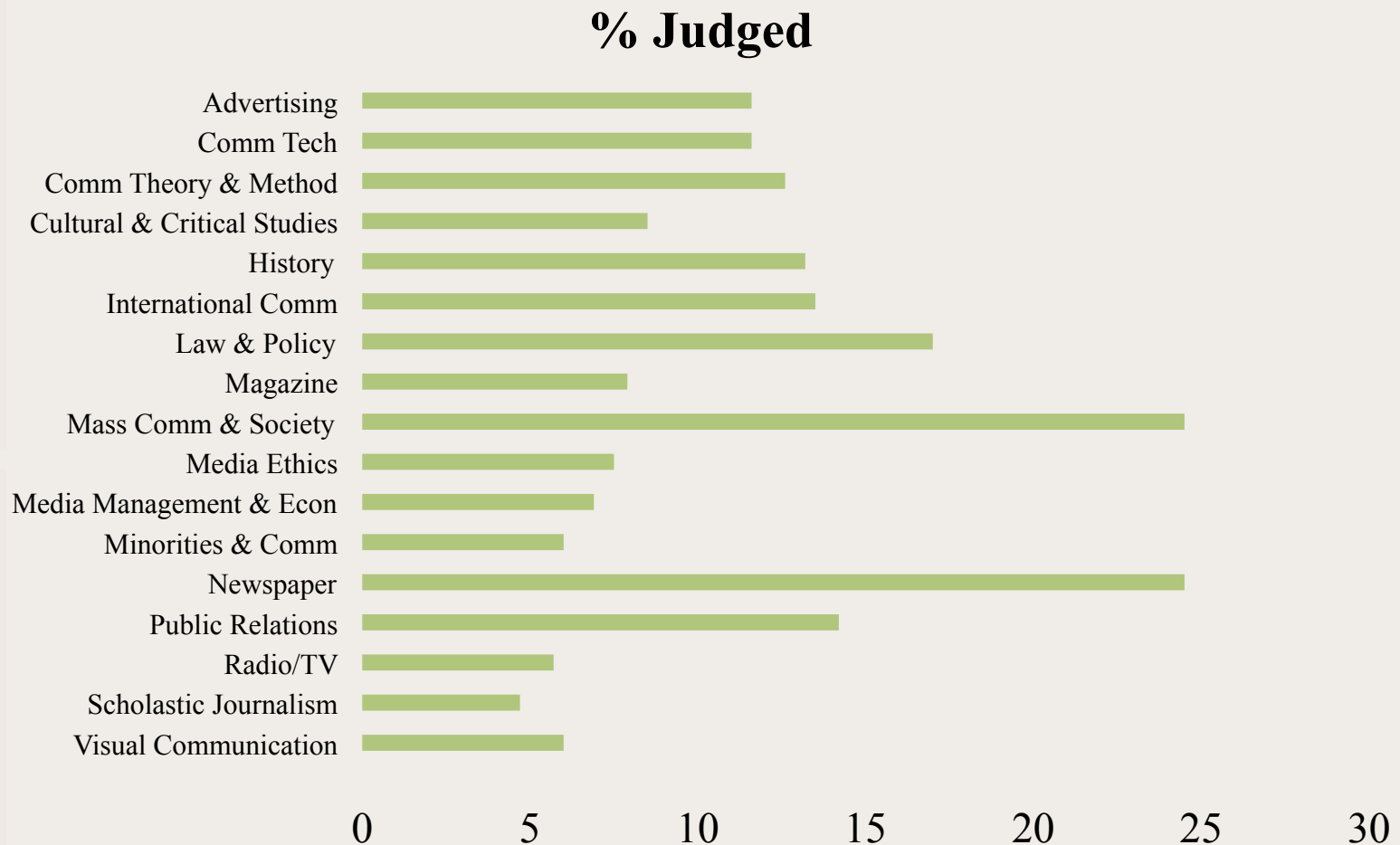
*Multiple submissions allowed/% range 1.5-9.4%

NOTE: Community Journalism Interest Group was inadvertently left off the survey

2009 Submission Data

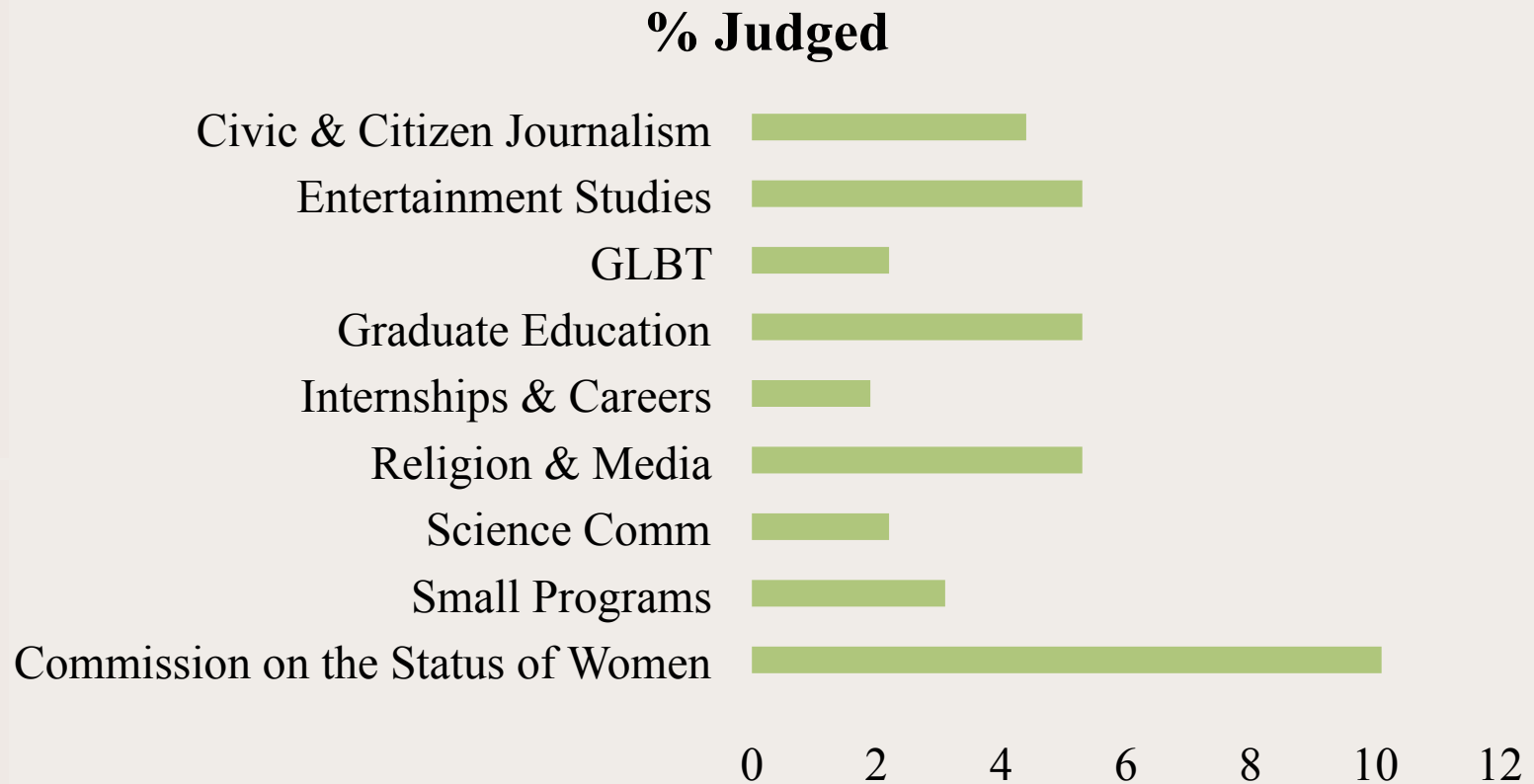
- 50.3% report submitted to 2009 Boston AEJMC meeting
- 47.5% report serving as a competitive paper judge for 2009
- If not judging in 2009, have done so in past?,
 - 48.6% for other AEJMC meetings
 - 86.0% for a national meeting
 - 38.0% for a regional meeting
 - 28.3% for a specialized meeting

Divisions Judged For*



*Multiple submissions allowed

Interest Groups/Commissions Judged For

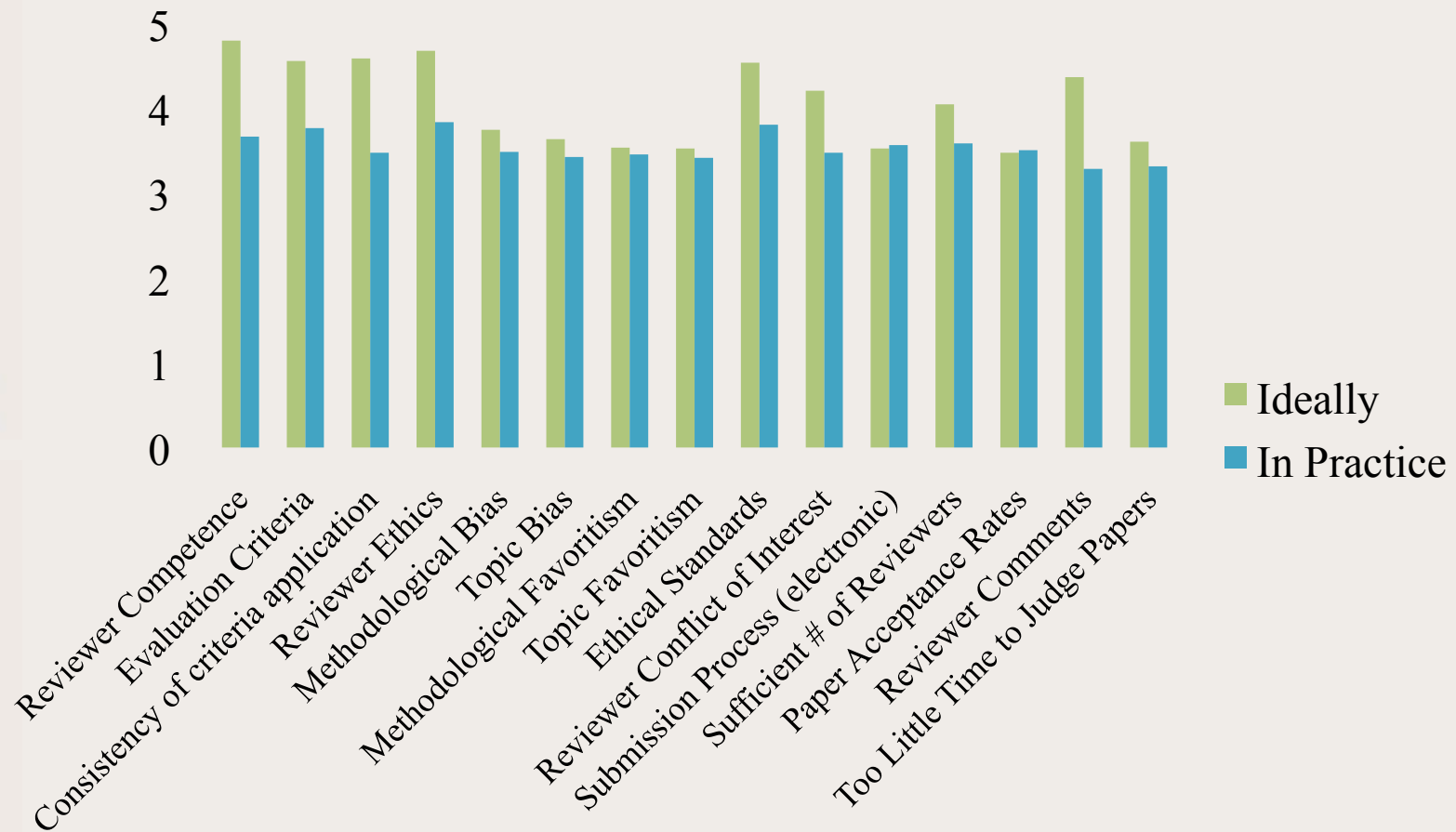


*Multiple submissions allowed

Integrity of the Review Analyses

- Two major questions were asked of all respondents
 1. A list of 15 specific review criteria, first as how important the respondent each should be (“ideal”) in the process and then how they are in practice (the “reality of the process”)
 2. A rating of divisions and interest groups the respondent has submitted to on the integrity of their review processes from 1_{lowest} to 7_{highest}

Integrity Review Criteria Importance



Reviewer Integrity Dimensionality

- Submitted to Factor Analysis to reduce the data and examine underlying factors
- Criteria employed
 - Eigenvalue > 1.00
 - Two or more items loading at $\pm .60$ or greater with no secondary loading greater than $\pm .40$
- Same four underlying factors found for both the “Ideal” and “In Practice”

Items/Dimensions–Total Sample

Gender Perceptions

Ideal

Bias

Female=Male

Ethics

F=M Ethical Standards

Reviewer ethics

M included Reviewer Conflict of
Interest

Evaluation

F=M Consistency of criteria
application

Evaluation Criteria

M included Reviewer Competence

Process

F=M Submission Process

Sufficient # of Reviewers

Acceptance Rates

F included Reviewer Comments

In Process

Bias

Female=Male

Ethics

F=M

Evaluation

F=M

Process

F=M Acceptance Rates

Sufficient # of Reviewers

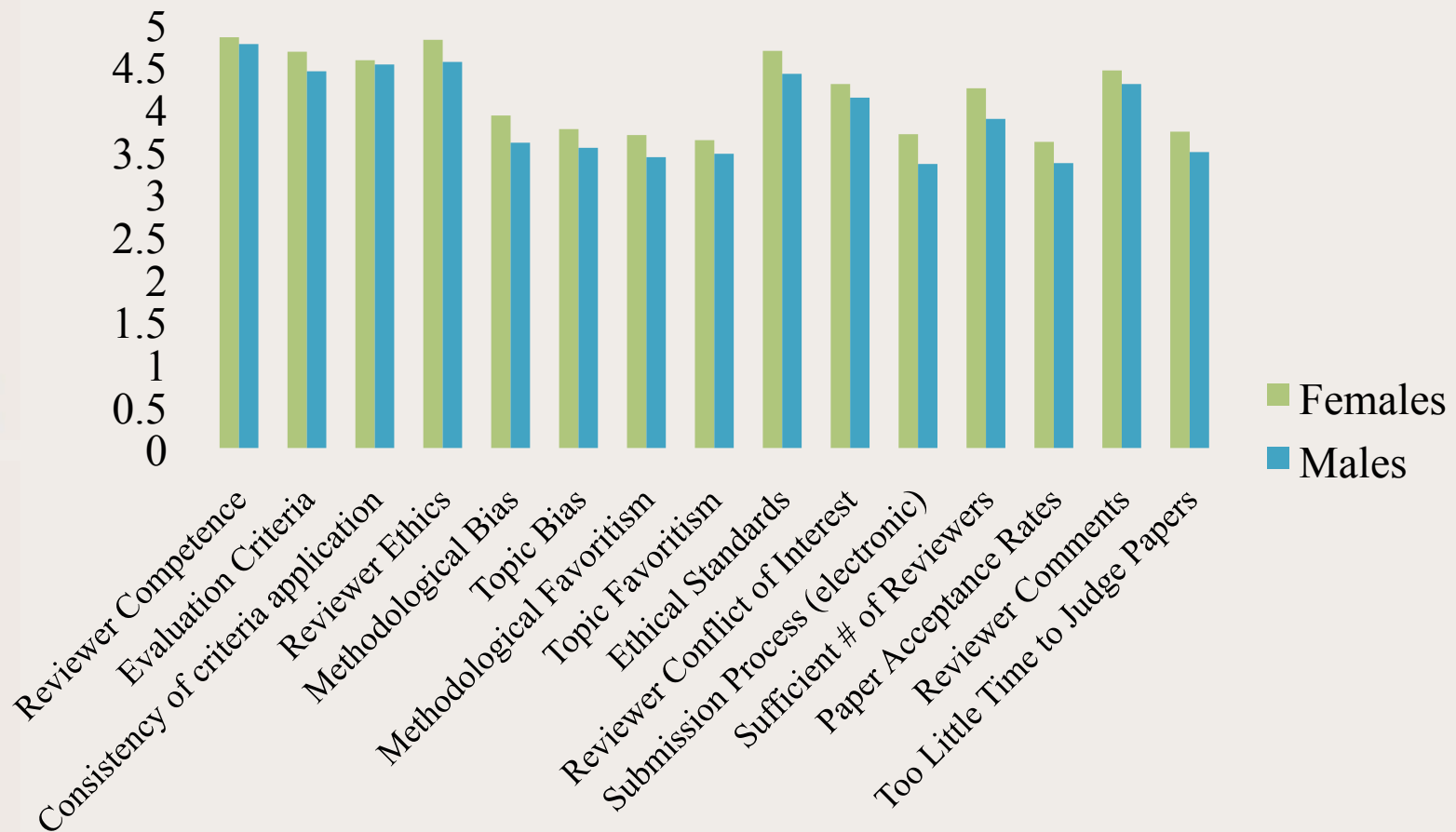
Submission Process

M included Sufficient Time to Judge Papers

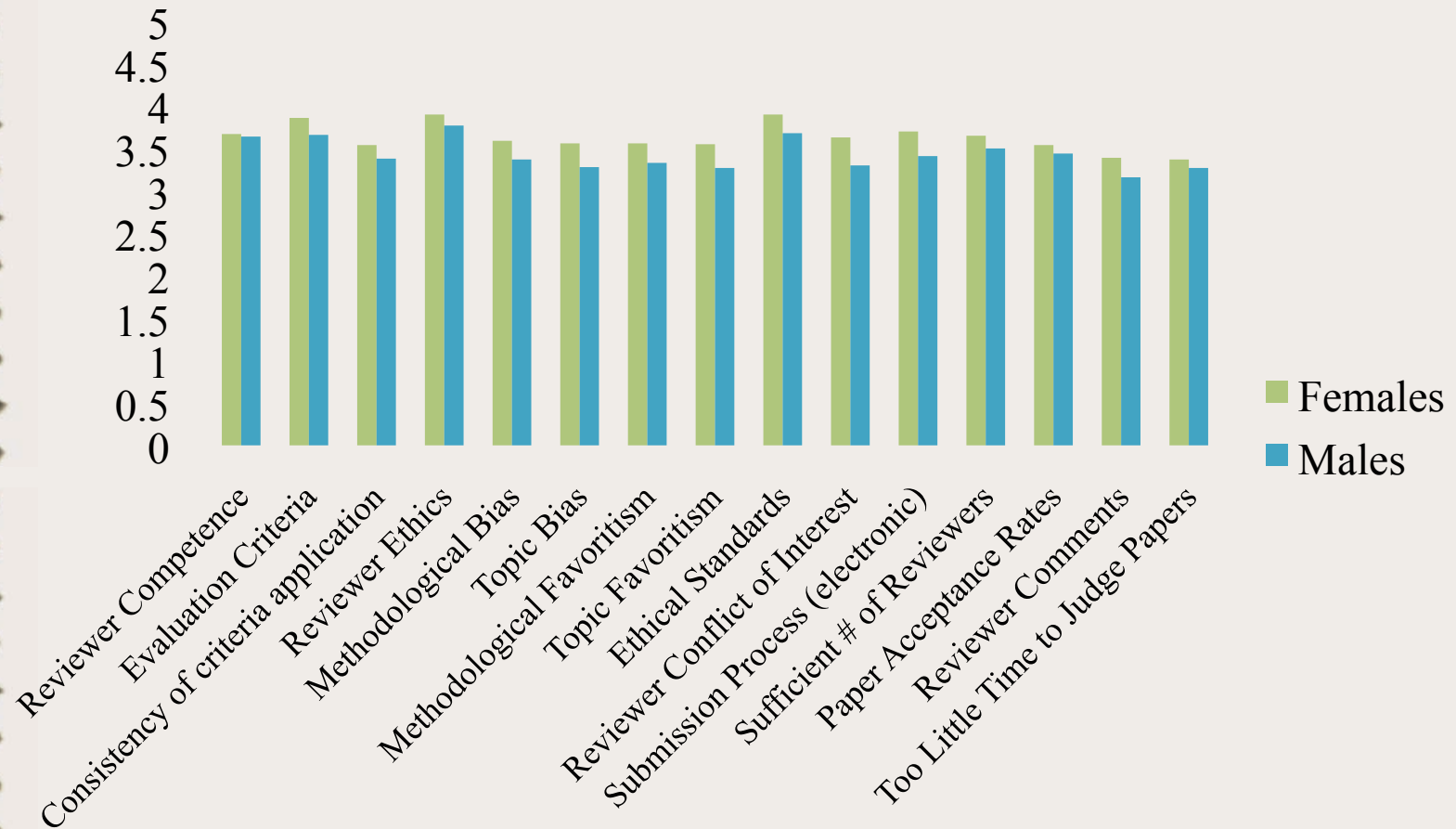
Gender Perceptions

- Much like the 2006 study reporting gender differences in perception:
 - Females rated all individual ideal and in practice criteria higher than did males
 - Females rated each dimension higher than did males
- Although there were significant differences on many of the individual items and dimensions, their were very small on most.

Ideal Integrity Review Criteria Importance by Gender



In Practice: Integrity Review Criteria Importance by Gender



AEJMC Unit Integrity

- Respondents were asked to evaluate divisions, interest groups, and commissions with competitive paper competitions they had submitted to on their review process integrity from 1_{lowest} to 5_{highest}

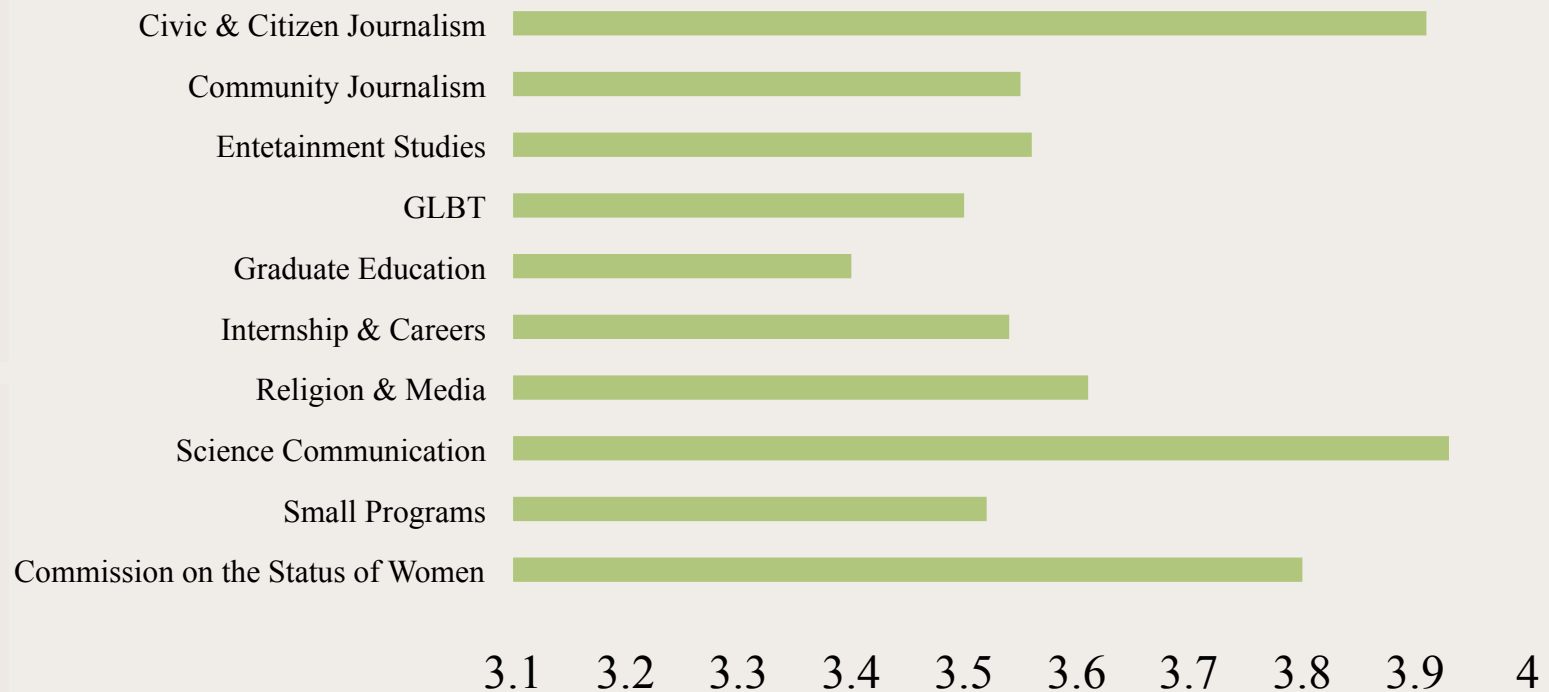
Divisional Integrity Scores

Mean Integrity Score



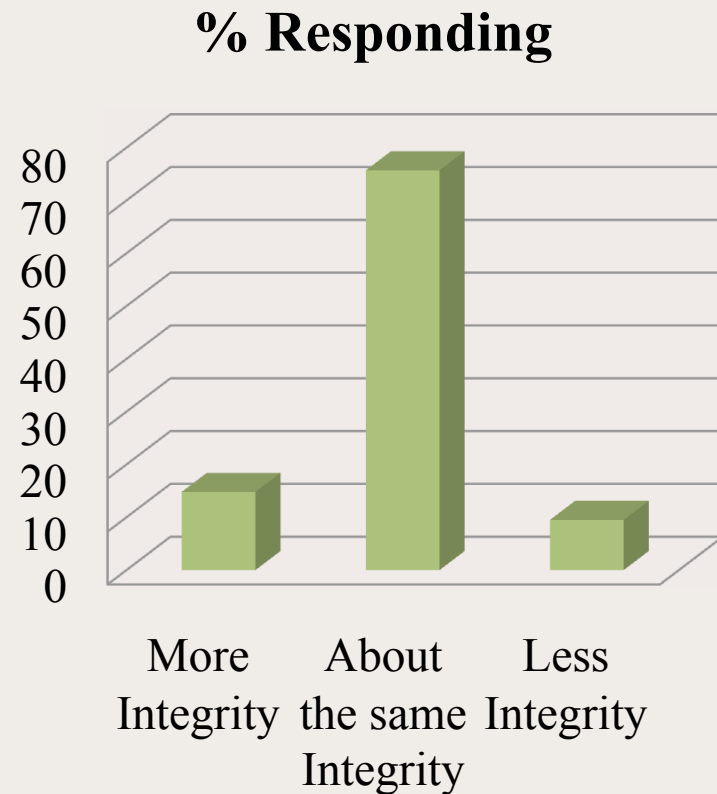
Interest Group/Commission Integrity Scores

Mean Integrity Score

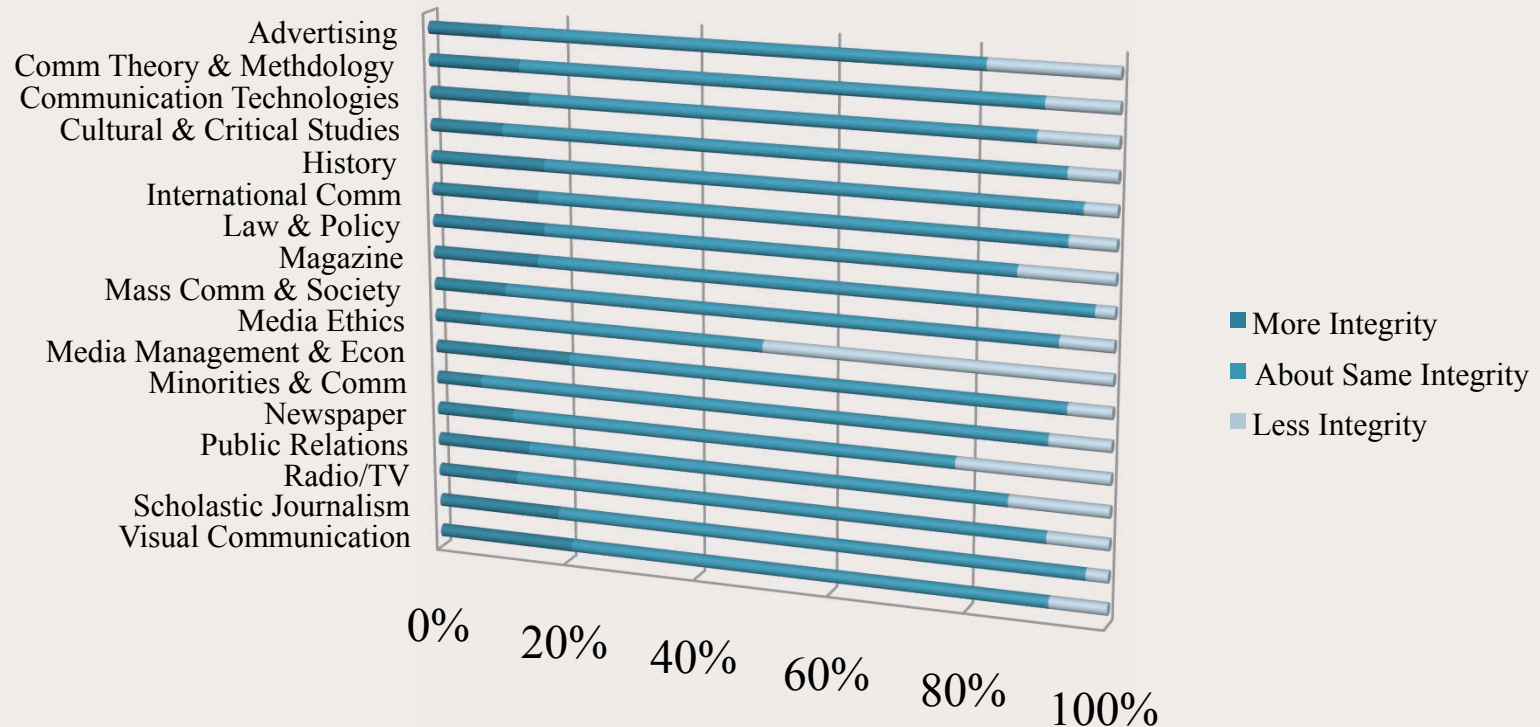


Compared to Other Communication Associations?

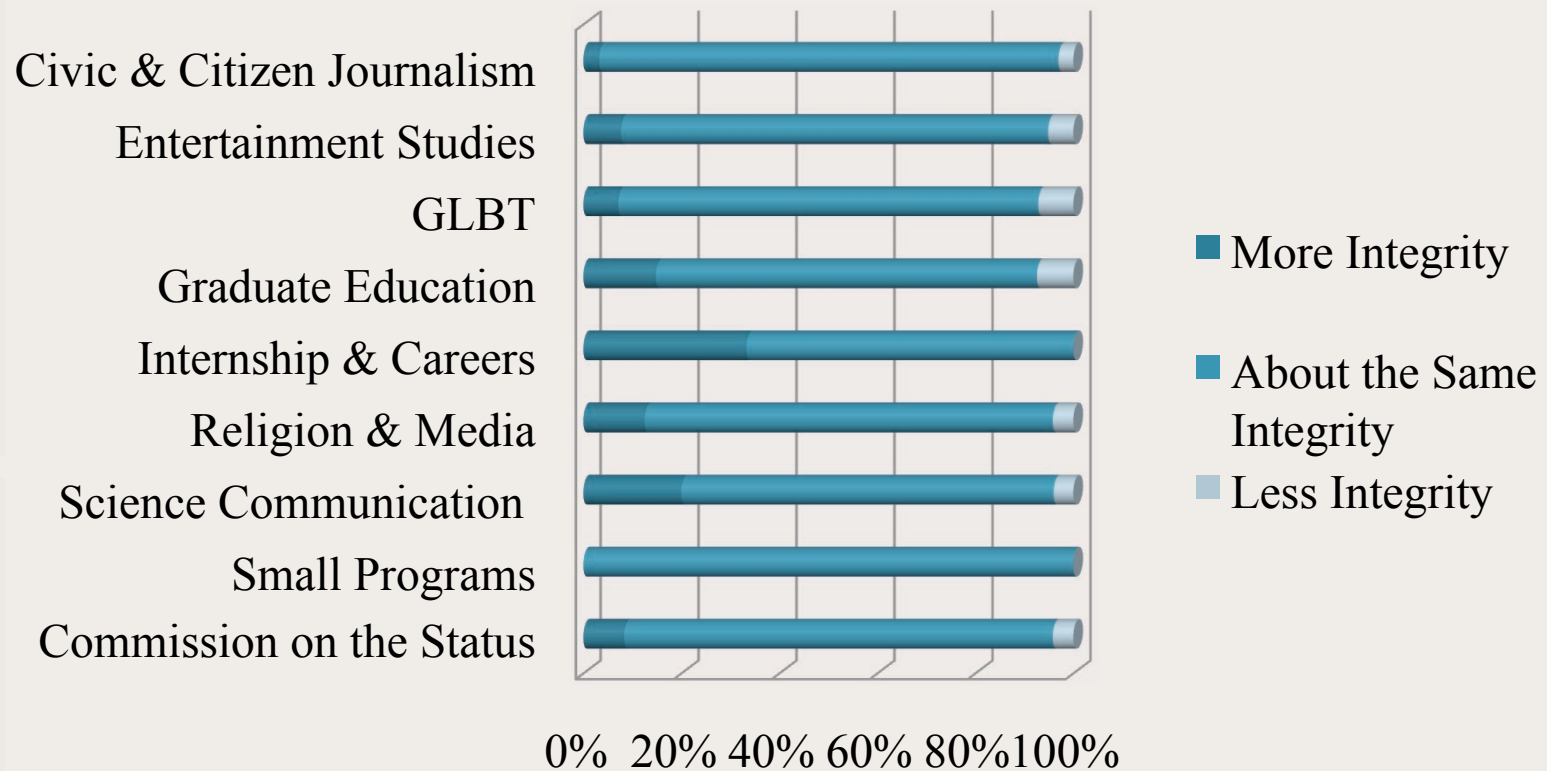
- When asked, respondents who have experienced other competitive paper competitions, they reported AEJMC to have:



Perceptions of Divisions by Members Who Have Submitted to other Associations



Perceptions of Interest Groups/Commissions Who Have Submitted to Other Associations

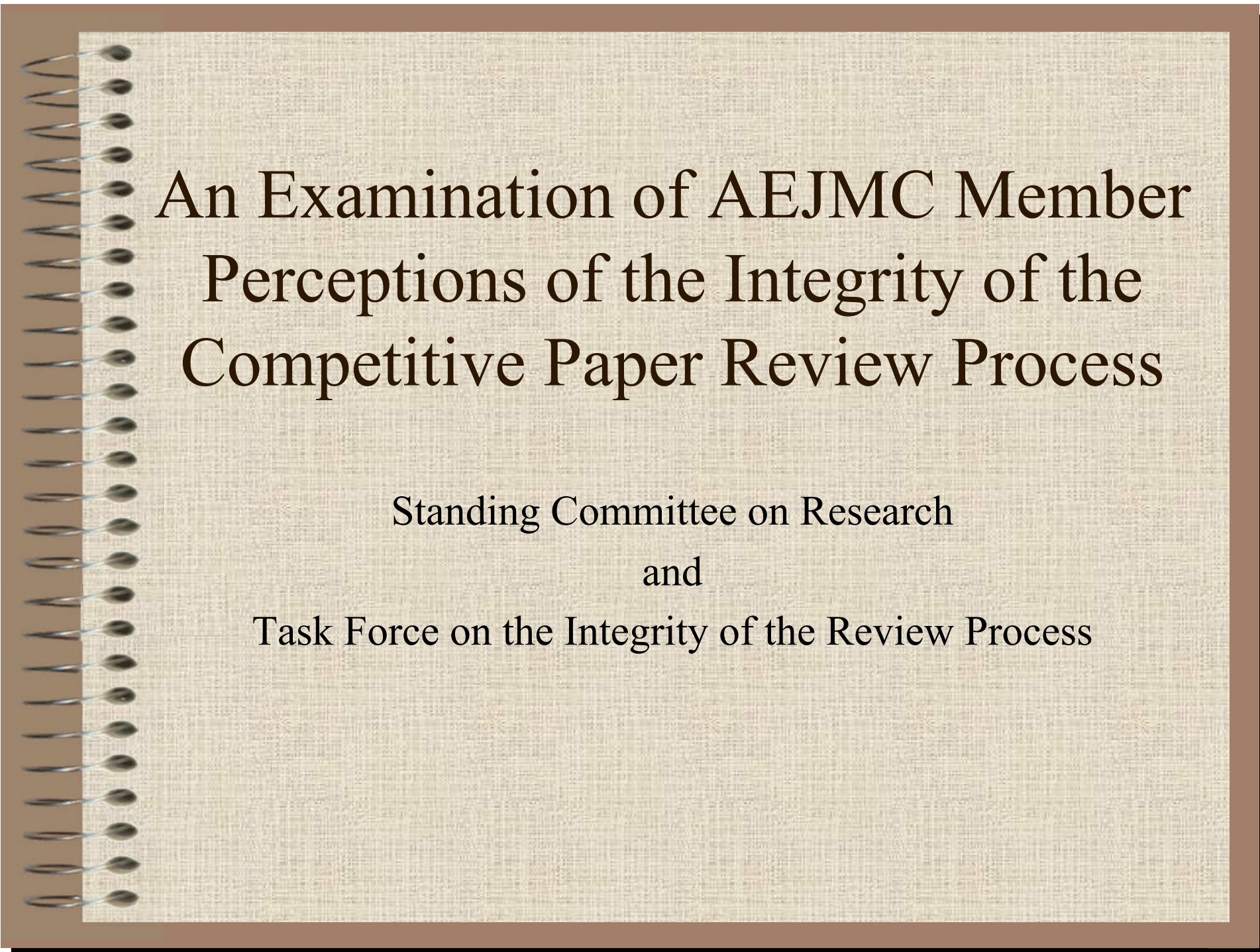


Summary

- While females and males differ in their perceptions of competitive paper review integrity, those differences are very small
- Respondents felt that AJEMC competitive paper review integrity was about the same as other communication associations
- No analysis yielded integrity scores below scale midpoints

Panel Discussion and Recommendations

- Julie Andsager
- Elizabeth Dougall
- Earnest Perry
- John Pauly
- Don Stacks

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