



Big Co-op Issues - Roundtable Discussion Questions

1) As a large coop system, how does your reputation in the community help you? How do you struggle with it? If this reputation doesn't fit how your members think of themselves, what have you done to manage your reputation?

2) How does your coop system manage the relationship between multiple houses? Do the members in each house see themselves as members of one big coop, or identify more as a member of their house? Does this cause problems?

3) Do your houses have very different cultures from one another? Is this an advantage for you, because you have diverse offerings? Is this a disadvantage, because your different houses have a hard time relating to one another?

4) How do members view the work of the board and staff? Is there clarity about this? Is the work of the board/staff more abstract?

5) With a big complex coop, how do you deal with turnover? Do you have one cluster of members/staff who have been around long enough to have a lot of informal power, and another cluster that leaves before long? Are there trends you can see in who falls into each of those groups? Does education have an impact on turnover?