

WSSA Board of Directors Meeting – February 19, 2021

ZOOM Meeting

In attendance:

Eric Gustafson, Anita Dille, Bill Curran, Greg Elmore, Carroll Moseley, Stanley Culpepper, Brett Miller, John Lindquist, Christian Willenborg, Delaney Foster, Rakesh Chandran, Marty Schraer, John Byrd, Rob Richardson, Lee Van Wychen, Janis McFarland (guest), Phil Banks

Call to Order:

Anita Dille at 1:30PM CST

Introductions

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve by Carroll Moseley at 1:41PM; seconded by John Byrd. Motion passed unanimously.

Finance Committee: Greg/Eric

Overview of December 2020-November 2021. Regular membership \$125,000; Sustaining membership \$72,000; Endowment income for UGR \$14,000; Donations \$40,000; Annual journal revenue \$150,000; WSSA business expenses: \$185,737; Total expenditures: \$654,259.78; New operating revenue: \$3,335.22. Motion to approve 2021 budget by John Byrd at 1:50PM; seconded by Carroll Moseley. Motion passed unanimously.

2021 Conference Update: Anita/Eric

Good feedback from participants on virtual platform. Eric noted that 580 people registered. Analytics from the virtual platform showed a total live attendance was 2,922 people, total session views 3,249 people, and 405 total archive views. There were 479 unique attendees. Analytics provides a lot of detailed information usually not captured at in person meetings. Stanley asked if there were any errors from the WSSA side? There were not. Follow-up questions on how long the submissions are up for viewing? The end of the month. Business meetings were either heavily attended or not at all. There was general confusion with areas on the virtual platform outside of the general meeting area.

Student Contest Update: Marty

Marty notes that the student contest went well and noted that receiving judges scores was easier than in person. Judges were more willing to participate since they could judge ahead of time and not miss any oral sessions. Darrin Dodds is stepping down and Marty is working on

finding replacements for the committee. Thank you to Marty and Darrin for all their hard work in organizing the contest!

GSO Update: Delaney

A total of 33 students attended the Business Meeting. GSO board received good feedback on the 3MT contest. New officers were elected during the GSO business meeting. Motion was passed to add the social media chair to the public awareness committee. Carroll added that this is a good idea and can make the appropriate connections. Anita asked if there was a listserv for the GSO? Delaney responded that there is an incomplete list, but that could be easily updated. Delaney noted that there was a Quiz Bowl during the meeting with five categories. There was a winning team. John Byrd noted that this would be enjoyable for the entire society to view.

2022 Conference Plans: Stanley/Eric

Stanley and Eric will begin planning the WSSA/CWSS joint conference. It is important that the regional societies needs are met. Stanley notes that the number of proposed symposia are quite large. Anita added that only one fully developed symposium per committee is allowed. Rakesh suggested that some symposium could be delivered early or virtually to accommodate a larger group. There are some concerns associated with the cost of this. A hybrid conference of in person and virtual is a possibility – this could allow for a wider audience. More thought is needed on this idea (cost structure, for symposia only, etc.).

WSSA Committees - Membership Update: Stanley/Carroll

Stanley stated that Carroll is set up for success from this previous year's information. There was a lot of attendance in the committee meetings. Possibility of having the committee meetings ahead of the conference. Consensus that having the meetings ahead of the board meeting was extremely useful.

Science Policy Fellow(s) Request: Lee

Lee started off by stating that there will still be limited travel this coming year. Therefore, instead of three travel stipends per fellow there would be two stipends per fellow (one trip to DC and a trip to the WSSA conference). Total stipend of \$5,000 per fellow (\$2,500/trip). Hopefully will be advertised next week with an application closing date of April 1, 2021.

Advisory Committee Report - EDSP: Janis

The committee was established last year to support the EDSP. A survey was sent out to the Science Policy Committee and the Board of Directors. There were 18 responses that have helped guide the advisory committee this past year. Stakeholders have asked for Lee to be more involved, which is difficult for him since he is so involved as is, in several areas. Current discussions involve how can we help and support Lee and if there is room for another policy science manager. Anita noted that a full proposal and budget are needed to move this forward.

Motion to enter executive session made by Bill Curran at 3 PM. Seconded by Stanley Culpepper. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session –

Motion to exit executive session passed unanimously.

Advisory Committee Report – NIFA Fellow: Bill

Jim Kells conducted three webinars this past fall. Jim's third year will end this fall but is willing to renew his role. This will be voted on at the summer Board of Directors meeting. The position description has been revised to state that a second term can be served.

BOD Quarterly Meeting Schedule: Anita/Eric

Quarterly meeting tentatively would be end of April and in October. These meetings are typically two hours in length. Anita will send out a Doodle poll to schedule.

BOD Summer Meeting Options: Eric/Anita/Stanley

In a few weeks, there will be communication with the hotel in Vancouver. If in person is not an option, then there will be a virtual meeting or possibly meet somewhere in the US if travel is open. Tentatively the meeting is in August.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

Motion to adjourn made by Carroll Moseley. Seconded by Bill Curran. Motion passed unanimously.