WSWS Officer and Committee Report

Office or Committee Name: Diversity & Inclusion Committee
Officer or Chairperson Name: Lisa Jones
Date of Preparation (include year): August 4, 2025

Activities during the year:

The Diversity & Inclusion committee planned and hosted a social hour at the WSWS Annual Meeting in Seattle in March 2025. We estimate 70-90 members attended. At this social we introduced the mission of the committee, timeline of events related to committee activity, and the committee members. There, and at the poster session, we displayed a poster that summarized the committee and asked for member input as to how we should focus our activities for 2025-2026. The same survey was also available online via Qualtrics. Results of the survey are summarized in the table below. The Diversity & Inclusion Committee officially became a standing committee at the WSWS Business Meeting.

Focal Activity	Number of Votes from Poster	Average Ranking from Qualtrics (lower means it was rated as more valuable)
Symposium Workshop	15	1.8
Student Scholarship	15	1.6
Awareness Campaign	4	2.2
Other[1]	2	N/A

[1]Other ideas offered were: 1) BIPOC only social hour or gathering at the meeting, 2) student/early career mentoring program, 3) career counseling, 4) how to create an inclusive lab culture.

Our committee met to review and discuss the survey results indicating greatest preference for developing scholarship opportunities for students. We discussed how to go about creating a scholarship that would bring undergraduate students from diverse backgrounds to the WSWS Annual Meeting. We decided to target undergraduate students because reaching future weed scientists while young can shape their trajectory and encourage continued involvement in the Society. Efforts to implement such a scholarship are ongoing.

Recommendations for Board Action:

None

Budget Needs:

None

Name of Person Preparing This Report:

Lisa Jones