WSWS Officer and Committee Report

Office or Committee Name: President
Officer or Chairperson Name: Carl Coburn
Date of Preparation (include year): 8/4/2025

Activities during the year:
Science Policy Committee of WSSA Topics for the science policy committee meetings included 1) comments on MAHA report, WSWS signed on to a letter supporting science-based risk assessment of herbicides 2) Rescinding harm definition in endangered species act, initially it was determined this is a legal issue and not a science issue, so the WSWS and other societies did not make a comment but encouraged membership to comment individually 3) the need for practical examples of success stories resulting from federal appropriations to NIFA, Smith-Lever, Hatch Act, etc.
Weed Science Presidents DC Trip Participated in the National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research meeting and met with legislative staff along with coalition members in support of NCFAR appropriation requests. Additionally, the WSSA and regional society presidents met separately with various legislative staff to encourage support of science-based policy and support of the appropriation requests. Most staffers highlighted the need for specific examples of how funding cuts impact people, facilities, research, and extension as well as specific examples of success stories resulting from the appropriations. We also met with Crop Life America and American Soybean Association, who are both delivering important expertise and advocacy around pesticide policy and appropriations. It was great to see Lee VanWychen's leadership and expertise on this trip, and I now more fully appreciate the value he provides to the weed science discipline.
Board Vote to Approve New Program Software The board voted to unanimously approve the use of Fourwaves as a new abstract submission and program development software that appears to be a significant improvement compared to past options. This vote is in alignment with WSSA and other regional societies who are also moving to Fourwaves.
Committees I am still working to fill a few committee positions. So far, I have the following confirmed: Awards Curtis Rainbolt, Fellows and Honorary Members Brad Hanson, Finance Joseph Mettler, Student Paper Judging Jason Adams, Legislative Clint Beierman (if not disbanded), Local Arrangements Pat Clay, Nominations Corey Ransom, Poster Ben Westrich, Site Selection Byron Sleugh, Sustaining Membership Jenna Meeks. The outstanding committees

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that need appointed are: Diversity and Inclusion, Herbicide-resistant plants, Necrology, and Public Relations

Joint 2027 Meeting with the Western Weed Coordinating Committee Nevin Lawrence, Eric Gustafson, Tim Prather, and myself attended a meeting with the leadership of the Western Weed Coordinating Committee discussing the potential for a joint meeting in 2027. Topics discussed included membership synergies, potential for case studies and symposia, meeting costs, and the need for a MOU.

Recommendations for Board Action:
Discuss a joint 2027 meeting with Western Weed Coordinating Committee.
Input for additional committee appointments.
Discuss fellows committee membership requirements given the reduction in fellows who are actively participating in WSWS.

Budget Needs:
None

Name of Person Preparing This Report: Carl Coburn

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