WSWS Officer and Committee Report
2017 Anaheim, CA

Office or Committee Name: Student Paper Contest

Officer or Chairperson Name: Ryan Edwards

Date of Preparation (include year): July 25, 2017

Committee Activities during the Year:
The committee will continue to discuss the matter of minimizing paper and poster score variations among judges within each section.

Previously, the committee discussed the following recommendations moving forward as changes to the operating procedures and process;

1. It was agreed that judges should include a comment on each line item on the scoresheet to let the student(s) know what they could have done differently to get a better score.
2. The chair will send an e-mail to the general mailing list prior to abstract submissions emphasizing avoiding overlapping poster/oral topics entered in the competition by the same presenter.
3. The chair will send an email approx. 1 week prior to annual meeting to all students entered in the contest explaining presentation expectations and the general scoring rubric.
4. The chair will convene a "judge's phone conference" approx. 1 week prior to the annual meeting to discuss judging expectations with all volunteers
5. The chair will make every effort to handover the judge's worksheets after the breakfast meeting on Thursday to students.

The committee discussed the duties surrounding the student rep assigned by the board to the committee in 2016

1. Clarification for the committee as to the reasoning for addition of the student member
2. Clarification for the committee as to what the intended function of the student representative is
3. Clarification for the committee as to the mechanism for finding a new student rep (i.e. is this a volunteer or an appointed position and by whom?)
4. Does this student representative report back to the board or the student liaison chair?

Two other points of interest raised in 2016-2017;

1. Can students serve as judges?
    a. Board felt it was a 'conflict of interest' and therefore NOT considered further
2. Can students outside the member states of the WSWS enter the student contest?
    a. Program chair allowed student to participate. Precedent set for further out-of-member states being allowed to participate in the competition.

Recommendations for Board Action:

- The committee asks the board for suggestions that could be considered in committee efforts to develop a set of guidelines that can be used to help develop consistent scoring among the judges.
- The committee would also appreciate feedback on future out-of-member states students being allowed to participate in the competition.
- The committee would also appreciate feedback on the above questions surrounding the purpose and function of the student rep assigned to the committee by the board

Budget Needs: None

Suggestions for the Future: None

Current Committee Members: Joel Felix, Ryan Edwards (Chair), Ed Peachy, Eric Patterson (Student Rep)

Name of Person Preparing This Report: Ryan Edwards