

**WSWS Officer and Committee Report**

**Annual Board Meeting – March 11, 2013**

**Office or Committee Name: STUDENT PAPER JUDGING COMMITTEE**

**Officer or Chairperson Name: Guy Kyser**

**Date of Preparation (include year): 3/07/12**

**Committee Activities during the Year:** Following last year’s conference, some students expressed to the Student Representative that they were unclear on the guidelines for preparing presentations. This information was available through the WSWS website, but perhaps had too low a profile. We passed this concern on to the Board. In this year’s call for papers, a link to the Student Contest Guidelines was prominently posted, and we included links to the guidelines and to WSWS presentation tips in the newsletters and in e-mail to registered contest participants.

In early January, President-elect Roger Gast sent the committee a list of titles submitted by students. With some late withdrawals and additions, the list includes a total of 14 posters (11 graduates, 3 undergraduates) and 22 papers (all graduates), in the following categories. This is similar to last year’s count (16 posters, 19 papers).

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Presentation** | **Project** | **Number of presenters** |
| Poster | Range & Natural Areas | 2 + 1 undergraduate |
|  | Horticultural | 2 + 1 undergraduate |
|  | Agronomic | 7 |
|  | Basic | 1 undergraduate |
|  |  |  |
| Paper | Range & Natural Areas | 8 |
|  | Horticultural | 2 |
|  | Agronomic | 8 |
|  | Basic | 4 |

Based on numbers, the committee decided to have only a single division in Posters. Undergraduate posters will be handled as a separate contest from graduate posters. Because there are 3 undergraduate posters, we will award a single First Prize in this category. The graduate posters will get 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Prizes. There are two divisions in Papers: one division for Range and Basic (12 papers), and one division for Horticulture and Agronomic (10 papers). Each division will get 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Prizes.

We posted requests for volunteers in the fall and winter Newsletters and in an email to WSWS members, and 18 members have volunteered to judge the presentations. This allows for three teams of four (one for posters and two for papers) with some backups.

In the weeks leading up to the 2013 conference, there was some discussion among Kai, Vanelle, and the committee as to whether the student representative to the contest committee should be a one-year or two-year position.

**Recommendations for Board Action:** Recognize student awards at Annual Business Meeting.

**Budget Needs:** Operating Guidelines state the cash amounts shown below:

Award Number Cash amount Total Value

First Place 4 $ 100 $ 400

Second Place 3 $ 75 $ 225

Third Place 3 $ 50 $ 150

**Total Need: $ 775**

**Suggestions for the Future:** Several students expressed that they were unsure how to register as contestants when signing up to present. This resulted in a number of late additions to the contests. At the time of the next Call for Papers, the Student Paper Judging Committee should review the student registration procedure for clarity.

Regarding the Student Representative, we need to decide whether this is a one-year position (which might bring in more different ideas and would allow more students to put it on their resume), or if we should offer the Representative the option of representing for a second year (more immersion might bring in better ideas). I lean toward the latter. We also should discuss with the current Representative whether we need to define the job a little more – not too much, but maybe the official description should include a little autumn-winter boosterism and taking an informal student survey at the conference.

**Current Committee Members:** Guy Kyser (2014), Jamshid Ashigh (2013), Kelly Young (2015); Samantha Ambrose, student liaison

**Name of Person Preparing This Report:** Guy Kyser