WSWS Officer and Committee Report
2019 Summer Board Meeting – Denver, CO

Office or Committee Name: Student Liaison
Officer or Chairperson Name: Lucas K. Bobadilla & Mirella F. Ortiz
Date of Preparation (include year): July 2019

Activities during the year:

This year we started communicating with the WSSA student liaison, Nicholas Steppig from Purdue, to organize how we will be doing the joint meeting regarding students' business and events.

Some of the topics we are discussing:

- Student night-out: This is something that Nicholas seems interested to include WSSA students. The organization of the event may be more complex, but I also think we can include more professionals if we add WSSA on this. Would be good to advertise with WSSA members to try to participate.

- Silent auction: Since the silent auction is something that we do for the WSWS Elena Sanchez scholarship, we decided to keep that only for us. Another point is regarding the items and donations, since the logistics for it will be more difficult this year, we decided to ask people willing to donate items to send us photos of the items instead of the items itself and we can send these later after the meeting. I am also planning to suggest to people maybe donate local items or vouchers for activities in the island. One final topic about this is regarding the use of a crowd funding website to collect monetary donations, this will make the process easier and faster.

- lunch/business section: Since both societies students need a moment for business, I think we should try to keep some lunch/breakfast/appetizers that is usually sponsored by the industry separate but without an overlapping, since we may have students that have to participate in both events. However, we also think that would be good to have a joint event to create an interaction between all students.

- Wellness breakfast: Nicholas mentioned to me that last meeting that was a breakfast where students could openly talk about grad school issues and stressful situations. I liked this idea and I was wondering about the possibility of doing that next year. We are open for ideas of possible speakers or moderators for it. Please contact me if you have any person in mind.

- Student paper contest: I don't know if it was already decided if the paper contest will be kept separate or not. WSWS students showed on last year survey that they do not see a problem in joining the contest with WSSA.

- Student Survey: With the help of Larissa Larocca, the previous student representative, we conducted a survey with the students that were present in the last meeting at Denver. From all the 54 students only 17 answer the survey. I think would be good to ask advisors to encourage the students to answer the survey after next meeting. I will try to reinforce about it during our luncheon next meeting. The overall responses and feedbacks about the meeting and student contest were good. We will try to improve the topics mentioned in the survey. The full report about the questions made in the survey are attached to this document.

Recommendations for Board Action:

- Possible creation of a travel award: This is a topic was raised last year from some students. Since this year travel expenses will be higher some students suggested that, if possible, the society create a new travel award for students to compensate these extra expenses. Some students indicated that they may have issues in convincing the advisors to allocate money for the travel to Hawaii.

- Set one separate lunch for each student society and also, if possible, an event with all students from both societies together.

Budget Needs: Creation of a travel award

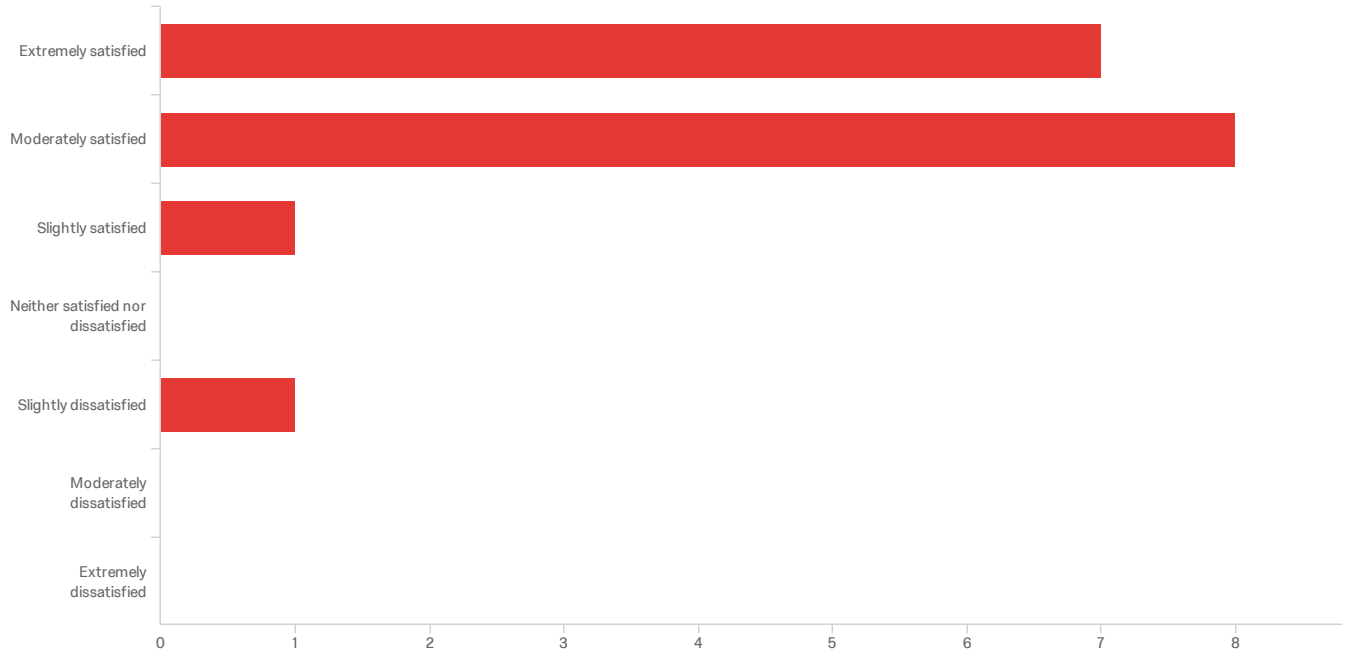
Name of Person Preparing This Report: Lucas K. Bobadilla and Mirella F. Ortiz

Default Report

WSWS Student Contest Survey 2019

July 24, 2019 9:09 PM MDT

Q1 - How satisfied are you with meeting registration and abstract submission?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	How satisfied are you with meeting registration and abstract submission?	1.00	5.00	1.82	0.98	0.97	17

#	Field		Choice Count
1	Extremely satisfied	41.18%	7
2	Moderately satisfied	47.06%	8
3	Slightly satisfied	5.88%	1
4	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	0.00%	0
5	Slightly dissatisfied	5.88%	1
6	Moderately dissatisfied	0.00%	0
7	Extremely dissatisfied	0.00%	0
			17

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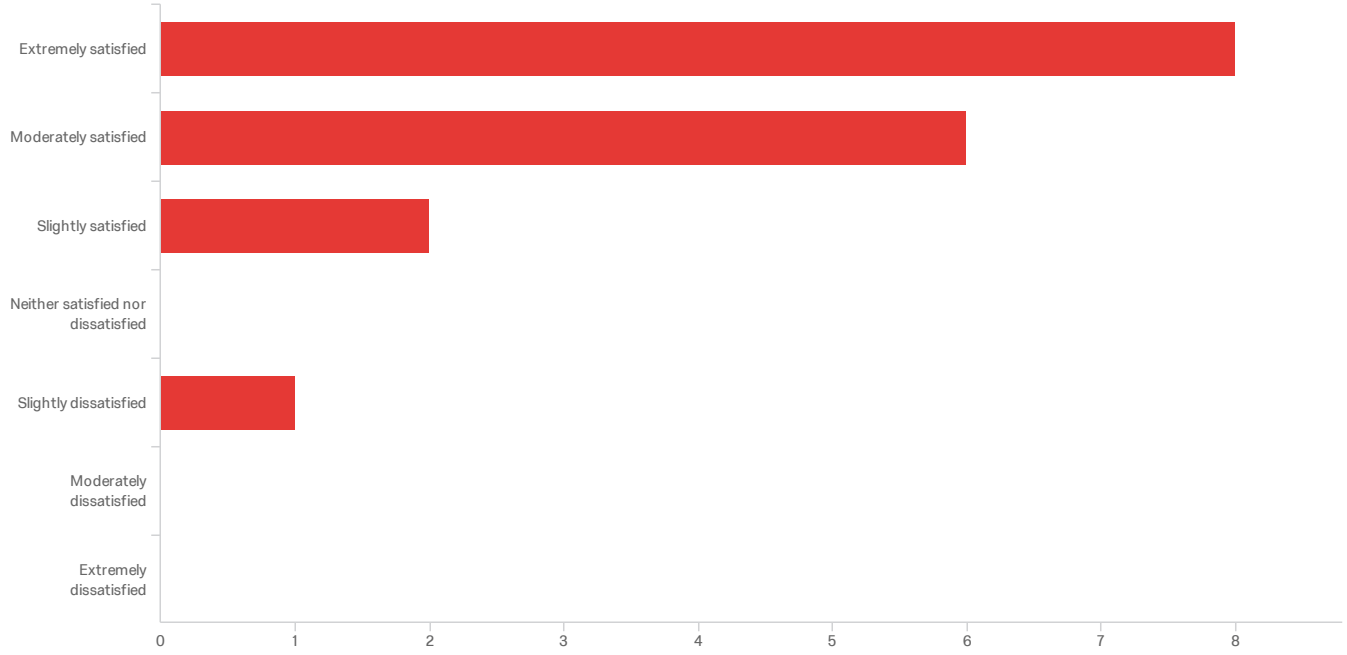
Q2 - Did you have any issues during your registration in the contest? If yes, please tell us about it, if no, just write "no"

Did you have any issues during your registration in the contest? If yes, pl...
no
no
no
No
no
I was a little surprised by the slide submission deadline. I may just have been missing something, but I did not remember hearing about that before the day it was due.
No
No
No
No
This was my first conference so I made a mistake with my authors. Since presenter was one of the columns I thought I was just entering my name as the presenter so I did not properly list my coauthors.
no
My advisor registered for me, I don't know how to do it. I know My PI said the website of submitting the powerpoint and abstract was not clear.
no
Word limit for abstract and other guidelines were not given online but sent through email around february 20 only to the registered members due to this students submitted their titles and abstracts but registered late (the late registration was till March 5) were not aware of anything about the contest guidelines. Next year please give the guidelines online or send to all members who submitted titles.
no
No

Q3 - How satisfied are you with the student contest guidelines?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	How satisfied are you with the student contest guidelines?	1.00	5.00	1.82	1.04	1.09	17

#	Field		Choice Count
1	Extremely satisfied	47.06%	8
2	Moderately satisfied	35.29%	6
3	Slightly satisfied	11.76%	2
4	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	0.00%	0
5	Slightly dissatisfied	5.88%	1
6	Moderately dissatisfied	0.00%	0
7	Extremely dissatisfied	0.00%	0
			17

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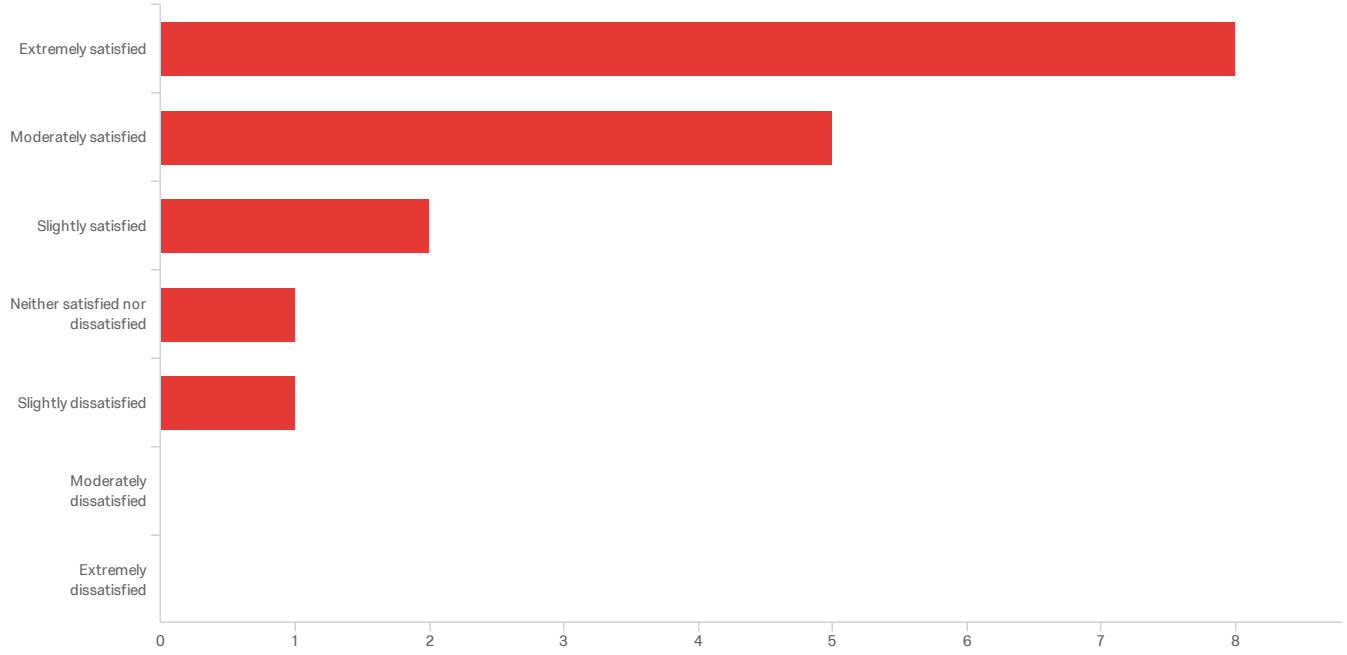
Q4 - How satisfied are you with student contest judging fairness and comments?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	How satisfied are you with student contest judging fairness and comments?	1.00	5.00	1.94	1.16	1.35	17

#	Field		Choice Count
1	Extremely satisfied	47.06%	8
2	Moderately satisfied	29.41%	5
3	Slightly satisfied	11.76%	2
4	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	5.88%	1
5	Slightly dissatisfied	5.88%	1
6	Moderately dissatisfied	0.00%	0
7	Extremely dissatisfied	0.00%	0
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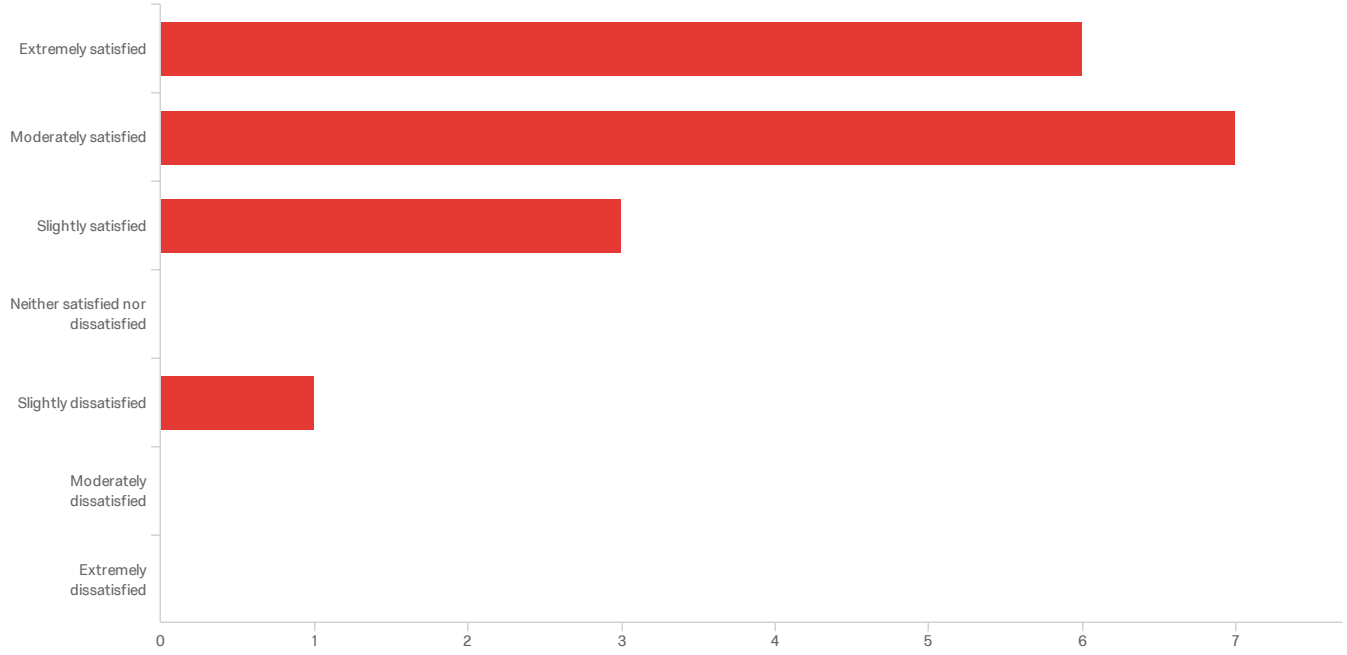
Q5 - Please, make some comments about student contest judging fairness and comments; Please be specific

Please, make some comments about student contest judging fairness and comme...
no
Good overall, some discrepancies and differences but everyone doesn't share the same opinions.
Seems weird that there was noone else in my category. Why wasn't it combined?
One of the judges forgot to grade me in one of the topics.
Some of the comments are difficult to read. I wonder if in the future, judges could use a digital format so their comments are legible.
My only complaint with judging would be that some judges timed independently while a few did not, changing scores for time restrictions.
I think the judges provided helpful feedback.
One judge seems to grade far more harshly than others
Presentation guidelines were not sent to people who registered after Feb 11.
No comments
One of my judges missed a row and did not give me a score for that category. Maybe just a reminder to judges to make sure they scored every category.
I was very satisfied with judging and feedback with student presentations this year. It was difficult at times distinguishing who was and was not a judge during the student posters which shows commitment from judges as well as those who were not judging. One minor piece of feedback I would have is for those judging is to distinguish why points were/were not awarded in certain sections. If I was given a 4 or 5 in one section, feedback in not so necessary, however if I was awarded a 3 or below in one section, it would be nice to have feedback stating why I was scored low so that I could improve next time. Feedback was given most times when this occurred, but not all.
It is my very first time to present my research outside of my department, I think the comments made by the judge were very fair. I talked to students who received the awards, I think they did better than I do.
It was hard to find the contest guidelines on the website
No comments
The only issue I had was that saying the text is too small when it is at size 32 is kind of subjective
Some of the comments were vague and did not add too much into the feedback

Q6 - How satisfied are you with the student contest guidelines?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	How satisfied are you with the student contest guidelines?	1.00	5.00	2.00	1.03	1.06	17

#	Field		Choice Count
1	Extremely satisfied	35.29%	6
2	Moderately satisfied	41.18%	7
3	Slightly satisfied	17.65%	3
4	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	0.00%	0
5	Slightly dissatisfied	5.88%	1
6	Moderately dissatisfied	0.00%	0
7	Extremely dissatisfied	0.00%	0
			17

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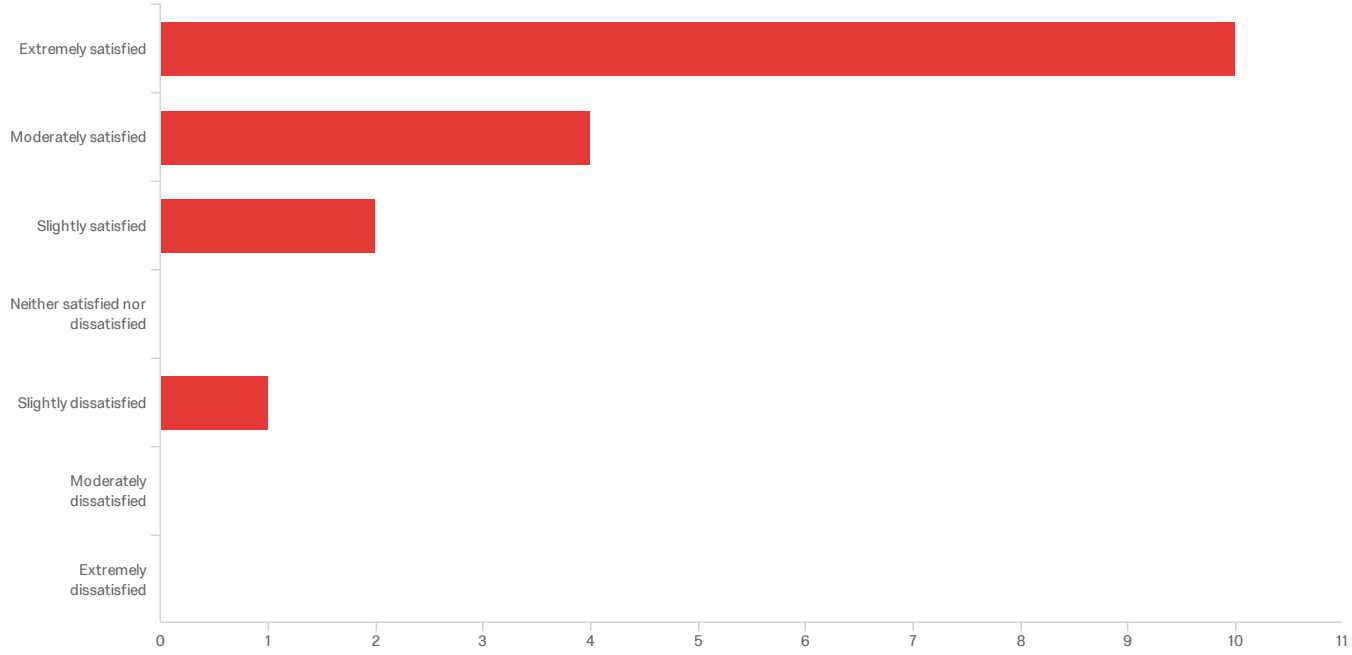
Q7 - Do you have any comments for improvements to the student luncheon or student reception?

Do you have any comments for improvements to the student luncheon or studen...
no
Satisfied
a microphone?
No
no
All of this was great, but maybe agendas of some sort for the student luncheon, and more academics to chat with at the reception.
N/A
No
No
no
I think this question is actually about the student events, not the contest again. Anyway, the luncheon seemed disconnected; it was hard to interact with students who were not at your table and people tend to automatically sit with people they know. Assigning students to tables based on discipline (Range and Natural Areas, Horticulture, Agronomic Crops, etc) might help students break out of their friend groups while meeting students with similar backgrounds.
The student lunch was great. I have no comments.
free luncheon and free dinner would be great!(I like eating and meeting with students)
no
No comments
No, it was a good time
I think would be nice to the members of the sponsor company to talk a little bit more about their roles and also opportunities within the company as well

Q11 - How satisfied are you with the current format of student night out?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	How satisfied are you with the current format of student night out?	1.00	5.00	1.71	1.07	1.15	17

#	Field		Choice Count
1	Extremely satisfied	58.82%	10
2	Moderately satisfied	23.53%	4
3	Slightly satisfied	11.76%	2
4	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	0.00%	0
5	Slightly dissatisfied	5.88%	1
6	Moderately dissatisfied	0.00%	0
7	Extremely dissatisfied	0.00%	0
			17

Showing rows 1 - 8 of 8

Q8 - Do you have any general concerns that should be brought to the board? For instance: abstract concerns, problems during the meeting, issues with presentations or posters, etc.

Do you have any general concerns that should be brought to the board? For i...
no
Need to keep updated contest rules available on the WSWS web site
no
No
No, but I wanted to express how valuable the student night out was for me. It was one of the meeting highlights for me. I appreciate the mentors dedicating their time and sharing their experiences with us.
Poster boards seemed a little small for the size restrictions, but manageable.
The required abstract word count should be provided at the time of submission so students are aware of the limit.
No
No
No
Although there was no professional in my group who was in my specific field, I thought having 4 students and 4 professionals was a good combination. After we ate the students switched places so we could talk to the professionals at the other end of the table. It was a really long outting to be followed by a 6:30am breakfast so maybe groups of 2 students and 2 professionals would be easier to coordinate and might not last as long.
I have no concerns.
abstract concerns-- because I changed something due to the timing of powerpoint presentation, so I made changes to the abstracts as well. and the website for uploading the powerpoint, (my powerpoints were too large-- maybe provide more room -GB?) This is my first time attend conference, I don't have any big concern. Thank you so much
no
No comments
NA
No