

2007 WSSA Committee Report to Members Summary for 2007 and Action Plan for 2008

Committee Code and Name: E6 – Research and Competitive Grants Committee

Committee Chair: Dean E. Riechers, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Board Coordinator: Vanelle Peterson (WSWS)

Committee Members Rotating Off:

None
Dean Riechers (Chair)

Appropriate Replacements:

Rich Smith
Ed Luschei
Dean Riechers (from Chair to member)

Committee Goals for 2007 (what did the committee plan to accomplish in 2007):

In order to initiate a survey of our membership on research priorities, funding opportunities, and future research directions, a preliminary list of questions was compiled by Committee members Dean Riechers (UIUC) and Adam Davis (USDA-ARS, Urbana, IL) and was forwarded to the Board and Committee members for discussion and input at the 2007 meeting. The survey questions compiled for the survey were related to three major areas: (1) past, current, and future priorities for weed science research, (2) emerging areas for future research, and (3) funding challenges and opportunities. Questions for the survey were designed with the assistance of the Board and Research & Competitive Grants Committee with the intent of using survey results to focus the direction and topics for an ensuing manuscript to be published in *Weed Science*.

Summary of Progress for 2007:

What was accomplished toward the goals set by the committee? The survey was posted on-line during the summer of 2007 and results have been tabulated and analyzed by Adam Davis, Dean Riechers, and Rich Smith. The results will be further discussed at the 2008 WSSA annual meeting in Chicago.

What was the membership/committee involvement in committee activities? Several members of the Research Committee assisted with developing and editing questions for the survey.

If funds were requested, how much was requested and how much was actually spent? A nominal amount of funds were requested and spent (less than \$100) to post the on-line survey.

What was the impact of the committee activities/accomplishments on any or all of the following: membership, publication, policy, legislation, and/or education? The results of the survey will be used to write a manuscript on 'Future Research Directions and Funding Opportunities' that will be published in *Weed Science*, as well as assist in conveying research priority areas to Michael Bowers of the USDA-NRI Biology of Weedy and Invasive Species grant panel.

What is the current state of committee/project activity and what is needed to further the goals of the committee/project? We will meet at the 2008 WSSA meeting to discuss the results of the survey and assign sections of the manuscript to committee members so the manuscript can be

written and submitted for publication during 2008-09. Adam Davis has prepared a topic outline to assist with the structure and organization of the manuscript. Dr. Michael Bowers of the USDA-NRI will also be invited to attend a portion of our meeting to discuss program goals and priorities for the Biology of Weedy and Invasive Species panel.

Recommendations for Board/Society Action:

- (1) We request that the Board allocate approximately \$400 to cover page and publication charges for the manuscript that will be written and submitted for publication in 2008.

Committee Goals for 2008: Publish a manuscript (described in more detail above) in *Weed Science*.

Plan of Action for 2008: Dr. Adam Davis, USDA-ARS, Urbana, IL will assume the duties of Committee Chair beginning in February 2008. The Chair will assign sections of the manuscript to each committee member so the manuscript can be written and submitted for publication during 2008-09.

Resources needed for 2008:

Finances: Funding is requested (approximately \$400) to cover publication costs and page charges for the manuscript that will be submitted to *Weed Science*.

Membership involvement (person-hours): It is anticipated that each member of the Research and Competitive Grants committee will spend approximately 20-30 hours of their time working on the manuscript and editing drafts of the manuscript during the upcoming year.