

2012 WSSA Committee Progress Report January 2012

Committee Code and Name: F3 Endowment Fund Committee

Committee Chair: Greg Armel

Board Coordinator: Anita Dille

2011 Summary of Activities

- What are the committee's goals for 2012?

A long term goal is to increase donations to the Endowment Fund. At the 2007 meeting our committee announced plans to establish the WSSA Roy J. Smith Graduate Fellowship (a \$10,000 per year fellowship to be awarded on a yearly competitive basis). In order to do this and continue funding the Undergraduate Research Awards, we estimate that the Endowment Fund in the A.G. Edwards account will need to increase to approximately \$400,000 and we are closer to our goal and at our current pace of growth we would anticipate reaching this goal by 2020.

- List the committee's accomplishments:

The total amount of Endowment donations from 12-1-2011 through 12-30-2011 is \$3,160 which was an increase of 17% over last year. The committee would obviously like to see additional contributions. The fund value ended the fiscal at \$305,914.44 which was up from \$282,447.43 at the beginning of the calendar year.

- What information was posted on the WSSA website?

The website is currently available for members to make a donation and we would request a counter be placed on the site showing our goal of \$400,000 and with each donation how the amount changes in order to reach that goal.

- How much funds were requested? How much was spent?

Funds in the amount of \$10,000 from interest earned from the Endowment Fund was requested and available to support the ten 2012 Undergraduate Research Awards. Funds are requested in the amount of \$10,000 from interest earned from the Endowment Fund in order to support ten 2013 Undergraduate Research Awards.

- What was the impact of the committee activities/accomplishments on the following: membership, publication, policy, legislation, and/or education?

The largest impact of our committee is the promotion of education in Weed Science. The Undergraduate Research Award program has stimulated the interest of

numerous undergraduate students, many of whom have gone on to attain graduate degrees in Weed Science and are now employed in jobs related to our discipline, therefore our committee helps contribute to increases in membership.

- What is the current state of the committee's projects and activities?
Our primary goal relates to our ongoing efforts for fund-raising to increase the Endowment Fund.

2011 Plan for Committee Activities

- Other Goals for 2011:

To increase donations and increase awareness of the Endowment Fund, by stating what is currently being funded from the proceeds of the fund, and the objective to fund graduate fellowships in the future.

- Plan of Action:

Recognize those who have donated to the fund at the Business Meeting; to put articles in the WSSA Newsletters; and to solicit donations from current and past WSSA members as well as others with an interest in Weed Science.

Recommendations for Board/Society Action:

- Funds requested for 2011:

The committee is asking that the society start a matching program, whereby every dollar donated by a society member would be matched at least \$0.50 to \$1.00 by the society. This matching program would help decrease the time it will take to reach our goal of initiating the WSSA Roy J. Smith Graduate Fellowship. We realize this request was rejected outright the last several years, but we still continue to ask for this level of additional support.

- Other requests for the Board:

As we grow the fund, present strategy may not be conservative enough for our objectives. The committee would like to request greater control over the investment direction of the endowment fund and would specifically request less direct investments in equities.