

2010 WSSA Committee Progress Report July, 2010

Committee Code and Name: W21 Professional Development Committee

Committee Chair: Chad Brommer

Committee Members, 2010: Chad Brommer, Dawn Refsell, Neal Stewart, Sarah Ward, Bobby Haygood, Dave Horvath, Randy Anderson, J. Pablo Morales Payan, Tracy Sterling

Board Coordinator: WSSA President (David Shaw)

Committee Members Rotating Off: Sarah Ward (ex-chair)

Appropriate Replacements: Sarah True (NCSU, GSO representative), J. Pablo Morales Payan

2010 Summary of Activities (through 07/09/10)

- What are the committee's goals for 2010?
 1. The Professional Development Committee will investigate more extensive ways of e-communication for 2011 WSSA Portland meeting.
 2. The Committee will encourage WSSA members to sign join the WSSA Epernicus group hosted by Dave Horvath.
 3. The Committee will reach out to WSSA members and friends to build content, educational information, and examples on the use of Twitter and similar social media on the WSSA Professional Development Committee web page.
 4. The Committee will present a paper poster (and virtual poster) on using social media at the 2011 WSSA meeting.
 5. We will reactivate the online student membership survey at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=TM_2bvTE7r4ATTMo9ajIKAMw_3d_3 to gather information about student membership of WSSA.
 6. Expand social media exposure of WSSA by collecting video clips of why people attend WSSA (at the WSSA/SRM 2010 Denver meeting) to post on YouTube.
 7. Solicit ideas, data, and advice from other professional societies (built on associations with plants and/or agriculture) to better understand the dynamics of professional society membership in the new millennium. Development of a multi-year plan to keep abreast of technology changes in social and scientific communication.
 8. Publish collected information and thoughts from the Professional Development Committee's workshops and symposium in Weed Science.

List the committee's accomplishments (through 07/09/10):

- The committee organized, in collaboration with the WSSA GSO, and presented the Workshop “WSSA Workshop 1 - Technology and Communication Skills for the 21st Century ” at the WSSA 2010 Annual Meeting. Attendance was 20(10 from WSSA and 15 from SRM). Electronic content from this symposium will be shared via the WSSA website.
 - The Committee submitted a proposal for a workshop " Navigating the universe of grants, contracts, and gifts in the 21st century” for the 2011 WSSA meeting. This proposal approval is pending.
 - The Committee continues to develop a “How To Guide” for WSSA members explaining the use of RSS feeds, pod casting, Epernicus, and Facebook; this will continue to be posted on the Professional Development Committee webpage.
 - The Committee has discussed the issue of declining graduate membership in WSSA. As an initial step to gathering information to address this, we developed an online survey for graduate students in weed science - this survey can be accessed at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=TM_2bvTE7r4ATTMo9ajIKAMw_3d_3d So far response to this has been poor, and we are working to get more graduate students to participate.
 - The Committee revised and streamlined the screening procedure for the WSSA Annual Meeting Travel Awards for graduate students. We received 20 applications and recommended 6 to the WSSA Board of Directors for funding. These award recipients will be first-time attendees at the 2011 WSSA/SRM meeting in Portland.
- What information was posted on the WSSA website?
See #5 above
 - How much funds were requested? How much was spent?
\$3600 were requested, Dow Agro Sciences sponsored the workshop in Denver, 2010.
 - What was the impact of the committee activities/accomplishments on the following: membership, publication, policy, legislation, and/or education?
The Professional Development Committee continues to be at the vanguard of social media and new scientific media developments. The committee acts as a filter and tester for different media outlets and sources for the WSSA membership. Training, Giving symposia/workshops and online content has enhanced membership. Direct data supporting this statement is not at hand but could be found by looking at the number of social media that membership has joined over the last three years. The number of hits to the Professional Development committee web page is another indication of the committee enhancing the professional lives of the WSSA members. Publications have been online only to date. Most posted or linked to the Professional Development Committee web page.
No Legislation accomplishments for 2009-2010.

Continuing Education is a core mission of the committee within WSSA. Online content, workshops, symposia, and a constant online presence are all intended to assist WSSA member to learn, share, and mentor their fellow members and scientists.

- What is the current state of the committee's projects and activities?

Listed under "**List the committee's accomplishments (through 07/09/10):** "

2010 Plan for Committee Activities

- Other Goals for 2010:
 - Begin a discourse for re envisioning the process in which the WSSA integrates the society website to archive information from the annual meetings and committees.
- Plan of Action:
 - Solicit assistance from the WSSA BOD, other members, and stakeholders concerning the collection of content from annual meetings of the WSSA and committees.
 - Develop multiple scenarios for archiving annual meeting and committee content on the WSSA website.
 - Present a course of action to WSSA BOD at the 2011 annual meeting.

Recommendations for Board/Society Action:

- Funds requested for 2010: N/A
- Other requests for the Board: N/A