



WSSA Committee Report

COMMITTEE: Professional Development and Membership F3 **Date:** 1/7/26

BOARD LIASON: Kelly Backscheider

Include in Consent Agenda: Yes (no discussion needed, just informational update)

No (items in report require discussion or action)

Name	Term Ending	Region/ Affiliation		Name	Term Ending	Region/ Affiliation
Chair: Dilpreet Riar	2029	NC		Kumari, Annu	2027	NE
Eure, Peter	2026	S/NE		Shergill, Lovreet	2026	W
Rana, Sandeep	2026	NE		Maity, Aniruddha	2028	S
Galvin, Liberty	2028	W		Gustafson, Eric	Ex-off	Ex. Sec.
Camargo Silva, Gustavo	Ex-off	GSO VP		Godara, Navdeep	Ex-off	GSO P
				Sustaining Mem. Chair - TBD	Ex-off	

Reviewed MOP for updates: YES NO

Comments re: MOP:

No updates needed. We have not been active in “developing strategies to maintain/increase membership” or “providing professional development opportunities”, but we have a 2026 goal to provide 2 webinars to members in alignment with this.

Committee Actions/Impacts/Activities:

We facilitate the Travel Enrichment Experience (TEE) and Graduate Student Travel Award. We partner with GSO who helps confirm the TEE hosts. We have also facilitated head shots at the annual meeting.

Committee Meeting Schedule*: (Include all planned meeting dates and times):

2026 committee meeting was held via Teams on 1/7/2026 at 12:00 PM EST.

Budget needs:

Continue WSSA BOD annual funding for 5 Travel Enrichment Experience Awards (\$2000 each X 5 = \$10,000) and 6 Graduate Student Travel Awards (approx. \$1,200 each X 6 = \$7,200). The committee requests to increase the number of graduate student travel awards to increase student attendance. We have seen a consistent increase in applications, we received 35 in 2024 and 45 in 2025 demonstrating student need for funding.

Areas for improvement/concerns:

We plan to organize 2 Webinars in 2026 for WSSA members, 1 focused on “soft skills” targeted for students and 1 focused on “navigating the first years of faculty positions”.

Opportunities for future (symposia, speakers, communication, general):

*This will be visible to all members for engagement.