COMSHER BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES (2017)

Minutes from 2016 business meeting approved.

Updates and announcements from AEJMC

- Membership stable, but submissions down this year—possibly due to location of conference (we come to Chicago relatively often).
- Next year: ComSHER Division’s formal AEJMC assessment.

AWARDS
Eason Prize and Top Faculty (Young/Hart)

- Eason Prize winner: Chelsea Ratcliffe, University of Utah
- Top Faculty Paper winner: Jiyoung Lee and Hua Jiang, Syracuse University

Article of the Year (Hart)

- 10 submissions; 6 judges
  - 1st place: Lee Ahern, Colleen Connolly-Ahern, Jennifer Hoewe
  - 2nd place: John Besley, Anthony Dudo, Shupei Yuan

Top Poster Award (Hart)

- 15 judges; 1 poster session with 45 posters
  - Winner: Jason Holley, Katherine McComas, Matt Hare

REPORTS/UPDATES
Financial (Dudo)

- We are in good shape financially (no anomalies)—discuss how we can spend some of this on awards, etc.

Programming (Hart)

- Reallocated resources so we could have 5 oral research sessions.

Research (Young)

- Reviewers
  - 107 reviewers = 3 – 4 papers per reviewer
  - 70% female; 30% male reviewers
- Submissions
  - Total = 124
- Acceptances (percentages)
  - Overall: 52%
  - Student-only: 40%

Teaching (Clarke)

- 2 teaching panels
One co-sponsored with PR (30 people)
Another co-sponsored with PCIG (30 people)

PF&R (Yeo)
- 2 PF&R panels
  - Co-sponsored with International Communication (15 people)
  - Co-sponsored with PCIG (15 people)

Social/Field Trip (Dalrymple/Clarke)
- Adler Planetarium
  - 12 attendees
  - Total cost for this year’s field trip = $250
- ComSHER social after business meeting in the Rush Lounge in the hotel.
  - Total cost for this year’s social = ~$750-1,000

Communications Team (Fung/Anderson/VanDyke)
- Website serves as a database for archival data.
- Newsletter is emailed—individual links to posts on website.
  - Archived in document form on website.
- Google and Facebook groups—members can post to both.

Updates on behalf of Susanna Priest from Science Communication (Dudo)
- Journal is doing well and trends are positive.
- Acceptance rate in 2016 was 14%—had 191 submissions last year.
- Impact factor (1.852) is on an upward trend.
- Still looking for another associate editor to help with journal.
  - Reach out to Susanna, if interested.

Future conference sites (Dudo)
- 2018: D.C.
- 2019: Toronto
- 2020: San Francisco
- 2021: ComSHER voted for Austin

NEW LEADERSHIP
Proposed new leadership slate (Dudo)
- Elected
  - Head: Sol Hart
  - Vice-Head: Avery Holton
  - Vice-Head Elect: Rachel Young
  - Research Chair: Kajsa Dalrymple
• Appointed
  o Teaching Chair: Sara Yeo
  o PF&R Chair: Tim Fung
  o Secretary: Chris Clarke
  o Newsletter Chair: Sojung Kim
  o Website Chair: Mo Jang
  o Social Media Chair: Leona Su, Roma Subramaniam
  o Membership Chair: Matt VanDyke, Tsung-Jen Shih
  o Grad Student Ambassadors/Liaisons: Jacob Copple, Christopher Wirz, Sushma Kimble, Jiyoung Lee

NEW BUSINESS
Vote on proposal to drop graduate student fee.
• We get about 40 graduate student members a year—since we are fiscally stable, this will not affect our funds too much.
• Approved.

Vote on proposal to change the Eason Prize payment structure.
• Present: $1,000 to top student paper; free registration to lead author.
• Proposed: $500 for 1st place, $300 to 2nd place, $200 to 3rd place.
  o Approved.
• Vote on amendment to increase Eason Prize to $1500.
  o Not approved.
• Proposal to add financial award ($100) to Top Faculty Paper.
  o Did not vote—not many in favor.
• Proposal to stop having poster discussants.
  o Currently no discussant in oral sessions—allows 5 presentations.
  o Discussants could also serve as poster evaluators.
    ▪ Officers will come up with a way to do this.
    ▪ Approved.

Suggestions for D.C. field trip.
• If anyone knows someone who can give us a tour of a location in D.C., please email Chris Clarke.

Idea for teaching session.
• Teaching environmental reporting (Planet Forward at George Washington).

Presentations (Besley)
• Improve the quality of our presentations—narratives.
• We are still redoing our papers in oral form.
• More engaging presentations.
• This could be a PF&R panel next year.