

***ad hoc* Student Science Policy Award Committee**

Committee Members: J. A. Cook, A. V. Linzey, E. S. McCulloch, A. Shenko, S. A. Smiley-Walters (Chair)

Mission:

This Committee administers the Student Science Policy Award, which can be bestowed upon multiple graduate students each year. This Award was created to facilitate ASM student members' involvement in science public policy. The Award would not be possible without the collaboration of the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS).

Information Items:

(1) In January 2019, our committee advertised the ASM Student Science Policy Award available to graduate student members. We utilized social media (Facebook and Twitter) and Mammal-L to advertise the 2019 award announcement and a follow-up reminder concerning the application deadline. We received few applications, but all were reviewed by the committee members with a majority vote of support.

(2) Our 2019 award recipients were Rhiannon Jakopak from the University of Wyoming and Kelsey Stoneberg from Bowling Green State University. Both graduate students accepted the award and traveled to Washington, DC to participate in Congressional Visits Day. This year's event took place March 26-27, 2019. Dr. Rob Gropp reported positively concerning the ASM student awardees following the CVD event.

(3) The website has been updated to reflect current committee composition and the most recent award recipients. Committee composition did not change this year; all committee members are current members of ASM. Prospective committee members are encouraged to contact the chair.

(4) After discrepancies in committee status were noticed, the "ad hoc" status of the Student Science Policy Award Committee was discussed, and a proposal was made to make the SSPA a standing committee.

(5) The SSPA committee members desire to continue to offer this program. We ask ASM members to help promote the award to current graduate students who have interest in science policy. The committee chair will seek out additional advertisement avenues for next year to increase the visibility of this award, including advertising at the DC meeting. We anticipate next year's application deadline to be in late January 2020, contingent on funding renewal.

Action Items:

(1) The SSPA Committee requests \$4,750 to sponsor two students to attend Congressional Visits Day in Washington DC in spring 2020. This is an increase of \$250 from the previous year at the request of AIBS. The Award cost includes transportation, lodging, food, planning, logistical support, and a full day of policy training (Communications Training Boot Camp)

provided by AIBS. The increase in cost is mostly associated with increased flight and lodging costs for each student.

This award will continue to engage mammalogy students in conversations with policymakers on Capitol Hill. These interactions increase the scientific awareness of policymakers through discussions with awardees concerning the benefits of funding mammalian research, natural history collections, biological field stations, the National Science Foundation, and other programs. The awardees benefit from policy training, experiential learning, and interactions with federal scientists and respected policy decision-makers. The award is important for creating a future generation of mammalogists who are engaged in the science-policy interface and can serve as an active voice for our community. We've had very positive feedback from past student participants.

(2) The status of this committee as either standing or ad hoc should be formalized.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Smiley-Walters, Chair
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