

October 5, 2014

Student Activities Committee, Waterbird Society

Membership: Gail Fraser (gsfraser@yorku.ca), Linda Wires (wires001@umn.edu), Juliet Lamb (jslamb@g.clemson.edu)

2013-2014 Committee Activities

Student Travel Awards

We solicited applications for student travel awards for the upcoming 2014 meeting in La Paz, Mexico and received 16 applications. The breakdown of where students are from is as follows: 88% were from North America, 13% from Latin America (Table 1).

Table 1. A summary of the travel award applicants and allocation of awards for 2013 meeting.

Area of origin of applicant	North America (14 total): 2 BSc; 5 MSc; 7 PhD;	Latin America (2 total) 1 MSc (Cuba) 1 PhD (Cuba)
Average award amount offered	BSc \$200 MS \$200 PhD \$250	MSc \$200 PhD \$700

Where it was requested, we provided higher levels of funding for non-North American students (as per the motion to increase funds was to provide more support for students of local geography). Of the 16 awards offered, three are undecided (as of Oct 5) and the rest have accepted the award. Assuming that the three undecided students accept their offers, the total funds allocated to student travel awards are \$3550. The amount Council allocated was \$4000. We are working on how to distribute the funds to the Latin American students.

Student presentations

As of Oct 5 we don't yet have the final count on the number of student presentations.

Student Mentoring

In December we discussed the possibility of organizing a panel for students where professionals discuss their jobs, how they got them, challenges in finding work and overcoming obstacles etc. at an upcoming meeting. Juliet Lamb, a PhD student, expressed interest in organizing such an event however, it seems unlikely that this will happen at the La Paz meeting as it has not been coordinated with the local organizing committee.

Requests for Council Action:

Could the student event mentoring panel idea be inserted into the “Organizing a Meeting” document so the local organizing committee is thinking of it when they are arranging scheduling? Then they can reach out to the student activities committee to discuss what is required.

Chris Custer and Gail Fraser discussed the issue of having the funds increased for non-North American meetings for which the majority of applicants are North American students (this has happened two years in a row now). It was very surprising to have so few non-North American student applicants and understanding why that is would be useful. We suggest a discussion around fund dispersal; perhaps a certain percentage could be applied to each region of origin category.