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Memorandum

From: Sydney Cameron, Chair, SSB Awards Committee
To: SSB Executive Council
Re: Awards Committee Mid-year report

Please find attached the mid-year 2010-2011 report for the SSB awards.

This year, 2011, the awards budget should stand at \$25K, which is the funding level we achieved for 2010. This is still half of the budget we had prior to the free fall in 2009, and we can discuss adding to this or maintaining at this level for now. The following is a breakdown of the significant awards activities.

Awards Budget.

Awards budget last year went up to \$25K from the \$13K in 2009 (when we had a major reduction from \$50K to \$13K). However, due to an easing of the budget constraints within the society we agreed to spend \$23K at the mid-yr. meeting. We added another \$2K to make one more deserving award. We funded only Graduate Student Research Awards. We will discuss the 2011 awards budget at the mid-yr meeting, but if we can hold the awards at \$25K, we can grant approximately 15 awards between \$1.5K-\$2K each. We continue to hold the Ernst Mayr competition. The SSB webpage indicates the available awards to potential applicants; we have not reinstituted the mini-PEETs or International Travel awards.

Applications this Year

Submission deadline for the Grad Student Research awards is the usual date, 31 March 2010. The Ernst Mayr deadline to submit talk abstracts is 1 April, approximately two weeks before the 17 April registration deadline for Evolution 2011. All candidates will be notified of their status no later than April 10, 2011. Note that the cut-off date for talk submission is April 17, 2011, which coincides with the final day for "early bird" registration for "Evolution 2011", hosted by the University of Oklahoma in Norman, OK. This gives the candidates at least a week between notification of acceptance by the committee and the talk submission deadline date. Complete instructions are on the website at <http://systbio.org/?q=node/10>

A maximum of 15 competitors will be selected to participate. [Generally, there are fewer than 15 submissions for the Mayr competition, and all are usually accepted.] The Mayr award symposium has been scheduled tentatively for Mon, 20 June, 8am - noon. I will attend the 2011 meetings, select the judges and moderate the session.

This year, I advertised the student awards and Mayr competition on Evoldir and the SSB webpage.

Awards Judges

I am still requesting individuals to serve as GSRA proposal reviewers for the grad student research competition; I expect to have 8-10 judges 60-70 proposals expected. I will request additional judges if the number of proposals is more than 15 per judge. I will be selecting Mayr Award judges once the student candidates have been selected.

Results of GSRA Competition Last Year

The number of applications for 2010 was 60, 25 fewer than the 2009 submissions. We funded a total of 15, with awards ranging from \$1,300-\$2,000. The winners are posted on the SSB awards webpage, along with selected sample proposals. We also received 15 abstracts for competition in the Mayr symposium, all of which were accepted. Judges for this award were myself, Jack Sullivan, and Patrick Mardulyn. The award was split between two students, David Winter (Otago University) and Jeremy Brown (University of California, Berkeley).

Notes on Payment of Awards.

Payment of Awards proceeded smoothly, and Jim Whitfield, Treasurer, will have more to say about the budget overall for this year. One issue arose, which involved a student asking for funds 3 years after her award had been granted. We should discuss our policy on this if it arises again.

New Awards Chair

Next year (2013) Sean Brady, USNM, Smithsonian Institution will take over as awards chair.

Sincerely yours,



Sydney A. Cameron
Assoc. Prof.