

Proposed amendments to NCCSEM Chapter By-Laws – March 2010 meeting

1) Adjust the eligibility for chapter Vice President to include chapter members of any professional status.

Rationale: our by-laws currently mandate that the Vice President be “a student,” but the original intent of the Vice President position was to create a position that could be open to students, not a student-only position. Since the main role of the Vice President is to “assist the President” there is no reason to limit the position to any one type of SEM member. This minor change brings us in line with other chapters’ vice-president position eligibility (e.g. MACSEM’s by-laws state “With the exception of the President, the other officers may be students.”).

Proposed amendment: “The Vice President ~~is a student and~~ assists the President on the Program Selection Committee and with other matters.

2) More clearly define the eligibility for the Dilling Prize, and change the manner of awarding the prize each year

Rationale: no other chapter in SEM handles the award election and conferral the way our chapter does, and the process we currently use seems to cause confusion and, at times, embarrassment to people in the room.

Text currently reads (with bracketed letters marking the two amendments that are required): [a] All student papers presented at the conference are automatically considered for the Marnie Dilling Prize, which carries a small cash award (usually \$50). [b] The award is presented during the business meeting of the conference. A student may not receive the award more than once. The students who presented papers leave the room while the membership (including students) conduct a secret ballot. Votes are tallied by the President, the Vice President, or the Secretary-Treasurer.

[a] We are the only chapter that doesn’t clarify eligibility beyond excluding past prize winners. We are also the only chapter that does not require people to enter intentionally into prize consideration—either at the time of abstract submission or, more commonly, at the meeting when the paper is presented. This has caused minor confusion in past meetings about whether it was open to students at all levels (B.A., M.A., Ph.D. or other degree) and caught some first-time meeting participants by surprise that they might or might not be eligible for a cash prize. Allowing students to self-nominate via submitting a hard-copy of their paper not only helps streamline the process for everyone involved, but also matches the protocol for submitting papers for SEM national prizes, such as the Charles Seeger Prize.

Proposed amendment [a]:

“All student papers presented at the conference are automatically considered. Any student who presents, in person, a formal paper at the chapter’s Annual Meeting shall be eligible for the Marnie Dilling prize, which carries a small cash award (usually \$50). Students wishing to be considered for the award should submit three (3) hard copies of the paper at registration along with their contact information (name, institutional affiliation, mailing address, phone number, email). Candidates are encouraged to submit three copies of audio or visual examples that will be used in the presentation (tape cassette, CD, VHS, or DVD formats are acceptable) with a brief explanation of how the examples are used in the presentation. A student shall be defined as a person pursuing an active course of studies in a degree program,

including persons who are engaged in writing the doctoral dissertation, but will not include those who are teaching full time while doing so. A student may only receive the award once.”

[b] Our chapter is the only chapter that immediately votes on the paper recipients during our business meeting, and announces the prize recipient at the end of our business meeting. While the prize winner gets the instant gratification of knowing they won (and walks away with \$50 in cash), the current process seems to heighten an atmosphere of competition among the student presenters, which is contrary to the spirit of the award and the collegial and supportive nature of our chapter.

All other chapters designate a small committee to award the prize after the chapter meeting is done, and alert the winner by email. The prize committees are always made up of faculty or professionals who attended the entire conference and elect the prize winner after the conference is over; the variants include creating ad-hoc vs. using the existing program committee; and whether the president or vice-president chairs the committee.

Proposed amendment [b]

~~The award is presented during the business meeting of the conference. A student may not receive the award more than once. The students who presented papers leave the room while the membership (including students) conduct a secret ballot. Votes are tallied by the President, the Vice President, or the Secretary-Treasurer. The chapter President shall chair the prize committee and appoint other committee members from the faculty and independent scholars (non-students with advanced degrees) in attendance at the meeting. The President is responsible for informing the prize winner and notifying all applicants of the results, as well as publicizing the results in the official chapter report to the SEM office. The President will coordinate with the Secretary-Treasurer to ensure the winner receives the cash purse in a timely manner.~~

Other chapters' processes for awarding the prize:

MACSEM: “awards the Hewitt Pantaleoni Prize each year to the best student paper delivered at the annual meeting, as **determined by the vote of an ad hoc committee of faculty present at the meeting, appointed by the President.**”

Pacific Northwest: “The **evaluation committee will consist of the chapter president and two other faculty members, with at least two institutions represented.** The announcement of the prize winner should take place as soon after the meeting as possible. The chapter president should first notify all contending students of the results. The chapter secretary should then be notified in order to include this information in her/his official report to the SEM Newsletter and officers. The results should also be transmitted to the membership on the SEMNW email list.”

SEMSEC: “The **program committee may serve as the prize committee, providing all program committee members attend the conference. Prize committee members should not be students. The program committee chair will also serve as the award chair,** provided he or she attends the meeting. Students wishing to be considered for the award should submit 5 (or however many members there are of the award committee) hard copies of the paper at registration along with contact information (name, institutional affiliation, mailing address, phone number, email). Late papers will not be considered for the prize. The award will be based on oral and written versions of the paper. The prize will not be awarded if a deserving paper is not submitted. Winners will be announced on the chapter website, in the SEM Newsletter, and at the business meeting during the next SEM national meeting. At the discretion of the chair, committee members may be asked to provide written feedback to students.

SCCSEM and Southern Plains: “The **Student Prize Committee shall be chaired by the Vice-President of the [chapter] and shall include two additional faculty appointed by the President.** Candidates for the Student Prize are asked to indicate on the abstract form that they wish to have their papers considered for the prize. ... Each candidate for the Student Prize must submit three copies of the paper to the Program Chair at the meeting. The papers are to be of delivery length, written using a 12-point font, black ink, and may not exceed 12 pages, double-spaced.

Midwest, Niagra, and Southwest chapters: No process for awarding the prize is described in their by-laws or their websites.