

Communications Committee

Chair: Ericka Hoagland

MINUTES

- Opened with a discussion of the rubric that will be used by the judges in the assessment and scoring of the submissions to the Outstanding Literary Arts Journal Award. Of specific concern were how the categories are weighted, and developing short descriptions for each category.
 - Background: The current rubric is organized around four categories, equally weighted at 25%: Quality of Writing; Quality of Design; Chapter Involvement; and Overall Quality of the Journal. The rubric itself is organized from 1-5 (poor; average, good; very good; and excellent).
 - Discussion: concerns regarding 1) the equal weight to each category, particularly to “Quality of Writing” and “Chapter Involvement,” which were identified by committee members as the most significant of the four categories; and 2) the titles of two categories: “Quality or Writing” and “Overall Quality of the Journal.”
 - Several committee members expressed concerns that Chapter Involvement was not weighted more heavily, as well as were concerned that some journals may be submitted for the award that are not products of chapters, or at least lack clear input and contributions by Sigma Tau Delta chapter members.
 - Elfi clarified to the committee that “Chapter Involvement” is defined by five sub-categories, ranging for the level of chapter involvement in collection of submissions, reading and judging of submissions, as well as editorial and layout work.
 - After some back and forth discussion, the committee agreed to rename “Quality of Writing” to “Quality of Content,” to reflect the journals’ inclusion of not just written material, but visual materials (sketches, paintings, photographs, etc.), and “Overall Quality of Journal” to “Overall Cohesiveness of Journal,” to reflect committee members’ concerns that the former title may be somewhat redundant, as well as to reflect the re-distribution of percentages each category is worth.
 - The redistribution of percentages is the following: 30% for both Quality of Content and Chapter Involvement; 25% for Quality of Design; and 15% for Overall Cohesiveness of the Journal.
 - The committee concluded its discussion of the categories by identifying important adjectives for use in the short descriptions of each category.
 - The committee chair suggested that one way to help further promote this award might be a posterboard advertising the award be featured at the convention. This advertising could be extended to the other awards and scholarships offered by the Society.
 - The meeting concluded with a brief overview of the idea for a journal of collaborative student-teacher research. The committee will need to further explore and research this idea in order to more clearly establish the identity, focus, scope, and platform for this possible new publication of the Society.