

Communications Committee Minutes
24 March 2020

I. We discussed whether we should suspend the printing of Society publications (the *Review* and *Rectangle*) in favor of an epublication or even a distributed .pdf. Elfi Gabriel noted that ceasing the printing of the publications would save \$25,000 of the \$35,000 budget. Elfi estimated that moving to epublishing could add another \$1,000 to the budget. After discussion, Ami Comeford moved that we set aside \$11,000 to pursue publishing the publications electronically, with the option for .pdf distribution if electronic publication exceeds \$11,000. The motion was seconded by Jessica Heller and passed unanimously.

II. The committee also discussed clarifying the qualifications for the Outstanding Literary Arts Journal Award. Currently, the guidelines do not specify whether the journal submissions should be creative or academic in their content. Kaine Ezell recommends that the Society allow both. Initial discussion in the previous meeting favored exploring two different awards for each category, but considering the current limitations of our budget, the committee found it prudent to allow both creative and academic journals to be considered for the same award. Kaine Ezell offered adding the following criteria to the qualifications listed on the website (addition is in bold):

1. The journal was produced during the 2019-20 academic year.
2. The journal was produced with a percentage of involvement by Sigma Tau Delta chapter members.
3. The journal follows the publication guidelines of the chapter's college or university.
4. The journal contains a statement that clearly describes the involvement of the chapter in the production of the journal.
5. **The journal emphasizes Sigma Tau Delta's mission, particularly fostering all aspects of the discipline of English, including literature, language, and writing.**
6. First place recipients cannot apply the following year.

Such language allows for both styles since they would be accomplishing a major tenet of Sigma Tau Delta's mission. Elfi Gabriel and Kaine Ezell noted that they would work together to make any needed revisions to the evaluator's scoring guide. Terry Phelps made a motion to accept the additions to the qualifications. Jessica Heller seconded, and after a brief discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

III. Katie Mudd then provided an update on Society communications, which are ongoing during the COVID-19 emergency. Because much of the communications take place on social media platforms that are low cost, communication with chapters and members are ongoing. The Committee recommended continuing while being mindful of ways to meet our members' needs during this emergency.

IV. We then adjourned with two resolutions to bring before the Board Meeting on Friday that will help with our short-term budget concerns.