

Committee minutes for Scholarship Committee
Spring 2015 Board Meeting

Agenda:

- 1) Stats for this year/declining numbers
- 2) Beta testing for AwardSpring
- 3) Suggested changes
- 4) Winners

1) Final applications

- Four-year decline in applications
 - 2011 – 222; 2012 – 191; 2013 – 185; 2014 – 134
 - Increase in graduate applications, alumni applications (total of 18 over four years); new part-time scholarship received three applications.
 - Johnson down to 39
 - Slight increase in percentage of completed applications after applications were begun
 - Percentage of membership (decline) not comparable to decline in applications
- Convention theme essays are problematic
 - Work for convention awards
 - Scholarship specific or related to the idea of the scholarship in the future?
 - Craft a prompt so submissions are more uniform?
 - Provide more structure
 - Kevin Stemmler: change was for committees to all link to the Common Reader/Convention themes
- Johnson Scholarship numbers may decline because students feel they aren't active enough
- Important to note: each scholarship is tailored to different populations

2) AwardSpring is the next gen of STARS

- Streamline: remove 'attaching' a doc in the system [beta test failed this time]
- Has some nice features
- Tried to move everything over to AwardSpring for the spring scholarships
- Spring scholarships opened 3/6 and closes 4/1
- **Ask Elfi to put directly on website**
- Approximately 13 students have started
- AwardSpring user friendly (like WordPress)
- Hope to move to new system in the fall

3) Suggested changes

- Deadlines/timelines
 - Problematic because students don't always know what they'll be doing
 - Suggesting most deadlines move to spring (flip deadlines)
 - Could have workshops at Convention about process
 - Would lose out on chance to announce winners?
 - Other disadvantage: judging timeline?
 - Board has to approve winners, but could be done electronically
 - Chair would have more work but Central Office may have more time to devote to scholarships with this change
- PROPOSAL to take to the Board: Student Abroad and Summer Program deadlines in fall, the remainder of the deadlines move to Spring
- Could put winners in program, invite to workshops, possibly solicit materials for successful applications or "best practices" for new applicants

- Concern: announcing the Johnson Scholarship @ Convention is important/ should be distinguished as special?
- If approved by Board, we can announce at Scholarship Award ceremony this year
- Could even move fall deadline to November
- Possible funding for internship
 - Collaborate with Partnership Comm
 - Students could seek out internships on their own
 - Be caution about internships that are political, religious, etc.
- MOTION: flip deadlines of all scholarships in 2015-16. MOTION CARRIES
 - If announced at gala, clears room in Convention schedule and may increase attendance at gala
- MOTION: CO should send flyers with membership certificates to chapters, since they aren't year specific. MOTION CARRIES [**note to Deb: not presented to Board as a motion; may we just make this a request out of committee?

4) Winners

- See handout
- One applicant won two scholarships but, as per rules, we award the highest amount
- WCJ had four applicants with same percentage; rankings of all judges used to determine winners
- Committee MOVES to recommend moving to two \$1000 Regional awards per Region; MOTION CARRIES and will be presented as part of handout approved by Board