

Committee Name: Communications Committee

Committee Co-Chairs: Gloria Hochstein and Ericka Hoagland

1. Committee Charge: To review and evaluate policies and procedures pertaining to all Society publications in both print and electronic forms. To oversee the website and to explore options for coordinating communications both in hardcopy and online. To review policies and procedures pertaining to The Sigma Tau Delta *Rectangle* and The Sigma Tau Delta *Review* writing awards.
2. Summary of committee activities and accomplishments during this period:

Continued conversation regarding useful and necessary revisions to the webpage information on the outstanding chapter journal award remains an ongoing focus. In particular, in the recent award cycle for best literary journal, there was confusion / ambiguity regarding the submission rules for previous winners of these awards. In committee, the following concerns were addressed: first, making sure that the list of previous winners is regularly updated to address any confusion about eligibility to apply for the award. Second, the committee agreed that the rule against back-to-back applications for the award would only apply to first place winners. This in turn led to further conversation regarding implementing a feedback process for submissions that do not win, so that non-placing chapters in particular can improve both their journals and their submissions for the future. The committee also discussed offering workshops at convention on the outstanding chapter journal. Such workshops could feature faculty familiar with the judging process and/or who have worked on award-winning journals, as well as students who have worked on successful journals in the past. Likewise, showing award-winning journals at the convention would further aid in both advertising this particular award as well as providing strong examples of this work. In conjunction with these ideas for highlighting the outstanding chapter journal award at convention, the committee also discussed getting funds for the winners to display their journals.

Other adjustments to this award and its procedures included requiring only one print copy, rather than seven, to cut down on paperwork, as well as the prohibitive copy costs for chapters submitting to the award. As such, the committee is moving towards a mainly online submission process for the outstanding chapter journal. The committee is also investigating constructing an extra category to judge the artwork in the award rubric, as well as adjusting parts of the questionnaire, specifically to identify and clarify the percentage of chapter member participation in journal production.

The committee also discussed the possibility of establishing a pedagogical journal that would feature student research on pedagogy, and which may also include collaborative work with faculty or teachers. More investigation/inquiry into this idea is required.

The committee also discussed offering travel support funds for the winning chapters who agree to have a chapter display at the convention. The committee will request funds for this in the next budget.