Western Society of Crop Science
2019 Annual Conference Business Meeting Minutes
June 25-26, 2019, Columbia Basin College, Tri-Cities, WA. Minutes prepared by Rajan Ghimire and Olga Walch

Attendees:
Mark Marsalis, Rajan Ghimire, Leonard Lauriault, Olga Walsh, Anowar Islam, Jessica Torrion, Steve Norberg

Call to order the meeting at 4:45 pm MT: Mark Marsalis

Olga Walsh distributed the 2018 meeting minutes to the group, Leonard moved to approve the minutes, Anwar second. Approved, unanimously.

• Financial Report:
Rajan distributed the last years’ financial reports received from the CSSA Headquarters. It was a simple balance sheet of $7138 (ending balance on May 30, 2019), but it does not indicate previous meeting expenses, just income resulting from meeting registrations. This year’s balance was a little less than the previous year’s balance. Anowar Islam asked about the possibility of looking for sponsorship to make a positive balance. Maintaining a positive balance is important because it’s hard to recover once it’s gone from the account. Higher balance last year was mainly because WSCS membership has increased quite a bit. Anowar also mentioned that the goal should be maximizing student participation.

Mark moved to approved the minute, Leonard second. Approved, unanimously.

• Early Career Scientist Award:
This year we received three nominations for the early career award. Dr. Sandya Kesoju, Director of Agriculture Education, Research & Development at Columbia Basin College, was this year’s award winner. The “distinguished agriculturist' award is not up yet. Criteria have not been set for this award yet.

• Annual Meeting Timelines:
Mark indicated that we did a much better job this year, getting information out sooner for the annual meeting. This included announcements and abstracts/registration deadlines. Leonard proposed to the floor that submission of abstracts a week ahead of national meeting deadline will help to get more abstract for the meeting and likely that students will submit the same abstract to the national meeting.

Mid-June to end of June will be the best time for the meeting.

• Student competition:
This is the first year we did student poster competition. There was a total of 10 posters, which may have affected the oral presentations because there were only four oral presentations this year. We discussed the possibility of increasing the award amount for oral presentation or travel award for the national meeting so that students attracted to the oral competition. To encourage students to apply for the oral competition, we should remind at the announcement that first-place winner in the oral competition can get travel support to go to the national meeting. In most cases, students are not the deciding person. Therefore, change in reimbursement method (to their major supervisor) may help to assure their participation in this and national meeting.

Leonard called for a motion to increase travel stipend from $500 to $750, Olga second, approved unanimously. Leonard also called for a motion to give fourth place winner with $125, Jessica second, approved unanimously.

Anwar called for a motion to increase oral award from $200, $175, and $150 to the first, second, and third-place winner in the oral competition, Leonard second, approved unanimously.

Evaluation criteria were modified a little bit this year, this revised criteria is good, and we should continue using this.

This year there were few cases where one poster had two presenters. This complicated the judging and giving the award. The meeting reinforced one presenter for one talk/poster to keep the competition simple and fair.

- Registration:

Anowar brought the point that registration still has some issues. If PI wants to submit for a student, it’s not possible. Olga may follow up with headquarter staff if they can modify the submission system in a way that PI can register the student and also submit on their behalf.

- Next Meeting Venue:

The group discussed potential meeting venues for the 2020 meeting. Reno, Nevada might be a good place to attract more people from California. Olga will contact people and finalize the meeting venue.

- Board Positions:

Mark is current President, and Olga Walsh (Univ. of Idaho) is President-Elect. Mark presented the presidency to Olga. Olga assumed the role of President for two years as the 2019 Meeting adjourned (term: 2019-2021). Dr. Anowar Islam (University of Wyoming) was named as a new President-Elect. Sandya Kesoju was named secretary/treasurer.

- Resolution of the meeting:

The WCSG organizing committee thanked Sandya Kesoju, Steve Norberg, and Naidu Rayepatti for their help in setting up the meeting venue and logistic arrangements. Thanks to the farmer who gave a field tour.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45.
Other items:

2019 Award Winners!

Oral Contest
1st Place: Chet Loveland, *Utah State University*
2nd Place: Jagdeep Singh, *New Mexico State University*
3rd Place: Karansher Singh Sandhu, *Washington State University*
4th Place: Erin Mackey, *Washington State University*

Poster Contest
1st Place: Jagdeep Singh, *New Mexico State University*
2nd Place: Saul Estrada and Amanda Cox, *California State University-Chico*
3rd Place: Arshdeep Singh Gill, *New Mexico State University*