Women in Toxicology (WIT) - Special Interest Group
Society of Toxicology
EC Teleconference Meeting
01 Dec 2015
3:00 pm (EST), 2:00 pm (CST), 1:00 pm (MST), 12:00 pm (PST)

Attendees: Brenda Faiola, Courtney Horvath, Marie Fortin, Jessica Sapiro, Tao Wang, Sharmilee Sawant, Laurie Haws, Alex Lau

Regrets: Jaime Mirowsky

Agenda and Discussions:

1) Webinar:
Webinar is moving forward with a target of January 1st for application submission. Based on the feedback from SOT HQ, the cost will be no more than $800 ($400/webinar).
The EC reviewed the webinar application.
The feedback received:
- For section three (speakers)- put in TBD or put in possible names
- Budget- “we are asking for appropriate funding to cover the cost of the webinar expenses” (estimated ~$800/2 webinars or ~$400/1 webinar)
- Date- Spring and Fall 2016
- Topic: add potential topics for the Fall webinar
- We should focus the topics to ~3 of the suggested bullets if the webinar is only an hour

2) The EC reviewed the Webinar Request Form for the Spring 2016 webinar.
Feedback received:
- Preferable to keep the webinar to 1 hr duration (rather than 1.5 hrs)
- Marie volunteered to be the primary moderator. Jessica offered to be the secondary moderator who will monitor the chat box and questions that come in
- Speakers need to be added to the “Panelist” list
- It is a good idea to have a registration. The cost may be based on the number of lines that are open, so it is possible that it would need to be capped, but the preference of the EC is to not cap the number of participants.
- The consensus of the EC was that the webinar should be open to all SOT members
- Check yes for polling, chat, post event survey, image (WIT logo), recording (although we will need to obtain approval from the speakers to record and post).
- Agenda for event will need to be filled in
Both forms will be submitted before Christmas.
The timing was originally proposed to be May and October, but this is a common time for regional chapter meetings (18 regional chapters around the country, and many of these local meetings have mentoring activities). Tao proposed that the dates be moved to April and September and the EC agreed.
3) Election update: Brenda ~10 mins
A large number of nominations were received 30 Nov (the deadline). Ashley has gone through the memberships to see who is eligible to be on the ballot.

Councilor- 4 people have been nominated, but 1 person is not eligible based on unpaid dues and SOT membership level.

VP- 2 candidates have been identified. 1 candidate needs to become a WIT member.

Secretary- Treasurer- 2 candidates, but 1 person is a post-doc SOT member and therefore not eligible.

Post-doc rep- 9 applications have been received, but 1 is a grad student SOT member and therefore not eligible.

The WIT EC decision was that for the candidates that are in transition from one SOT membership level to another (i.e., Grad Student to PD; PD to associate or full member), due to timing (applications due 16Jan 2016 but decision not till ~mid Feb), these nominees are not eligible this year to run.

An election subcommittee is needed to be formed to review the PD applications and narrow choices down to 2 or 3 for final ballot candidates; it is suggested that the current PD rep (Jamie, not present on call) be asked to participate in this subcommittee as well as either Laurie or Sharmilee as they are in the ascension to President chain. In addition, Brenda and Marie will be on the subcommittee. Jessica volunteered if necessary if others mentioned above are unable to serve.

The election subcommittee examine the feasibility of a redistribution of the candidates to even out the ballots. Brenda did not want to make the decision alone due to potential perception of any conflict of interest.

Since Grad student position is appointed, we do not have to make decision on that now. The EC priority is to get the election ballot completed as soon as possible and make a decision on the GS rep prior to the annual meeting.

*Action item: Brenda to form subcommittee and set up a meeting later this week or early next week.*

Post meeting note: Brenda has informed (via email) the 3 candidates that had SOT membership status transition issues that the WIT EC decided that they will not be eligible to be placed on the ballot at present but encouraged them to run next year.

4) WIT Reception and F2F meeting
Briefly touched on WIT reception and F2F meeting just to note that we have not yet been told what hotel the WIT reception will be in and Tao reached out to Ashley to ask about this. Also, Sharmilee’s doodle poll to help find the best time for F2F meeting should be responded too so that the online request for that can be submitted asap.

5) New Business
Marie requested that the EC re-consider giving a "young achievement award" to a successful female researcher at the 2016 annual meeting. There was an equivocal discussion and the remaining EC members chose to postpone the decision to the next business meeting when a greater proportion of the EC will be present.

A proposal was previously put forth by Alex and Marie on the method of selection for the WIT achievement award winner. The EC will discuss the entire matter at our next meeting.

The next WIT EC teleconference will be 12 Jan 2016 at 3:00 pm EST.