

Conference Scholarship Committee
Report to the 2011 Summer Meeting of the Policy Council
Submitted by Bob Eberlein, July 15, 2011

Summary

This year we again provided 10 partial scholarships in the form of registration fee waivers and accommodation. There is a suggestion that the Student Chapter get more involved in the silent auction, and that proceeds help support the PhD Colloquium.

Availability

We awarded 10 conference scholarships which included a waiver of the registration fee and four nights of hotel room (to be shared with another scholarship recipient). Because some recipients are volunteers (so that registration is already waived) a registration waiver was offered to some recipients. In addition, this year additional registration waivers were offered using funds from the silent auction.

Anyone interested in attending the conference may apply for a scholarship. If they submit a paper for either the program, or for the PhD Colloquium, this material is reviewed. If neither of these has been submitted, applicants can submit an example of their written work. In addition, applicants provide a short personal statement.

Work is evaluated leaning heavily on the comments and placement decisions of the program committee where these are available. Statements are ranked based on the demonstration of financial need and potential contribution to the conference and the home community of the applicant. These two scores are combined to rank the applicants (this is done blindly) then the rankings are used by the office to make award offers with previous scholarship recipients moved down on the list to encourage broader attendance.

This year there were 27 applicants and of those, 14 received and appear to have accepted some sort of scholarship offer.

Silent Auction

The Silent Auction has been used to raise money during the last several North American conferences. To date, this money has primarily been used to fund K-12 activities, including conference attendance. Going forward there is a suggestion that the Student Chapter become more involved in the auction, and that more of the funds go toward support of the PhD Colloquium.