

Awards committee report for winter 2012 PC meeting

The awards committee endorsed via email the recommendations of the July 2011 meeting. These are summarized below for consideration and action of the policy council

1. Regularization of Lifetime Achievement Award

Rationale

The committee discussed at length the need for lifetime achievement award evident in its appearance twice on an ad hoc basis. It was also recognized that currently many members have created eminent lifetime work, which does not fit into any of our current award criteria. At this time, all regular awards of the society are given for a single article and none recognizes an individual for outstanding contribution made through a body of work done over an extended period of time that has led to new thinking in the field or has bridged it with a new application area or has influenced education and learning *per se* in a profound way. Recognizing a similar need, the community service award was regularized a few years ago after having been given on an ad hoc basis a few times.

Action item

The Awards Committee recommends regularizing the lifetime achievement award by creating an "Innovation Prize" (a placeholder name for the award) to be given to an individual or a group for outstanding contribution to the field achieved by dedicated work done over an extended period of time on a specific topic. Since the criteria for such an award would be very different from any of the current prizes a separate ad hoc committee for its administration should be formed.

2. Regularization of Ad hoc Award Committee terms

Rationale

The ad hoc award committees currently determine their own terms for members. Most do not have a fixed term and members serve indefinitely on many committees. The Awards committee felt the need for regularizing these terms for two reasons: 1) a regular turnover would infuse new thinking into their functioning; 2) disruptions due to sudden changes would be avoided. It should also be added that the extra work undertaken by the committee members is voluntary and an indefinite length for volunteering may not have great appeal. There is however a need for continuity in these committees and the institutional memory contributed by long serving members is of value.

Action item

It is recommended that ad hoc award committee member terms be fixed at 5 years, with a normally two-term maximum. The terms should initially be staggered to assure continuity. At the outset the ad hoc award committee chairs should be charged with the responsibility of preparing a schedule of staggered terms.

3. The fellowship level of society membership

Although initially discussed as a professional recognition avenue, this item also relates to enrolment and retention of members.

Action item

This agenda should be passed on to VP member services, AVP member activities and strategy committee for further consideration.

Respectfully submitted.

-Khalid Saeed

December 13, 2011