

# Dana Meadows Award Fund Proposal

## Background

The Dana Meadows Award has been given to student work submitted at the annual conference since 2001 to honor her life and work. Originally organized by John Sterman, the award was funded by Jane and Allen Boorstein through 2004. That year, the “Dana Meadows Student Paper Award Endowment Fund” was established to ensure the award could continue to be provided annually without the need to outside monies. The funding reached and exceeded the \$60,000 goal with contributions from 50 plus members of the System Dynamics Community, including \$10,000 from Jane and Allen Boorstein.

Since that time the fund, now called the Dana Meadows Award Fund, has been invested and used to provide the annual award payments.

In 2015 Dennis Meadow’s contributed an additional \$30,000 with the intent to recognize women students above and beyond the existing annual award. This money was to be spent over the course of 10 years (that is not treated as an endowment). This fund was called DMA2 to distinguish it from the first fund.

Given the amounts that have been paid out in awards, and the returns on the invested award endowment, the combined total of the DMA1 and DMA2 funds was approximately \$420,000 at the end of 2024.

Though the amount of the award has increased over time, it is substantially below the income being generated on average from the invested endowment. This provides an opportunity to expand the uses to which the fund can be used.

## Proposal

To better meet the goals of supporting students, the following changes are recommended:

1. That the name of the fund be changed to the Dana Meadows Fund, dropping award from the name.
2. That the distinction of the DMA1 and DMA2 monies be removed.
3. That the purpose of the fund be expanded to include both awards and scholarships.
4. That a more formal charter guiding the administration of the fund with specific spending targets be adopted.

These changes would provide more flexibility in the use of the Fund and help ensure that the endowment is put to good and sustainable use. Dennis Meadows has already agreed to remove the distinction between the DMA1 and DMA2 funds, and this proposal in its entirety would be circulated to all contributors of record, including the estates of Jane and Allen Boorstein, for any comments or suggestions. Ultimately, however, it is the responsibility of the Policy Council to adopt a new charter.

## Motion

Eventually, there should be a motion to adopt the amended charter. This should probably happen after a short period of public review. This section of the document should be shortened for this review.

DRAFT

# Dana Meadows Fund Charter

Adopted: xxxx

## Preamble

The Dana Meadows Fund is intended to encourage and support students and young people to do work in system dynamics that addresses important societal issues. To do this the System Dynamics Society will draw on the Fund to provide scholarships and awards to worthy recipients.

## Recipients

Beneficiaries of the Fund will be students enrolled in, or intending to enroll in, a program of study at a university or other academic institution. Payments will be made as an award for work in system dynamics of significant practical or scholarly value and as scholarships for the study of system dynamics. The selection process and further eligibility requirements, such as providing awards for work submitted to the annual conference, will be specified by the selection committees.

## Selection

Selection for awards and scholarships will be made by one or more committees duly constituted by the Policy Council. The rules under which these committees operate will be determined by the Policy Council and in keeping with the purpose of the Fund.

## Budgeting

Each year there will be a budget of five percent (5%) of the principal in the fund as of December 31 or the prior year. Any portion of that budget not spent in a year will carry over to successive years. Should the principal of the Fund drop below \$250,000 (in 2020 dollars as determined by the “All items CPI” as published by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics) the budget will be decreased to maintain that floor. Should the Principal increase beyond \$500,000 (similarly adjusted) the budget will be increased to maintain that ceiling. The division of the budget between different awards and scholarships will be determined by the Policy Council.

## Payments

Payments will be made by the Society Office. When a payment is made that amount, along with any material or transaction payments made by the Society, will be taken from the Fund. Society personnel expenses will not be taken from the fund.