

**Minutes of the ACS 528 Minorities in Agronomy Committee Meeting
Salt Lake City, UT, Monday, November 7, 2005**

Participants: Thirty five members were present

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Richard Wang (Chair) at 6:10 p.m.

Member Introductions:

Richard Wang introduced himself as the chair and mentioned that he has been reappointed as chair for another year. He introduced members of the ACS 528 Minorities in Agronomy committee as, Samuel Essah, Kelvin Grant (absent), Humphrey Esechie (absent), Bao-Luo Ma, Stephen Prior, Michael Fidanza (absent), Jun Wei, and Wengui Yan.

Members present introduced themselves.

Minority Graduate Student Poster Contest:

For the first time in the history of the Minorities in Agronomy Committee, a poster contest supported by the Tri-Societies was held for the minority graduate students in Agronomy at Salt Lake City. The top three winners were given cash awards and a free 1-year subscription of one of Elsevier journals.

Thirteen entrants with fourteen posters contested.

Richard Wang responded to a question from Kokoasse Kpombrekou by explaining to all members that the word minority in Agronomy did not refer to only members from historically black institutions but also included all members of the tri-societies who are recognized as being in the minority, such as all those whose mother tongues are not English.

Robert Taylor raised the concern that to organize a separate poster contest for minorities, apart from the general poster contest organized by the tri-societies, suggest that the group is professionally inferior. Dewayne Mays suggested otherwise and said it was an opportunity to have minority students in Agronomy recognized and encouraged.

A motion by Dewayne Mays that the poster contest should be held again next year carried the vote.

Wubishet Tadesse motioned for a separate poster contest for undergraduate students. The motion carried the vote.

Peer Review of Manuscripts:

In response to an individual's concern that it was hard to publish in the society journals, Richard Wang suggested that we create a volunteer group that will peer-review members manuscripts before they are submitted to the journals. Richard Wang was to check with the executive committee of the tri-societies whether there is already a group in the society that helps with manuscript review for willing members. Stephen Prior volunteers to be involved in this activity.

Dale Seaton (Elsevier representative at the meeting) mentioned that they have someone who helps with the grammar of the scripts that are submitted.

Career Advancement:

To help in the professional development of members, Robert Taylor suggested that the association should form a committee to mentor young post docs and faculty, in areas such as tenure track and how to become a fellow in the tri-societies. The following members volunteered to be mentors: Dewayne Mays, Tom Colman, Robert Taylor, Unis Foster, Cassel Gardner, and Wengui Yan.

Robert Taylor also suggested that we could organize a panel discussion on how to advance in our professions.

Finance:

Richard Wang stated that the executives of the tri-societies provided \$750.00 for the poster contest and about \$800.00 for the food at social function of the meeting.

It was suggested that the committee opens an account with Agronomic Science Foundation so that funds could be raised from various sources to sponsor activities of the committee. Richard Wang explained that to be able to do that, the committee will have to raise an amount of \$25,000.00.

Awards Ceremony:

The awards ceremony to recognize and present awards to the top three winners of the graduate student poster contest began at 7:15 p.m. The top three winners were, Yan Xu, Sougata Bardhan, and Manohardeep Josan. A cash award of \$300.00, \$250.00 and \$200.00, respectively, and a framed certificate of achievement were presented to the winners by Lee Sommers (ASA President) and James Coors (CSSA President).

Dale Seaton (Elsevier representative) presented the winners with a choice of three Elsevier journals (Soil & Tillage Research, Agricultural Systems, and Field Crops Research).

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Samuel Essah