Review of 2019 Achievement Award Nominations

Amy thanked the council members for reviewing this year’s nominations and for providing their recommendations. In addition to the scores that were already submitted, Amy asked the reviewers to provide a brief summary of why the recommended winners were chosen.

Due to the number of strong nominations for the Distinguished Mentor award, the council discussed encouraging nominators to resubmit (with updated nomination materials) again for next year’s awards. Andrew noted that SBM policy is not to notify nominees unless they’ve been selected for an award, but that nominators can inform their nominees if they choose to, and that the Awards Committee has asked nominators to resubmit applications for exceptional nominees in the past.

Next steps:

- Amy will compile the reviewer’s summary recommendations and share them with the Awards Committee before their next call.

Potential Changes to the Training Program Award Application
Amy asked the council whether they had any suggestions for encouraging additional training program nominations; typically there are one or no programs nominated each year. Karen suggested that the number and length of documents that are required with the application are burdensome, and that the reward itself isn’t valuable enough. One potential change that would make the award more worthwhile would be to include a monetary prize; even an amount of $500-$1,000 could be useful for a program.

Next steps:
- Amy will share the council’s notes and proposed changes with the Awards Committee. Sherri was also asked to draft a list of potential modifications for streamlining the application.

Proposal for New Mid-Career Award

Amy informed the council that there was discussion during last month’s board meeting about establishing a new award for mid-career members. The council was generally in favor of such an award, but raised concerns about including nomination criteria that only applied to independent investigators.

Barbara suggested that the award could be associated with the Leadership Institute in some way, potentially by providing a scholarship to a selected Leadership Institute fellow. “Leadership” as an award criterion could be demonstrated by mid-career members in a variety of disciplines.

Next steps:
- Amy will begin preparing a proposal for the new award to share with the Awards Committee. Amy will also reach out to Marian Fitzgibbon regarding the possibility of associating the award with the Leadership Institute.

Discussion of Abstract Acceptance Rates

Amy provided an update on her conversation with the Program Committee regarding proposed panel discussions. While the majority of education- or training-focused panel abstracts were not accepted for the 2019 Annual Meeting, there were some relevant sessions of other session types on the program. The Program Committee suggested that sessions with a more empirical focus were favored by reviewers for panel slots, and that breakfast roundtables and midday meetings would be promoted as a recommended place for SIG- and Council/Committee-sponsored sessions in the future, especially those with an education or training focus.

Val stressed the importance of working closely with the new Student SIG leadership to submit next year’s abstracts as the appropriate session types. Morgan noted that the council discussed the potential impact of submitting the same or very similar sessions each year, and suggested also sharing this recommendation with Student SIG leadership when planning sessions for the 2020 meeting.

Next Meeting
January 8th, 2019, 3-4:00 p.m. ET