2019 NASSS Graduate Student Update
Board of Director's Meeting
November 6, 2019
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Report submitted by email by 2018-2019 Graduate Student Representatives Sophy Chan (Queen's University) and Jesse Couture (University of British Columbia)

2018-2019 Activities

1. Continued using faculty sign up first in the Take a Student to Lunch (TASTL) program using a survey. Students then used a separate survey to list their top 5 preferred faculty.

2. Provided Student Room Share pairing options as conference approached to help yet unpaired graduate students reduce their accommodation costs. This was facilitated through a Google spreadsheet to ensure ease of use.

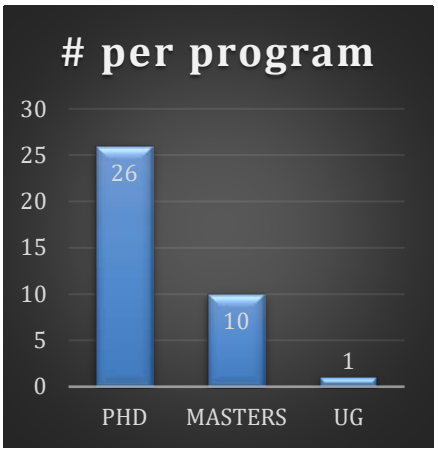
3. Continued to hold the student election process online to coincide with the other Board Elections. Mustafa Karacam (Queen's University) was elected as the 2019-2021 Graduate Student Representative.

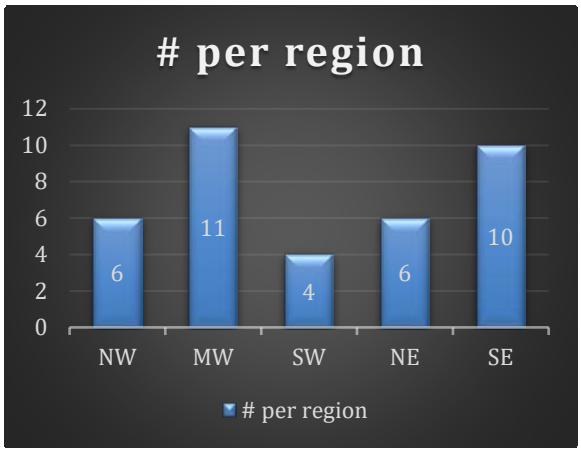
4. We changed the format of the graduate student luncheon to emphasize and facilitate networking amongst graduate student members. Held on the first full day of the conference, the graduate student luncheon can and should be a site where grad student members can meet and connect with other students. Not unlike TASTL, there is something unique about meeting and chatting with people over food, and we envision this year's event as a space where new connections are made and where existing ones are strengthened. In years past, the grad luncheon has often involved an invited panel of guest speakers – typically three or four recent graduates or early career faculty members – who are each asked to speak about their experiences a) finishing their degree, b) applying for jobs, c) providing tips about publishing. Since this year's conference offers a wide variety of panels that do just this, the decision was made not to duplicate these events but, rather, to use the lunch as an opportunity to draw attention to these various panels, workshops, and other important events throughout the conference and encourage grad students to attend. Following a short welcome and introduction of/from the GSRs (present and incoming), which will highlight events and panels relevant to grad student members, members in attendance will also be given the opportunity to make any announcements they might have (CFPs, graduate student conferences, etc.). A PowerPoint presentation will play throughout the lunch that features detailed information about each of the aforementioned events as well as reminders for other important events such as TASTL, the NASSS Member's Lunch, NASSS Goes to the Movies, and of course the Grad Student Social, where students can continue those conversations started over lunch.

5. In keeping with previous years, our primary green initiative is a Ride Share program designed to help conference attendees save money and the environment while getting to and from the airport in Norfolk. A Google Document sign-up sheet, sent out through the listserv, is designed to help attendees coordinate rides, whether via taxi, shuttles, or Ubers, with others who are arriving or departing around the same time.

6. We continued the popular Graduate Student Peer Mentor program, an initiative designed to help integrate and ease anxiety for new graduate student attendees as well as students from smaller programs. We're happy to report that, following two years where the number of mentees outnumbered the number of mentors, this year we had a total of fifteen (15) graduate students sign up to be mentors (including one postdoc) and ten (10) who signed up to be mentees. All participants were asked to complete the online Google Doc where they included their research interests and other pertinent information, and pairs were matched up on that basis.

7. The Graduate Student Volunteer and Graduate Student Bursary programs were streamlined in the interest of both fairness and efficacy. At last year's meeting in Vancouver, outgoing GSR, Katelyn Esmonde, raised some concerns about the then-existing 'two stream system' which saw some graduate student members apply for a conference waiver by writing a one-page letter application that was adjudicated by an adhoc committee, whereas other grad students received the same waiver for volunteering at the registration table. Last year's GSRs each fielded a number of complaints from student members regarding the way the volunteer waiver, in particular, was orchestrated ('the first *x* people who respond to this email get it'). In the interest of equal opportunity for grad students, and following some consultation with and approval from William Bridel, Brenda Reimer, and Faye Wachs, we decided that these two streams could be unified and a single application form was created for a Graduate Student Conference Fee Waiver (attached to this report as Appendix A). A call for applicants was made through the NASSS listserv and members had one week to complete and submit the application. Importantly, one of the conditions of the award is that all recipients agree to committing up to four hours of volunteer service during the conference. This works out well for all parties – the conference organizer gets enough student volunteers to ensure things run smoothly and a number of graduate students get conference fee waivers. In total, we received thirty-seven (37) applications and awarded thirteen (13) waivers. The breakdown of applicants was as follows:





The applications were evaluated by the GSRs, using a rubric which took into consideration various factors including the applicant's available funding (from their home institution and/or supervisor), the number of times they have previously attended NASSS, whether they had previously received a conference fee waiver, and their availability to volunteer at this year's conference. Applicants were also asked to provide a short response (150 words or less) regarding

what NASSS means to them and why they are interested in attending. Where possible, we also tried to ensure that students representing different geographic areas were awarded.

1. 13 students participated in the Graduate Student Conference Fee Waiver program (37 applicants!)
2. 58 faculty members and 49 students signed up for Take a Student to Lunch (though more will likely participate on the day of).
3. 4 students utilized the Room Share Program
4. ____ students attended the graduate student luncheon.
5. _____ students and _____ faculty used the Ride Share Program.
6. 15 mentors and 10 mentees participated in the new student peer mentor program.

NASSS Graduate Student Conference Fee Waiver Application

Overview:

This award is designed to help offset the costs associated with attending the annual NASSS meeting. Successful applicants will be awarded a conference fee waiver (value $100USD).
All graduate student members are eligible to apply.

Please note that ***all successful applicants must commit up to four hours of volunteer service during the conference*** (e.g. registration table). All applicants will be notified of the award results via email by September 6, 2019.

By checking the following boxes, I confirm that:
☐ My NASSS membership is up to date.
☐ If I am awarded a conference fee waiver, I will commit up to four (4) hours of volunteer service during the conference.

Applicant information:

Name:
School:
City, State/Province:
Program (Undergraduate, MA, PhD):

Have you previously attended a NASSS conference? If yes, how many times?

Have you previously been awarded a conference fee waiver, or have you previous served as a graduate student volunteer?

Are you eligible for/have you received conference-related funding from your home institution (including your supervisor)? If yes, please provide your best estimate of the funding you will receive.

In 150 words or less, please describe what NASSS means to you as an organization and why you're interested in attending the annual conference.

Lastly, please identify (using an 'x') those times you are *unavailable* to volunteer. Be sure to consider your flight arrival and departure times and, of course, your presentation time(s). *Please note that, while will do our very best to accommodate the requests of each individual, we cannot guarantee that every request will be accommodated.*

	Wed. Nov. 6	Thurs. Nov. 7	Fri. Nov. 8	Sat. Nov. 10
Morning				
Afternoon				
Evening				

*Wednesday afternoon will begin at 2:30pm (registration table)