
Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies

Operating Procedures for the Elizabeth L. Scott Award Committee

Purpose and History

This award shall recognize an individual who exemplifies the contributions of Elizabeth L. Scott's lifelong efforts to further the careers of women in academia. An astronomer by training, she began to work with Jerzy Neyman in the Statistical Laboratory at Berkeley during World War II and had a long, distinguished, career as a professor at Berkeley. She worked in a variety of areas besides astronomy including experimental design, distribution theory, and medical statistics. Later in her career, Dr. Scott became involved with salary inequities between men and women in academia and published several papers on this topic. In addition to her numerous honors and awards, she was president of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS) and the Bernoulli Society, vice-president of the American Statistical Association (ASA) and International Statistical Institute (ISI), and elected an honorary fellow of the Royal Statistical Society (RSS) and fellow of American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). In recognition of her lifelong efforts in the furtherance of the careers of women, this award is granted to an individual who has helped foster opportunities in statistics for women.

Award Committee

The Award Committee selecting the recipient will consist of six members, one member appointed by each of the five COPSS member societies and one member appointed by the Chair of COPSS. The appointment terms are for two cycles of the award, normally four years. The Chair of the Award Committee will be selected by the Chair of COPSS from among the members of the current Award Committee.

Frequency of Award

The award shall be given every other year in even numbered years if, in the opinion of the Award Committee, an eligible and worthy nominee is found. The Award Committee shall have the option of not giving an award for any given year. The Award Committee may not split the award between more than one winner.

Nominations and Eligibility

The award is open to all regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, nationality or citizenship. Nominees must be living at the time of their nomination. Nomination submissions will be invited by October of the previous year and will close on January 15th of the year in which the award is to be made. Nominations may be made by members of any of the COPSS affiliated organizations. Prior nomination does not exclude a nominee from consideration in subsequent years. No member of the Award Committee, officer of COPSS, or societal member of COPSS, shall be eligible to receive the award during his or her term of service. Eligible nominations shall be based on a nomination letter, letters of support, curriculum vitae, and other appropriate documentation as requested by the Award Committee.

Award Committee members should not prepare individual nominations. However, they should actively recruit nominations for individuals they feel would be competitive for the award.

Selection Criteria

The criteria for the award shall be excellence in the following:

- developing programs to encourage women to seek careers in statistics
- successfully mentoring women students or new researchers
- by working to identify gender-based inequities in employment
- by serving in a variety of capacities as a role model

The Award Committee is responsible for review of selection criteria and can recommend any modifications to COPSS.

Form and Presentation of Award

The award consists of a plaque, a citation, and a cash honorarium. It is presented at the COPSS Awards and Fisher Lecture session at the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) on Wednesday at 4:00 pm. The amount of the award shall be such that the principal of the fund is left intact. Reimbursement for reasonable travel and hotel expenses to attend the JSM to receive the award are provided to the recipient, if other funds are unavailable. The award will be presented by the Chair of the Award Committee or their designee. The recipient will be allowed time to acknowledge receipt of the award at the JSM.

Important Dates

- Members of the Award Committee will be appointed by **August 31 of the previous year**. Chair of COPSS will work with COPSS members to complete all committee appointments. Chair of COPSS will select the Award Committee chair. If any COPSS member society is unable to appoint their member by November 1st of the previous year, the Award Committee will proceed and complete its work without representation of that society.
- Call for Nominations will be put out by **October of the previous year**. Secretary/Treasurer of COPSS is responsible for assuring the call is publicized in the COPSS publications, including relevant WebPages, and will work with the Award Committee to find other outlets for the call.
- The nomination period will close on **January 15th of the award year**.
- Award recipient will be selected and notified by **March 1 of the award year**. The recipient will not be made public until the presentation of the award at the JSM.
- Chair of the Award Committee will work with the Secretary/Treasurer of COPSS to provide all the necessary information to the ASA/JSM Awards Coordinator by **May 31st of the award year**.

Submitting Nominations

Nominations should include the following information:

- nominator's name, address and phone number;
- nominee's name and title, institutional affiliation, and address; a summary of the action(s) that form the basis for the nomination, not to exceed three pages;
- up to five letters of support – support letters should not come from Award Committee members or members of COPSS;
- a curriculum vitae containing professional positions held

The call for nominations will include instructions regarding where to mail/email nominations, and if multiple copies are needed. Questions the Award should be referred to the Award Committee Chair and the COPSS Secretary/Treasurer. Contact information will be included in the call for nominations.

Committee Chair Responsibilities

- Communicate the award criteria and selection process to Committee members.
- Ensure distribution of copies of nominations to Committee members.
- Contact and encourage unsuccessful nominations from the previous award period to be updated and renominated.
- Organize and chair Committee discussion of nominees and selection of award recipient.
- Inform the Award recipient of their selection by **March 1**.
- Inform nominator of the recipient by **March 1**.
- Inform all other nominators that a selection has been made, maintaining confidentiality of the selection. COPSS Secretary/Treasurer will assist the Committee Chair as needed.
- Write the citation, and convey the recipient's name, the citation text, and the ASA/JSM Award Recipient Information to the COPSS Secretary/Treasurer by **May 15th** for preparing the certificate/plaque.
- Introduce award and recipient at COPSS Awards Presentation at the JSM
- Send complete application packets of unsuccessful nominations to COPSS Secretary for future renomination.
- Communicate any recommendations for changes to any part of this document to the COPSS Chair and Secretary/Treasurer.

Committee Member Responsibilities

- Work with chair to adhere to the selection time line.
- Participate fairly and openly in the in the selection deliberations.
- Request removal from committee if other time constraints do not allow for adequate attention to the nominations and award process.

COPSS Secretary/Treasurer Responsibilities

- Review and manage expenditure of the Award Endowment Fund
- Assist Committee Chair in correspondence, as needed.
- Provide award information to ASA Meetings department ASA/JSM award coordinator by **May 31st**.
- Prepare plaques, certificates, and checks for presentation at the JSM.
- Assist COPSS Chair in preparing award presentation.
- Prepare financial reports for the committee meeting at JSM.
- Coordinate with Committee Chair and ASA staff on Awards presentation
- Prepare a report of award ceremony for IMS bulletin by **August 31**.
- Prepare a call for nominations for the following year's awards for publication in AmStat News and IMS Bulletin by **August 31**.

COPSS Chair Responsibilities

- Ensure that COPSS member societies name Award Committee members by November 1st of previous year.
- Select Award Committee Chair by November 1st of previous year.
- Mediate issues for the Committee Chair, if they arise.