

S475 SOIL SCIENCE OUTSTANDING DISSERTATION AWARD COMMITTEE

A. Status: Special Committee

B. Composition and Tenure:

The award committee is composed of seven persons including the Chair. The term of service is two years for committee members. The Chair, usually a second-year committee member, serves a one-year term.

C. Functions:

1. To encourage nominations for this award.
2. To become familiar with the guidelines and procedures for this award and to be responsible for seeing that all nominations fulfill the required criteria of eligibility for the award.
3. To evaluate nominations and to select from among those nominated the most outstanding nominee for the award.

D. Procedures:

1. The SSSA Headquarters Office distributes the nominations to the committee members and advises them of the scoring or ranking procedure to be followed. The Chair transmits any special instructions to the members.
2. The Chair determines, with guidance from the committee if needed, the eligibility of each nomination, particularly if a school has submitted more than two nominations or if there is a question whether a school is eligible to submit more than two nominations.
3. The Chair reports the results of the committee's selection process to the Society Awards Chair.
4. The Chair activates and works with the committee on any special charges sent to the committee by the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee.
5. The Chair submits an annual report of the committee as requested by the Society.

E. Presidential Responsibilities:

The SSSA President:

1. Appoints new members to replace those whose terms expire and appoints the Chair of the committee.
2. Cooperates with the committee in its activities, as appropriate or in response to need.
3. Notifies the committee directly or via the Society Awards Chair of all deadlines on award selection, annual report, etc.

F. Description of Award:

The philosophy and purpose behind the Soil Science Outstanding Dissertation Award is to recognize excellence of research done by a student for the Ph.D. degree. The award consists of a certificate and a monetary award. Formerly known as the Emil Truog Soil Science Award.

G. Award Criteria:

The focus is on an outstanding contribution to soil science by a Ph.D. student as evidenced by the student's thesis. An abstract of the thesis must be submitted with the nomination.

H. Eligibility of Nominations:

Each department which has given, in the preceding calendar year, a Ph.D. degree in one of the areas usually designated as soil science, may submit one nomination per calendar year, unless it grants more than eight Ph.D.'s in a given year -- in which case it may nominate two candidates. The award committee will make the final determination whether a given thesis qualifies under the term "soil science," as in the cases in which the thesis may be soil bacteriology, soil chemistry, soil geography, etc. The committee may, at its option, request a copy of the complete thesis, if it deems it necessary in making a final choice.

I. Eligibility of Nominees:

Those persons who have completed their thesis and have received the Ph.D. degree during the calendar year preceding the year in which the award is presented. Members of the Executive Committee and members of the Award Committee are not eligible to submit nominations.

J. Team Nominations:

Teams are not eligible to receive the Soil Science Outstanding Dissertation Award.

K. Scoring or Ranking Procedure:

Nominations are ranked by all committee members. One-half of the total number of award nominees (x) are ranked 1 thru x with the rest of the nominees given x + 1. Each member's ranking is conveyed in writing to the Chair, who totals the points received by each nominee. The award recipient is the nominee receiving the lowest score. The Chair may vote in all selections, but the Chair's selections must be made before seeing the selection of other members. The award need not be presented in a given year if it is judged that nominees do not meet the criteria.

L. Revising Guidelines or Procedures:

The award committee may recommend changes or revisions relative criteria, description, selection process of recipients, etc., for this award. All recommendations must be approved by the SSSA Board of Directors or the Executive Committee before said recommendations may be implemented. It is preferable to submit recommendations through the Society Awards Chair. However, recommendations may be submitted through the President or directly to the Board of Directors or Executive Committee.

M. Ties and a Deadlocked Committee:

1. The Award Committee is expected to make every effort to break tie votes.

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2. If the Award Committee cannot break the tie vote, the Award Committee Chair will vote to break the tie.