

# Undergraduate Advisory Committee ACS031

**A. Status:** Special Committee

**B. Composition and Tenure:**

The committee consists of the chair, vice chair, past chair, and up to 18 members. There is no limit to how long committee members can serve. Committee leadership shall serve in a three-year rotation. Chairs will serve one year as vice chair, one year as chair, and one year as past chair. Current committee chair will appoint a vice chair by March 1, who will assist the chair for the duration of their appointment then serve as chair the subsequent year. The committee chair will continue for one additional year as past chair. Headquarters staff, as appropriate, may serve in an ex-officio capacity. Committee members will have the opportunity to serve as subcommittee chairs and to work with ASA, CSSA, and SSSA members who are not on the committee to carry out contests and organize other functions for undergraduates.

SASES advisors are encouraged to serve on the committee, and the committee will provide recommendations to the Society presidents to help identify new members. The committee chair and vice chair will coordinate recommendations to the Society presidents for the next year's committee appointments in the summer, prior to new committee appointments taking effect in January of the following year.

**C. Guidelines for Participation:**

The work and accomplishments of the Undergraduate Advisory Committee happen through the commitment of the committee members. To help the committee successfully reach its goals, members pledge to do the following:

- Each member will join at least one contest and at least one networking or round table session subcommittee to maintain their status as a committee member.
- Committee members who fail to attend two consecutive full committee or subcommittee meetings without communication with the chair, subcommittee chair, or staff liaison will forfeit their committee position.
- Subcommittee chairs are expected to report on the group's progress during the full committee conference calls. In case of absence, they need to send an update to the committee chair ahead of the meeting or designate another subcommittee member to provide the report.

The committee and subcommittees will ensure they meet the following deadlines:

- January: Provide recommendations to staff liaison about continuing, improving, or discontinuing any SASES contests at the Annual Meeting.
- February - March: Encourage other SASES club advisors to send students to the SASES Spring Meeting.

- April - May: Finalize any contest updates for the SASES Fall Meeting, informing headquarters staff of changes and requirements.
- June - July: Gather recommendations for new committee member recommendations to send to Society Presidents for following year's term.
- August - September: Encourage SASES club advisors to plan travel and send students to the SASES Fall Meeting.
- October: Complete any final preparations for SASES contests (contest questions/answers finalized, materials needed ready, judges/moderators assigned, and a plan for who will be at the session to help run it and record scores). All print material requests due to headquarters staff 5 weeks prior to the Annual Meeting start date.
- Annual Meeting: Attend the session and tabulate scores/submit winners by 5:00 pm on the final day of the program, prior to the Awards dinner.

#### **D. Functions:**

This committee's function shall be to:

- Foster cooperation between undergraduate students in agronomic, plant, soil, and environmental sciences and the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America.
- Analyze the long-term goals and directions of the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA undergraduate student members and advise national officers.
- Develop and implement activities at the national, regional, and local level that engage professionals in the agronomic, plant, soil, and environmental sciences with undergraduate members of ASA, CSSA, and SSSA.
- Coordinate and implement contests and sessions for the undergraduate student members at the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Annual Meeting and/or the Spring SASES meeting.

#### **E. Subcommittee Functions:**

The following subcommittees are subject to change dependent on student contest participation, interest, and resource availability.

#### **Definitions:**

- Contest setup deadline: When contest updates are complete and requests for materials are due to HQ.
- Judge recruitment/final deadline: By this date, subcommittee members need to have all judges recruited and any final requests to headquarters staff made.
- Estimated amount of subcommittee time: The average amount of time per year that contest chairs or session organizers have spent organizing the contest or session.

#### **1. Crops Judging Contest**

- **Description:** Students get hands-on opportunities to practice tangible agronomic skills and receive feedback from industry agronomists. It also serves as a great

practice session or gateway for students to participate in other crops judging contests throughout the year.

- **Contest setup deadline:** First week of September prior to contest opening. Print materials due to headquarters 5 weeks before Annual Meeting start date.
- **Judge recruitment/final deadline:** 1 week before Annual Meeting
- **Estimated amount of subcommittee time:** TBD

## 2. Soil Pedology Contest

- **Description:** Students get a chance to apply their knowledge of soil pedology. The contest includes a practical and written exam, in which students estimate soil texture, identify soil structure and other soil features, label horizons and diagnostic horizons, classify and interpret soils, and answer questions on other relevant topics such as soil formation, pedogenic processes, morphology, and classification.
- **Contest setup deadline:** First week of September prior to contest opening. Print materials due to headquarters 5 weeks before Annual Meeting start date
- **Judge recruitment/final deadline:** 1 week before Annual Meeting
- **Estimated amount of subcommittee time:** TBD

## 3. Quiz Bowl

- **Description:** A gameshow-style contest that challenges student teams to answer questions about crops/agronomy and soils/environment.
- **Contest setup deadline:** Questions finalized 1 week before Annual Meeting
- **Judge recruitment/final deadline:** 1 week before Annual Meeting
- **Estimated amount of subcommittee time:** 7-8 hours

## 4. Presidents' Trophy

- **Description:** Clubs give brief, 5-minute presentations to show off the performance of their club over the past year. Current and past ASA, CSSA, and SSSA presidents serve as judges.
- **Contest setup deadline:** First week of September prior to contest opening.
- **Judge recruitment/final deadline:** 1 week before Annual Meeting
- **Estimated amount of subcommittee time:** TBD

## 5. Research Symposium Poster

- **Description:** The Research Symposium Poster Contest is designed to develop the ability of students to conduct research and competitively present those research findings to judges and interested professionals at the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Annual Meeting.
- **Contest setup deadline:** February, 1 month prior to abstracts opening in March
- **Judge recruitment/final deadline:** 1 month before Annual Meeting
- **Estimated amount of subcommittee time:** TBD

## 6. Research Symposium Oral

- **Description:** The Research Symposium Oral Contest is designed to develop the ability of students to conduct research and competitively present those research findings to judges and interested professionals at the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Annual Meeting.
- **Contest setup deadline:** February, 1 month prior to abstracts opening in March
- **Judge recruitment/final deadline:** 1 month before Annual Meeting
- **Estimated amount of subcommittee time:** TBD

## 7. CCA/CPA/CPSS Networking Session

- **Description:** This networking session is held in a roundtable format, designed to give students a chance to ask questions of certified professionals in an informal setting. We recommend including conversation starters for students and potentially a brief introduction at the beginning of the session to the types of careers and professionals present.
- **Session setup deadline:** Staff will submit session to Confex prior to session deadline (typically mid-February)
- **Judge recruitment/final deadline:** 1 month before Annual Meeting
- **Estimated amount of subcommittee time:** TBD

## 8. Graduate School Round Table

- **Description:** This session brings graduate students and faculty recruiting graduate students to an informal, roundtable session to talk with undergraduates about continuing their education. We recommend including conversation starters for students and potentially a brief introduction at the beginning of the session.
- **Session setup deadline:** Staff will submit session to Confex prior to session deadline (typically mid-February)
- **Volunteer recruitment/final deadline:** 1 month before Annual Meeting
- **Estimated amount of subcommittee time:** TBD

## 9. Industry Networking Session

- **Description:** This session brings industry members and companies to an informal, roundtable session to talk with undergraduates about career opportunities. We recommend including conversation starters for students and potentially a brief introduction at the beginning of the session to the participants present.
- **Session setup deadline:** Staff will submit session to Confex prior to session deadline (typically mid-February)
- **Volunteer recruitment/final deadline:** 1 month before Annual Meeting
- **Estimated amount of subcommittee time:** TBD