



WASSA

www.wassa.wsu.edu/
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WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF SUMMER SESSION ADMINISTRATORS

Letter from the President

The last questions I raised on the listserv were about paying retirement benefits for summer teaching. I asked if your campus pays retirement benefits for teachers and/or researchers. Nevada does not pay either but that may change. A policy has been quoted that says we can pay but if we do, Nevada must pay for all summer employees--teachers and researchers. The responses I've received are consistent with the quoted policy and it may indeed be a federal regulation related to federal grants in summer.

Paying retirement would result in a substantial reduction in take-home pay for instructors. Total compensation would not change. The summer budget would have to pay the employer share and the employees would pay their share. To see the computation, assume your retirement system is 10% employer paid and 10% employee paid. Then each \$100 paid

without retirement would become \$90.90 with retirement. Ten percent is \$9.09 and $9.09 + 90.90 = \$99.99$. Take-home is further reduced to \$90.90 less 10% or \$81.81. Instructors would see a reduction in take-home pay of 18.18%.

I received seven responses: two of the California state universities pay no retirement in summer and I suspect that may be the policy for all CSUs. University of Hawaii and University of Nevada do not pay retirement. Eastern and Western Washington universities and University of Alaska pay retirement for instructors and researchers.

Information from other campuses would be useful especially where instructors and researchers are treated differently with regard to retirement.

Switching to a related topic: is the listserv a valid way to solicit information of this type?

--Paul Aizley, President

Plan to Attend WASSA 2000

Plans are well under way for the WASSA conference Oct. 4-8 in Vancouver, B.C., hosted by the University of British Columbia. Highlights will include concurrent sessions, a new program on student services, plus a cracker barrel of special topics for small group discussion including budgeting, revenue sharing, special programs, data collection/reporting and staffing models. Also planned is a day at UBC including some special invited presentations and a tour of the Museum of Anthropology. Check for further details on the conference Web site, www.cstudies.ubc.ca/wassa2000.

We will meet at the Coast Plaza Suite Hotel, 1-800-663-1144. Rooms at the conference rate are Canadian \$145 single/\$155 double. As Vancouver is a popular travel destination, we have arranged to extend the hotel rate if you stay beyond the conference. (Can. \$1 = approx. U.S. \$1.40). Enjoy city attractions and beautiful area parks, beaches, gardens and mountains. See www.tourism-vancouver.org for information.

--Margaret Landstrom, Conference Host

People in WASSA

David Nyman received the Outstanding Service and Contribution to the Arts award from the Cedar City, Utah, Chamber of Commerce at a recent awards banquet. In addition, he is a finalist for Advisor of the Year at Southern Utah University.

Margaret Landstrom reports that Credit Summer Session at University of British Columbia is being decentralized for 2001 along with the 2000-2001 evening winter session. This move results from the report of a committee set up by the Vice-President, Academic about a year ago. The faculties argued they should be responsible for all students in their credit programs, whether enrolled in night, summer or daytime programs.

The staff of Extra-session studies has been assigned to other areas of Continuing Studies or other departments at the university. Credit distance education courses are still administered by Distance Education and Technology, one of the divisions of Continuing Studies.

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Consider Web Site Award Guidelines

At the 1999 conference in Cedar City, Utah, you received a handout listing possible guidelines for the new WASSA Web Site Award. We are eager to finalize these guidelines and would like your input. Please read the following and send your input to **Michele Price** (pricemv@wou.edu) by April 30, 2000.

First, two questions to consider:

Should there be an award for different categories of Web sites based on resources available, enrollment, etc.?

Should the membership at large vote prior to the conference by accessing the submitted Web sites from their home institutions?

Proposed guidelines:

Is the site easy to access? Is there an obvious route to summer session? More than one route?

How is traffic to the site measured and tracked?

How is the Web address marketed? (Display in print catalog, back of bus, T-shirts, etc.)

Depth of Web features/capability: has the institution used the Web effectively and creatively? How does the Web page function effectively but separately from print? Does the Web site simply mimic the print document?

Research Proposal Funds Announced

Victor Kobayashi, University of Hawaii, Manoa, reminds us that the WASSA Research Committee is accepting proposals from the WASSA membership pertaining to research on university summer sessions. Funding in the amount of \$100 to \$1,500 is available.

WASSA also collaborates with the North American Association of Summer Sessions for projects requesting funding up to \$5,000, he added. (Be sure to indicate you are requesting joint funding.)

The deadline for both WASSA and NAASS proposals is March 1, 2001. Check the WASSA Web site for our guidelines.

WASSA members are the heart of the organization. If you have a recent promotion, publication, special award or other recognition, please share it in the newsletter.

About the WASSA Newsletter

This publication, compiled and coordinated by the Newsletter/Communications Committee, is printed quarterly. It is also posted on the WASSA Web site along with archived issues. It is mailed to WASSA members as a benefit of membership. To submit articles or notices, contact the newsletter committee chair or editor, **Connie Wildfang**, wildfac@wou.edu.

Interactivity/search capability: can the visitor put in some kind of request and receive a response?

Design: artwork. Is it attractive and appealing? Does the design support the information or fight with it?

Registration: are students able to register on the Web? Able to pay over the Web? Are all of the forms available on the site to register to download?

Interview visitors/customer survey analysis: does the site gather information from visitors (about visitors or their interests, demographics, needs assessment)?

Does the course information section offer details about course updates, course cancellations, course revisions, room changes, number of seats open, etc.?

Call for Annual Award Nominations

A hallmark of our annual conference is the recognition of winners in the areas of Exemplary Programs, Marketing and Catalog. Now is the time to review your programs and submit your nominations!

At press time we had not heard from the catalog or marketing committees, but Dan Wick, chair of the Exemplary Programs group, reports his submission deadline is July 31.

Visit the Awards link on the WASSA Web site for up-to-the-minute guidelines and deadlines in each award category.

Membership and Treasurer's Report

WASSA has 125 paid members representing 78 institutions, according to **David Nyman**, treasurer. "To match last year's numbers we need 31 more members and eight more institutions to join," he said. "I have no doubt we will exceed last year's numbers as I still see many names and schools who I am sure will send me dues," he added.

The following schools were members last year but had not yet paid dues when he filed his report: Biola University, CSU Fullerton, CSU Sacramento, Dominican College of San Raphael, Regis University, San Francisco State University, Simon Fraser University, University of Portland, University of Utah, University of Victoria, and Walla Walla College.

He noted that Mount St. Mary's College in Los Angeles has rejoined WASSA. They last belonged in 1996. Check the list of members on the WASSA Web site. Those with only "00" under the name are all new to WASSA.