Celebrating Women Committee Recommendations, 2/19

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This document lays out recommendations generated by the Celebrating Women Committee which was formed at the 2014 PSA. This purpose of this committee is to propose formats by which the Women’s Caucus will promote and celebrate work by its membership.

Women’s Caucus Prize Symposium

Motivation: The main recommendation of the committee combines two suggestions that arose at the last caucus meeting. Some members felt that a traditional prize for work in philosophy of science by a member of the caucus should be implemented. Others suggested a format that would showcase work of caucus members to the membership of the PSA. Along this vein, some felt that a format showcasing multiple women would be ideal.

Format: The committee suggests implementing a prize symposium. During the standard submission process, PSA members organizing symposia will be given the option to simultaneously submit their symposium for consideration for this prize. From these submissions the prize symposium will be selected. The selection process will be separate from that of the PSA program committee.

Symposia with strong female membership will be given special consideration, as will those that focus on work by female philosophers of science and topics of special interest to the Women’s Caucus. Other considerations will include the general quality of the symposium and the abstracts submitted.

The chosen symposium will be noted in the PSA program and scheduled immediately following the PSA Women’s Caucus breakfast, allowing the membership to attend en masse.

Prize Committee: We recommend the formation of a four person prize committee to judge submitted symposia. We suggest that the committee contain a mix of academics at different career stages, ideally two senior and two junior members.

Social Media Focus on Women

The committee also recommends that in keeping with the Women Caucus’s new focus on social media and web presence, the web liaison (or else another willing party) should choose several female philosophers of science each year to highlight online. The goal is both to promote up and coming philosophers and to celebrate the success of more established philosophers.

The committee suggests the following selection process. Once yearly the web liaison should solicit nominations from the Women’s Caucus of female philosophers to be highlighted. Caucus members should not nominate themselves, and nominations should have the support of at least two members of the Women’s
Caucus. Those who choose to submit a nomination should prepare the material for the post – including basic information about the philosopher, a description of her career/work, fun details about her life and interests, etc. Nominations should include a note about the career stage of the nominee.

The web liaison should then randomly choose four ‘Female Philosophers of the Year’ whose materials will be online for three months each. The committee proposes that two of these be early career researchers (graduate students, post-docs, or assistant professors) and two more should be advanced researchers (associate, full, and emeritus professors). Unselected nominees will be kept in the pool for future, though if selected their materials should be updated.

Should the web liaison be unwilling to fulfill this duty, the committee proposes a new position for a Women’s Caucus member who will be responsible for these highlights and work with the web liaison to post them.