

MSS Spring 2018 Committee Report

Committee Name: Publications

Committee Chair: Brian Donovan

Date of the Report: May 4, 2018

Sessions or programs offered by your committee at the annual meeting (2018).

TSQ Editors: Meet Your Editors and Get Their Perspective on Publishing Saturday 1:15-2:45

Main issues and agenda items discussed at committee meeting.

We discussed three main issues at our meeting: 1) The Routledge Publisher's report on TSQ. 2) We discussed the logistics of the TSQ Article Award and approved a plan for moving forward with the award. 3) We assigned committee chairs for the student paper competition.

How did committee work relate to the strategic plan?

Describe Activity 1.

The committee notes that the TSQ has decreased its number of desk rejections (manuscripts rejected without being sent out for review). During the last reporting period, the percentage of desk rejects was 46%. During the most recent report, the percentage of desk rejections has dropped to 34%. We believe that this is still too high but we are encourage that the trend is moving in the right direction. A site visit could help. The Impact Factor for the journal continues to move in the right direction. It jumped from 0.77 in 2015 to 1.23 in 2016. The journal also showed a high level of public engagement and the "alt-metrics" (references to TSQ content on news sites and social media) were robust. The virtual issue of TSQ around the conference theme came together very well. This is something we would like to do every year. Next year, we intend to move on it much sooner so that we can develop some publicity in advance of the annual meeting. We see this as benefiting the journal and the annual meeting, and the labor-to-impact ratio is very favorable.

Identify the specific objectives from the Strategic Plan that are/were addressed by Activity 1.

Strategic Direction 4: Publicize, Monitor, and Enhance the Quality of TSQ Objective 1a: plan special issue, recruit/solicit manuscripts, reviewers, audiences

Assessment of the success of Activity 1 in relation to the Strategic Plan objective. – None offered

Describe Activity 2.

The TSQ has maintained its international reach. Thirty-one percent of manuscripts received by TSQ were from countries outside the US. The readership of TSQ is also diverse. In 2017, only 59% of article download activity came from North America.

Identify the specific objectives from the Strategic Plan that are/were addressed by Activity 2.

Strategic Direction 4: Objectives 1b and 1c: coordinate with Routledge on International outreach and gather data on international outreach.

Assessment of the success of Activity 2 in relation to the Strategic Plan objective.

Are there specific resources you need to meet goals for the coming year?

We might need to carry over the funds allocated for a TSQ site visit. We are tentatively planning for an August 2018 visit. I need to coordinate this with Michael Sauder, who has agreed to accompany me. I would like to see better coordination between the Media Editor, our committee, and the TSQ editors -- how that looks and the precise logistics of it could be worked out at the Fall meeting

Will your committee be seeking funds from the board in the next fiscal year?

Yes.

I believe the Board approved \$2,000 for the site visit last year.

Michael Sauder and I will meet with the TSQ editors in Fort Collins. I envision a day and a half trip where Michael and I meet to brainstorm and think of assessment goals, a meeting with the editors, and then another assessment meeting where we draft recommendations and a report to the Board.

Is your committee interested in having the Chair complete a 2-year term?

Not sure yet

Do you have nominations for the Board to fill positions on your committee (they must be MSS members)?

Carrie Coward Bucher, Baker or Benedictine

Betty Dobratz, Iowa State

Lisa Waldner, St. Thomas

Those nomination ideas are not necessarily for another year (I'm not sure, but I think Carrie has agreed to serve another term), but I want to get their names on the table as potentials.