

# Travel Awards Committee Grading Criteria

## As Adopted by the Twelfth GPSF Travel Awards Committee (2017–2018)

(Adapted from the Criteria used by the First to Eighth Committees, as found in Appendix C of the 2011-2012 GPSF Final Report)

Updated September 14, 2017

### **Part 1: Criteria for Conference Travel**

#### **1. Personal Impact**

- a. *applicant(s) clearly demonstrates how they will benefit intellectually (5 pts)*
  - 5: The applicant(s) argues convincingly that they are likely to gain a great deal of knowledge that will influence their intellectual and professional development.
  - 1: Their presentation and/or presence at the conference is unlikely to contribute substantially to their intellectual or professional development.
- b. *applicant(s) describes how attending the conference will help them network/find a job AND/OR it is their first conference/presentation AND/OR they are presenting on dissertation/thesis material (5pts)*
  - 5: The applicant(s) will have a chance to interact with leading scholars/professionals who will be able to further their professional development, either by providing actual job opportunities or by offering valuable advice and guidance. Additionally, their presentation is likely to be seen by colleagues whose opinions will be important determinants of their ultimate professional stature and reputation.
  - 1: Their participation in the conference is unlikely to enhance their professional stature. Additionally, the conference is unlikely to attract scholars/professionals whose opinions could substantially affect the applicant's reputation.

#### **2. Professional Impact**

- a. *applicant(s) demonstrates how their work will contribute to their field (5 pts.)*
  - 5: Their presentation will be of such quality and significance that it will make a substantial contribution to both the proceedings of the conference and to the field in general.
  - 1: Neither the quality nor significance of their presentation is such that it will be of any real consequence to the field in question.
- b. *applicant(s) indicates that the specific conference is significant for their field (5 pts.)*
  - 5: The proceedings of the conference are likely to have a significant impact upon the present and future state of the field. (Some potentially, but not necessarily, pertinent factors include the number of attendees or members, the scholarly and/or professional stature of the people involved, the scope and cogency of the subject matter to be addressed, or the degree of

difficulty involved in having a presentation proposal accepted.)  
Additionally, the proceedings of the conference will have potentially important implications (social, economic, philosophical, political, environmental, etc.) for the world beyond academia.

- 1: The conference is of little significance, even within the specific field, either because very few respected scholars/professionals are likely to attend or because its subject matter is so obscure or esoteric that only a small segment of the field is likely to take notice.

### **3. University Impact (5 pts)**

*applicant(s) describes how attending the conference will draw attention to the University of North Carolina OR how their attending can be beneficial for the UNC community*

- 5: The applicant(s) will have an opportunity to draw significant attention to the University because of participation in multiple and/or highly visible roles at the conference AND/OR because their research is unique and groundbreaking because of the particular resources (e.g., research facilities) available at the University.
- 1: The applicant's participation in the event is unlikely to draw attention to the University or be beneficial to the Carolina community in anyway.

### **4. Communication Skills (5 pts)**

- 5: The written statement is concise and clear with no obvious grammatical errors, and it is of a sufficient length to address the questions.
- 1: Their written communication skills are deficient to the extent that he or she is unlikely to contribute to any scholarly or professional conference and the application is difficult to read.

If applicant is significantly over 500 words (exceeding 25 words or more), -1 point, and a point for every fifty after.

### **5. Departmental/Program Standing with GPSF**

*In cases where all things are equal between two applicants, the Committee may use whether the applicants' departments, programs, or schools have a GPSF Senator in good standing to break the tie.*

## **Part 2: Criteria for Research Travel**

### **1. Personal Impact**

- a. applicant(s) clearly demonstrates how they will benefit intellectually (5 pts.)*
  - 5: The applicant(s) argues convincingly that they are likely to gain a great deal of knowledge that will influence their intellectual and professional development
  - 1: Their research and/or travel to the research facility is unlikely to contribute substantially to his/her intellectual or professional development.
- b. applicant(s) justifies why visiting the specific institution or facility is necessary to the success of their research (5 pts.)*
  - 5: The applicant(s) convincingly explains why the research cannot be conducted at UNC, Duke, NC State, or some other local institution/facility.
  - 1: The applicant(s) does not adequately explain why travel to the specific facility/institution is absolutely necessary, nor does the nature of the proposed research appear to require travel to facilities outside of the Triangle area.

### **2. Professional Impact**

- a. applicant(s) demonstrates how their research will contribute to their field (5 pts)*
  - 5: Their research will be of such quality and significance that it will make a substantial contribution to their field. Additionally, the applicant(s) has clear intentions of publishing or presenting the results of the research in a respected and appropriate forum.
  - 1: It is likely that neither the quality nor significance of their proposed research will be such that it will be of any real consequence to the field in question (For example, the subject matter of the research is so obscure or esoteric that only a small segment of the field is likely to take notice) .
- b. applicant(s) indicates that their research has potential significance for the world outside of academia (5 pts)*
  - 5: Their research has potentially important implications (social, economic, philosophical, political, environmental, etc.) for the world beyond academia, and the applicant(s) indicates that they will publish or present the results of the research in such a way that these implications can be recognized.
  - 1: The research has no potential implications for any area outside of their own specific field.

### **3. Methodology / Intentionality**

*applicant(s) demonstrates sound methodology and a feasible project AND/OR significant progress / intentionality in preparing for their research travel*

- 5: The applicant(s) demonstrate that they have invested significant time in preparing for the research travel, as they have outlined a clear and practical research plan and demonstrate progress in making the necessary contacts / arrangements at research facilities to conduct their research.
- 1: Their methodology is unsound; their project is impractical; and they have taken very few steps towards making the necessary contacts for the research to take place

### **4. Communication Skills (5 pts)**

- 5: The written statement is concise and clear with no obvious grammatical errors, and it is of a sufficient length to address the questions.
- 1: Their written communication skills are deficient to the extent that he or she is unlikely to contribute to any scholarly or professional conference and the application is difficult to read.

If applicant is significantly over 500 words (exceeding 25 words or more), -1 point, and a point for every fifty after.

### **5. Departmental/Program Standing with GPSF**

*In cases where all things are equal between two applicants, the Committee may use whether the applicants' departments, programs, or schools have a GPSF Senator in good standing to break the tie.*

## **Part 3: Criteria for Professional Development**

### **1. Personal Impact**

a. *applicant(s) clearly demonstrates how they will benefit intellectually (5 pts)*

- 5: The applicant(s) argues convincingly that they are likely to gain a great deal of knowledge that will influence their intellectual and professional development, including exposure to new techniques in the field, as well as acquiring and/or practicing skills, strategies, and/or techniques necessary for a successful career in the field. Additionally, applicant(s) indicates that they will be attending workshops or information sessions which give them industry knowledge, especially if they would not be able to acquire that knowledge through the normal course of their program. Applicant(s) argues, where possible, if an established academic/professional will offer mentorship and whether that mentorship would be unlikely to occur within the confines of their department or school. Applicant(s) indicates whether the proceedings include trips or tours of established institutions in the field and/or introductions/interactions with leaders of those institutions.
- 1: Their presence at the conference is unlikely to contribute substantially to their intellectual or professional development.

b. *applicant(s) describes how attending the conference/workshop/event will help them network/find a job AND/OR it is their first conference/workshop/event presentation AND/OR they are participating in competitions which develop skills vital for their industry (5pts)*

- 5: The applicant(s) will have a chance to interact with leading scholars/professionals who will be able to further their professional development, either by providing actual job opportunities or by offering valuable advice and guidance. If there is a presentation, then the presentation likely will be seen by colleagues/professionals whose opinions will be important determinants of their ultimate professional stature and reputation. If there is a competition, then the competition cultivates skills and strategies necessary for the field, and competitors receive constructive feedback which will help them improve their practical skills and/or problem-solving abilities. Applicant(s) indicates, if possible, if competition/workshop/event encourages the development of entrepreneurial skills. In the case of business and accounting, applicant(s) indicates that there is exposure to upper level management, like CEOs, VPs, person(s) involved in the hiring process, etc.
- 1: Their participation in the conference is unlikely to enhance their professional stature. Additionally, the conference is unlikely to attract scholars/professionals whose opinions could substantially affect the applicant's reputation.

### **2. Professional Impact**

a. *applicant(s) demonstrates how their work will contribute to their field in the future or help them in securing a position in the future in their field (5 pts.)*

- 5: Their participation will be of such quality and significance that it will make a substantial contribution to their future career or allow them entrance into a specialty or sub-field otherwise inaccessible to them. Applicant(s)'s participation contributes both to the diversity of the proceedings of the conference/workshop/event and to the field in general. Applicant(s) are likely to interact with established academics/professionals who will offer opportunities for mentorship that are crucial for advancement in the field.
  - 1: The participation of the applicant(s) will neither add to the quality nor the significance of their future career.
- b. applicant(s) indicates that the specific conference/workshop/event is significant for their field (5 pts.)*
- 5: The proceedings of the conference/workshop/event are likely to have a significant impact upon the present and future state of the field. (Some potentially, but not necessarily, pertinent factors include the number of attendees or members; the exposure to upper level management, like CEOs, VPs, etc.; the scholarly and/or professional stature of the people involved; the scope and cogency of the subject matter to be addressed; the degree of difficulty involved in acceptance; or the innovative nature of the information discussed and presented at the proceedings.) The proceedings are likely to attract leaders in the field, including industry executives and/or non-profits and government agencies. Additionally, the proceedings potentially will have important implications (social, legal, medical, economic, philosophical, political, environmental, etc.) for the world beyond the field. The conference/workshop/event possibly asks for resolutions to real world crises or creates a forum for cultivating solutions to ongoing systemic issues—domestic and international, or represents an interdisciplinary collaboration where industry and academia come together and solve problems. █
  - 1: The conference/workshop/event is of little significance, even within the specific field, either because very few respected scholars/professionals are likely to attend or because its subject matter is so obscure or esoteric that only a small segment of the field is likely to take notice.

### **3. University Impact (5 pts)**

*applicant(s) describes how attending the conference will draw attention to the University of North Carolina OR how their attending can be beneficial for the UNC community*

- 5: The applicant(s) will have an opportunity to draw significant attention to the University because of participation in multiple and/or highly visible roles at the conference AND/OR because their research is unique and groundbreaking because of the particular resources (e.g., research facilities) available at the University.
- 1: The applicant's participation in the event is unlikely to draw attention to the University or be beneficial to the Carolina community in anyway.

### **4. Communication Skills (5 pts)**

5: The written statement is concise and clear with no obvious grammatical errors, and it is of a sufficient length to address the questions.

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