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TO: Michael Reischman, Vice President, Board on Government Relations
FROM: Kalan Guiley, Chair, WISE Committee
DATE: November 2, 2008
RE: WISE Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2010

The WISE Committee would like to request that the ASME Board on Government Relations (BGR) increase the WISE program budget by **\$16,500** for Fiscal Year 2010 (FY10). This budget increase would support our “WISE Early Career Initiative” by providing financial support for former WISE interns to travel to at least one ASME meeting a year.

The WISE Early Career Initiative is intended to encourage and support ASME WISE interns to become more actively involved in ASME. In September 2007, the ASME WISE Committee conducted a survey of 26 of the former 35 ASME WISE interns related to their involvement in ASME post-internship, and ways ASME could enrich the interns’ experience during and after the program. According to this survey, a majority of former ASME WISE interns have a high level of interest in ASME and public policy after their internship, but ultimately did not become actively involved in ASME. By embarking upon this Early Career Initiative, the WISE Committee is trying to capitalize on this interest in both ASME and public policy, as well as to develop a new source of ASME early career leaders.

As ASME President Tom Barlow cited in his recent inaugural address, early career engineers represent the future of ASME, and the Society should do a better job of retaining early career engineers post-graduation. Barlow then elaborated by saying that early career engineers should be encouraged to be active volunteers earlier in their careers, and that there are numerous volunteer opportunities for them within ASME. Because the BGR has already identified these former WISE interns as exceptionally bright and motivated potential volunteers, the WISE Committee feels that the BGR should provide this modest budget increase to assist the Society in meeting the aforementioned goals. This funding will help ensure that former WISE interns gain more exposure to ASME by their attendance at ASME meetings.

Currently, nine former WISE interns are serving as BGR adjunct members. It is worth noting that four of these WISE interns actually participated in the WISE program through other engineering Societies, but requested the opportunity to participate as Adjunct members of the Board in order to become more actively involved in ASME and public policy.

The BGR has been providing financial support for travel on an ad-hoc basis for former WISE interns since FY07. Since that time, approximately 3-4 interns have been attending ASME meetings to which they have been invited. Fortunately, the Board received a \$20,000 grant earlier this year from the Strategic Priorities Grant Fund (SPGF), which will fund former WISE intern travel to IMECE and other ASME meetings in FY09. But there is no mechanism available for funding their travel once the funds in the SPGF are depleted. A breakdown of the current WISE expenses, along with the FY10 request is provided below:

<u>WISE Budget Request</u>	<u>FY09 (one intern)</u>	<u>FY10 (two interns)</u>
Stipend (including majority of intern’s housing)	\$5,000	\$6,500*
Additional Yearly WISE Program Expenses (remainder of intern housing, F&B, transportation, etc.) <i>The Committee is not requesting any increases relevant to this expense.</i>	\$4,000	\$4,000
Travel For Former WISE Interns <i>This funding will pay for travel and other expenses for 3-4 WISE interns to attend two meetings per year</i>	\$0	\$15,000
Total Budget Request	\$9,000	\$25,500

**The WISE Steering Committee has agreed to increase the WISE Stipend to \$6500 in 2009 in order to address expenses related to the Faculty Member in Residence, as well as room and board for the WISE Interns.*

During the two year time period following their internship, former ASME WISE interns will be invited to two meetings a year: an annual ASME event like the International Mechanical Engineering Congress and Exposition (IMECE) and a BGR-specific event, i.e. the Engineering R&D Symposium. At the annual ASME event in particular, the interns will be encouraged to attend and participate in at least one Committee meeting of every ASME sector. These Committee meetings may include but are not limited to: the Committee on Early Career Development, the Knowledge and Community Sector Young Engineer Correspondents, the Center for Public Awareness, and the Codes and Standards Board of Directors meeting.

Attendance at these meetings will increase the interns’ awareness of the breadth of ASME activities, and show them firsthand what volunteer opportunities are available for them through ASME. After their attendance at each meeting, members of the WISE Committee will then follow up with the former interns to assess their interests within ASME, and help facilitate their interaction with and knowledge of other Boards and Committees. It is the Committee’s intention that at the end of the two-year period, each WISE intern will find his or her own financial travel support through another ASME Board or Committee, or through his or her employer.

I urge the Board to consider our request and look forward to discussing this further at our November 2nd Board meeting.