

REPORT OF THE BURGESS-AWARD EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Upon Dr. Burgess' retirement from the University of Chicago, donations were made by many of his friends and colleagues to a Burgess-Award Fund. After an initial period of uncertainty, procedures were established by a committee of the NCFR research section for using the principal of the Burgess-Award Fund to stimulate excellence in Family Research. Provisions were made for two types of awards: (1) A cash award for the most outstanding research proposal submitted during a specific academic year; and (2) on the alternate year, certificates of merit for the best published research article and book or monograph. Since 1958, chairmen of the NCFR research section have administered the Burgess Fund in accordance with these procedures.

The research section chairman has appointed a committee which has had the responsibility of selecting the recipients of the awards. However, all of the recent chairmen of the Burgess Award committees and many of the persons who have served on these committees have registered dissatisfaction with the mechanics of the award procedures and have come to doubt the efficacy of the awards themselves. Some of the objections centered around the mechanics of having a committee of five persons determine the rank-order of research proposals, especially when various criteria must be employed and time pressures require quick evaluations. There are strong grounds for believing that competing for or receiving the Burgess Award for excellence in designing research has had little bearing on what would have been the quality of research designs if the awards had not been given. Many of the research proposals received by the committees and at least one of the proposals selected for the award had been prepared for or already had been submitted to a fund-granting agency. The result of the call for research proposals for the 1962 Burgess Award provides a further argument for discontinuing this aspect of the Burgess-Award program. This year, only one proposal was received by the current committee appointed to evaluate research proposals. For this reason, no award will be granted at the 1962 NCFR meeting.

Operational difficulties have been greater for the committees charged with the selection of the best published journal article and book or monograph. Criteria for selecting the outstanding publications are more variable; an extremely large number of publications must be considered and, even when the list of potential publications is narrowed, considerable reading and reflection are demanded of the committee members. Frequently, this must be accomplished in a very short time.

Dissatisfaction with the current Burgess-Award procedures prompted several research-committee chairmen to ask for reconsideration of the policies and goals of the Burgess Award. Accordingly, David Mace, President of NCFR, appointed a committee whose purpose would be to re-examine the Burgess Award goals and procedures. The committee was comprised of Charles Bowerman, William Kephart, Gerald Leslie and Lee Burchinal, Chairman.

The following recommendations of this committee were based on several considerations which should be made explicit. The committee feels that these premises should constitute not only the basis for the present recommendations, but also should guide future revaluations of the Burgess Award.

1. The Board of Directors and the Research Section of the NCFR share the authority for the operation and future revision of the Burgess-Award program. This report was based on the premise that the research section or specially appointed committees such as the one which prepared the present report should have the authority to establish the policies for the operation of the Burgess Award and that these policies are subject to review by the Board of Directors. Approval of the present report by the Board, for instance, would be interpreted as sufficient action for restructuring the Burgess-Award Program.

2. The principal objective of the Burgess Award should be to encourage excellence in and further development of family research. The Burgess-Award Funds used to attain these objectives also should contribute directly to strengthening the NCFR and to improving the quality of research articles appearing in Marriage and Family Living.

3. Wide publicity should be given to the Burgess-Award procedures and to the recipients of the awards.

4. Any proposed revision of the Burgess Award must protect the invested capital of the Burgess Fund. Only the dividends or other income from the Fund, which currently comes to approximately \$300 per year, should be used.

On the basis of these premises, the committee makes the following recommendations:

1. Various ways to increase the capital funds of the Burgess Award should be explored. At present, the Burgess Award Fund consists of 309 shares of Growth Industry Shares, Inc. This stock was quoted at \$14.82 per share on June 25, 1962. At this price, the capital fund of the Burgess-Award was \$4579.38. A quarterly dividend of approximately \$77 is received. These dividends have been deposited in a savings account which in August, 1962 will approximate \$300.

The present recommendations are based on use of the available dividends. An increase in the capital fund would permit a wider range of alternative uses for increasing the excellence or uses of family research.

Suggestions are made later for the formation of the committee to consider plans for increasing the Burgess-Award funds.

2. The present research proposal award should be abolished.

3. The present journal article and book monograph award also should be abolished.

4. In place of the awards now given, we propose that a person be selected every two years to receive the Burgess Award. This award would be given to an NCFR member in recognition of his continuous and meritorious research contribution to the family field. We specifically emphasize that the individual chosen must have been an NCFR member prior to his selection. He would be chosen on the basis of demonstrated ability in research during the past several years and indications of an active role in research in the future. We wish to emphasize that the individual should be recognized as being currently engaged in significant family research.

He would receive an appropriate certificate of merit and a cash award of \$500. The decision to select a person every two years was based on the need to allow dividends to accumulate for two years in order to reach \$500.

The individual selected for the Burgess Award must agree to prepare a lecture in some area of family research of his choice, which he would present in person at an NCFR meeting. The presentation could be in the research section, a specially-arranged session, or at a plenary session; and should accentuate originality of thought and systematization of treatment within some theoretical or methodological framework of family research.

It would be expected that the lecture would be of a quality sufficient to permit its publication in the issue of Marriage and Family Living which would immediately follow the annual NCFR meeting at which the lecture was given. If this report is favorably received by the Board, we ask the Board to establish the policy that the Burgess-Award Lecture be reserved for consideration for publication in the issue of Marriage and Family Living, which follows the NCFR meeting at which the Burgess lecture was presented. This means that when an individual agrees to receive the Burgess Award, he also will agree to prepare a lecture as suggested and will commit first publication rights of this lecture to Marriage and Family Living.

A person may receive the newly defined Burgess Award only once.

The recipient of the award should be selected approximately one year prior to the NCFR meeting at which his Burgess-Award Lecture would be delivered.

The recipient of the award shall be selected by a Burgess-Award Committee.

5. The Burgess-Award Committee shall consist of five persons, all of whom must be NCFR members. Three of the committee members shall be appointed, whereas the other two members of the committee shall be the past chairman of the research section and the current chairman of the research section. Each of the latter two persons shall serve for two years; the year in which each was chairman of the research section and the following year. Unless they were later appointed to the committee, neither person serving on the committee in the capacity of current or past research section chairman may become chairman of the committee. A research chairman would be eligible for appointment to the committee at any time following his term on the committee as the research chairman.

Because the award will be given only on alternate years (unless changed as the organization becomes more affluent) some problems were encountered in defining the terms of office of the appointed committee members. Finally, it was decided to have the three original appointees serve for terms of one, two, and three years, respectively, each assuming chairmanship during his last year on the committee or, for the person having the one year term, during his sole year on the committee. For each appointee leaving the committee, a person would be appointed for a three year term. The following schedule describes the sequence of appointments to the committee. Each letter represents an appointee. Circles indicate chairman for the respective years.

Schedule for Terms of Appointed
Members to the Burgess
Award Committee

Year			
1962-63	(a)	b	c
63-64	d	(b)	c
64-65	d	e	(c)
65-66	(d)	e	f
66-67	g	(e)	f
67-68	g	h	(f)
68-69	(g)	h	i
69-70	j	(h)	i
70-71	j	k	(i)
71-72	(j)	k	l
72-73	↓	(k)	l
etc.		↓	(l)

The main function of the Burgess-Award Committee shall be to select the recipient of the Burgess Award. If the committee which shall become operative in August, 1962, (assuming approval of this part of the report) agrees on a recipient of the Burgess Award and the recipient feels able to prepare a scholarly lecture for presentation in August, 1963, plans should be made for the first Burgess-Award Lecture to be given at the August, 1963, NCFR conference.

The Burgess-Award committee also will have responsibility for announcing the selection of the Burgess Lecturer. We specifically ask the Board to establish the policy that the back cover of one issue of Marriage and Family Living be used to announce the recipient of the Burgess Award.

The final responsibility of the Burgess-Award Committee will be to insure its own continuity. The five members of the committee will nominate the replacements needed for the members of the committee whose terms expire, their official appointment being made by the NCFR board.

One of the premises upon which the present recommendations were based was that the research section and the Board of Directors share authority for the Burgess Award. We wish to emphasize this premise in relation to the Burgess-Award Committee. The committee is expected to have control over the operational features of the award and to operate within the framework previously described. The inclusion of the past and current research section chairman of the committee is intended to provide continuous representation of the research section in both the selection of the Burgess-Award Committee members and in the selection of the recipient himself.

In addition, revision of the goals or methods of the Burgess Award, we feel, may be initiated by members of the Burgess Award Committee, research section or Board of Directors. We suggest that if a need arises for revising the Burgess-Award procedures, the research section chairman be given the responsibility of calling a business meeting of the research section to discuss changes in the Burgess Award. Such a business meeting should occur only in conjunction with the annual NCFR meeting and must be announced in the preliminary program for that particular NCFR meeting. The results of such a properly announced business meeting of the research section of the NCFR will constitute legitimate actions for alterations of the Burgess Award program or for further committee action leading to a revision in the Burgess Award, all being subject to review by the Board of Directors.

The final responsibility of the first Burgess Award Committee should be to recommend ways to increase the Burgess capital funds.

6. We propose the following persons for membership on the first Burgess-Award Committee. Each has agreed to serve in the capacities listed:

William Kephart, for the one-year term and as the initial chairman;
 Jessie Bernard, for the two-year term;
 Harold Christensen, for the three-year term.

Respectfully submitted,

Burgess-Award Evaluation Committee
 Charles Bowerman
 William Kephart
 Gerald Leslie
 Lee Burchinal, Chairman