

Announcement for TWO Economics Conferences

Open Call for Papers and Organized Sessions

Selections will be based on objective peer review of applications received for individually proposed papers and proposed organized sessions. Applications for papers require only a brief abstract and justification statement—not a draft of the paper.

Extended Deadline: June 14, 2010 for

**SGE Sessions at the Annual Conference of the
Allied Social Science Assoc. / American Economic Association
(January 7-9, 2011, Denver, Colorado)**



Extended Deadline: September 15, 2010 for

**SGE Annual Conference in Washington, DC
November 15-16, 2010 (With Papers Presented in Breakout
Sessions on November 16th)**



Co-sponsored by the
Economics Department of
George Washington University



Department of Economics
The George Washington University Washington, DC

Visit <http://www.sge-econ.org/> for more information on: **Conference Registration, Applying to Present a Paper or Organize a Session, Volunteering for the SGE, SGE Discussion Groups, and Our Call for Exhibitors and Cosponsors for the SGE Conference.**

Motivation: The Society's motivation for organizing these sessions is to promote economic thought that will be beneficial to government economists. Sessions will be designed to inform and educate economists, to provide valuable contributions to existing knowledge and understanding of economic ideas, and to foster potential improvements in how economics is practiced. Such sessions should better enable economists to observe and understand the nature and causes of economic factors and events, which will, in turn, enhance their ability to contribute to public decision making.

Sessions involve the presentation of 3-5 papers, which are reviewed by discussants and which allow for a question-and-answer period. (Sessions containing as many as 5 papers are discouraged unless there is a strong concern that not all of the papers will be presented due to absences.) This call for papers and sessions is **open to all individuals who share the above-mentioned objectives**. In the case of proposed, individual papers, the Society will organize selected papers into sessions and invite other individuals to serve as discussants in those sessions.

Distinguished Speakers at the SGE Conference

(Monday-Tuesday, November 15-16, 2010, in Washington, DC)

The first day of the SGE Conference will include plenary lectures and a panel discussion, while the second day will offer break-out sessions for the presentation of research papers. The speakers on the first day include:

Presentations by Government Leaders in Economics



Dr. Rebecca M. Blank, Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, U.S. Department of Commerce. Her recent works include: *It Takes A Nation: A New Agenda for Fighting Poverty* (winner of the Lester Prize for Outstanding Book), *The New World of Welfare, Is the Market Moral?*, *Working and Poor*, and *Insufficient Funds*. Dr. Blank will speak on “*How Can Economists Help Shape Agency Decision-making? Examples from Life Inside the Department of Commerce.*”



Dr. Douglas Elmendorf, Director of the Congressional Budget Office. Before coming to CBO, Doug Elmendorf was a senior fellow in the Economic Studies program at the Brookings Institution. There he served as coeditor of the Brookings Papers on Economic Activity and the director of the Hamilton Project, an initiative to promote broadly shared economic growth.



Keynote Luncheon Speaker: Dr. Keith Hall, Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Leading the agency with the most government economists, Dr. Hall heads a 2,500-person organization that measures and analyzes the nation's employment levels, wages, worker safety, productivity, and prices. Prior to his current position, he served as Chief Economist for the Council of Economic Advisers where he directed a team that monitored the state of the economy.

The Benefits of Economics



Professor John Siegfried, Vanderbilt University, For many years the Executive Director of the American Economic Association, Dr. Siegfried will speak about his new book, *Better Living through Economics* (Harvard University Press, 2010).

Panel Discussion on Improving the Economics Profession



Professor David Colander, Middlebury College. Leading author of widely used textbooks on economics, and recent author of *Complexity Hints for Economic Policy*, (editor, with M. Salzano) Springer, 2007.



Professor Deirdre McCloskey, Univ. of Illinois. Best known for *How to Be Human Though an Economist*), *The Rhetoric of Economics*, and *Bourgeois Dignity: Why Economics Can't Explain the Modern World*.



Professor George DeMartino, Univ. of Denver. Author of *Global Economy, Global Justice* (Routledge 2000) and “*I Do Solemnly Swear*”: *On the Need for and Content of Professional Economic Ethics*, Oxford Univ. Press (forthcoming).

With comments by:



Professor Siegfried (see above), and by: Dr. Nancy Lutz, Program Director for Economics, National Science Foundation; Dr. Susan Offutt, Chief Economist, Government Accountability Office; and Dr. Stacey Tevlin, Chief, Macroeconomic Analysis Section, Division of Research and Statistics, Federal Reserve Board of Governors.

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**Agenda for the SGE Conference in Washington, DC
Marvin Center, George Washington University
Monday, November 15 and Tuesday, November 16, 2010**

The first day of this two-day conference is devoted to distinguished lectures and plenary sessions, which will be delivered in the Marvin Center's Grand Ballroom to all conference registrants. At the end of each of these presentations there will be a significant opportunity for questions and comments by the audience. An optional buffet lunch will be available during the first day of distinguished presentations, for an additional cost. Conference registrants who do not opt for the buffet lunch will still be able to attend the presentation that will take place during that time in additional seating in the room.

The second day will offer presentations of research papers, and possibly some additional distinguished lectures, in break-out sessions held in different rooms of the Marvin Center. During each of the two days, there will also be an exhibitors' hall in a separate room which will be accessible to the public (and not restricted to conference registrants). Book signings by some of the distinguished presenters at the conference will also take place in the exhibitors' hall.

In the early evening, on both days of conference, there will be a cash-bar cocktail reception for conference attendees at a restaurant nearby the Marvin Center. (The precise location has yet to be determined.) Dinner discussion groups may also be organized by the SGE prior to the conference, depending on interest on the part of conference attendees.

You are encouraged to register for the full conference, but may register for either of the two days if you can only attend on the one day. Registration for either day includes annual membership to the Society of Government Economists for one year, or an extension of membership for one additional year if you are already an SGE member. (The membership fee is \$25 per year.) Registration for both days of the conference includes a two-year membership in the SGE, or extension of membership for two additional years for existing members.

In appreciation for the co-sponsoring of the conference by the Economics Department of George Washington University, conference presentations will be open to all students and faculty of George Washington University. University faculty and students are further encouraged to join the SGE for \$25 per year, which would otherwise be included in the conference registration fee. Also, university faculty and students will need to pay separately for the buffet lunch on Monday.

SGE membership includes discounts on SGE events such as monthly luncheons and attendance at the SGE annual cocktail reception during the annual meetings of the Allied Social Sciences Associations (wherever they are being held). Discounts are also offered at weekly luncheon presentations of the Washington-based National Economists Club. In addition, SGE members are occasionally invited to special, free events in Washington, DC, such as Congressional Hearings and happy-hour gatherings of SGE and other economic groups. Finally, SGE members may serve as chairs of SGE-organized discussion groups, and are eligible to serve as officers and Board members of the organization.

Groups wishing to go together to the SGE Conference, to participate in or attend a particular breakout session, for example, are encouraged to consider the group discounts that are available under "Sponsored Sessions" and "Call for Sponsors" discussed later on in this announcement.

Registration Form for the SGE Conference:

Please Cut and Paste the information below and email it to 2010-Conference@sge-econ.org.

Then submit your payment online at <http://www.sge-econ.org/conference-registration/>.

Name: _____

Title: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

How you would like your name and affiliation to appear on your conference badge:

Check Options Below:

Cost:

___ **Two-day conference registration** (November 15-16), includes 2-year membership in the Society of Government Economists (starting at the date of the conference), or extension of membership by two years\$85.00

___ **One-day conference registration for Monday November 15th**, includes 1-year membership in the Society of Government Economists or extension of membership by one year\$45.00

___ **One-day conference registration for Tuesday November 16th**, includes 1-year membership in the Society of Government Economists or extension of membership by one year\$45.00

___ **Buffet Lunch on Monday November 15th** \$27.00

TOTAL_____

Selection Method for Proposed Papers and Sessions

Papers and sessions will be evaluated under the following rules and conditions:

- (1) **Papers and sessions will be peer-reviewed, in a double-blind process, on the basis of scientific merit, importance of the topic, insightfulness, uniqueness, and level of effort.** (In double-blind peer-review, the reviewers do not know the applicants' identity and the applicants do not know the reviewers' identity.) Exceptions to the SGE peer-review process will be made for papers in sessions organized by cosponsors, as specified below in the section on co-sponsorship.
- (2) Proposals will be evaluated and selected **without regard for whether the applicants are government economists or members of the Society of Government Economists.** The topics of the papers need not specifically address government policies or actions.
- (3) There is **no submission fee** for proposing a paper or session. All conference attendees will be required, however, to be registered at the conference at the time the session takes place, and must accordingly pay the conference fee for that registration.
- (4) Proposals for individual papers are encouraged in addition to proposals for organized sessions—the Society is prepared to organize individual papers into sessions. Paper proposals will be evaluated on the same basis regardless of whether they are made individually or as part of a proposed session. Thus, session proposals are evaluated on the basis of the perceived quality of the papers in that session.
- (5) **The deadline for submitting the paper or session application is June 14, 2010 for the AEA Conference, and September 15, 2010 for the SGE Conference.**

Selection Method and the Choice of Conference: Each application will be peer-reviewed only once even if the application is made to both conferences, where the same criteria will be applied regardless of which conference (or both) is specified. For each conference, those applications with the highest scores among those that applied to that same conference will then be accepted, regardless of whether the application was made to the other conference. For example, if one application for both conferences receives a higher score than another application made only for the SGE conference in Washington, then that application with the highest score will have precedence over the other for the SGE conference, even it is selected for the AEA conference. This selection method is based on the expectation that the audiences for the same paper or session will be different at each conference, and each audience should have an opportunity to benefit. It is also expected that a paper or session presented in November 2010 will still be current in January 2011.

It is important to note, however, that applications for papers and sessions must compete among an allotment of only six sessions in the AEA meetings, in contrast to a maximum of 25 possible sessions at the SGE conference. Thus, the selection process for the AEA sessions is expected to be more competitive, i.e., **a paper that is not selected for the AEA meetings may still have a good chance of being selected for the SGE meetings.**

Additional information about the selection process is provided below in **Appendix A: Peer-review Guidelines of the Society of Government Economists for the Selection of Papers and Sessions for Economic Conferences**

Application Form for Proposed Papers

Applications for conference papers and sessions may be made simultaneously to **both** conferences, by filling a **single application form**. *If the application is made to both, and is accepted to both, then it is expected that the presentations will be made at both conferences.*

Provide a complete application in one of the following ways: (1) Follow the instructions online at <http://www.sge-econ.org/conference-registration/>, (2) Fill in this application form and email it to 2010-Conference@sge-econ.org, or (3) email the same information in an easily extractable form, in the same order of questions that appear in this application, to the same address.

Check below the conferences associated with this application; check both if applying for both.

_____ SGE Annual Conference in Washington (Nov. 15-16, 2010; papers presented on the 16th).

_____ ASSA/AEA Conference in Denver (January 7-9, 2011)

Note: Do not send any *other* materials with your proposal, such as drafts of a paper or the resume of the applicant. In fairness to all applicants, additional materials that are not part of the application form will not be read.

If this paper below is part of proposed session, then list the Session Title, Session Chair, and Session Organizer (if different from Session Chair)

1. Paper Title:

2. Author most responsible for Correspondence (First, Middle, Last):

3. If more than one author, all authors in the order they should appear in the citation (First, Middle, Last; First, Middle, Last; etc.)

4. Author Contact Information. Provide the Name, Title, Affiliation, Address, Email Address and Phone Number for each author of the paper.

5. Authors of this paper willing to serve as Discussants (within the same or other sessions)

Name	Topic Area(s) →	
<input type="text"/>		

Name	Topic Area(s) →	
<input type="text"/>		

Name	Topic Area(s) →	
<input type="text"/>		

Name	Topic Area(s) →	
<input type="text"/>		

6. If this paper is part of a proposed session, provide the name and full contact information of the proposed discussant.

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7. Authors of this paper willing to serve as Session Chairs (of other sessions)

Name	Topic Area(s) →	
<input type="text"/>		

Name	Topic Area(s) →	
<input type="text"/>		

Name	Topic Area(s) →	
<input type="text"/>		

Name	Topic Area(s) →	
<input type="text"/>		

8. Justification statement in support of the paper (on the basis of scientific merit, importance of the topic, insightfulness, uniqueness, and level of effort). Maximum of 300 words. To facilitate the double-blind peer-review process, *AVOID STATEMENTS THAT REVEAL THE IDENTITY OF THE AUTHOR(S)*.

9. Optional. To facilitate the peer-review process, provide the names and contact information of two peer-reviewers who could serve as objective, qualified experts on the merits of the proposal.

10. ABSTRACT of the paper (not more than 500 words). To facilitate the double-blind peer-review process, *AVOID STATEMENTS THAT REVEAL THE IDENTITY OF THE AUTHOR(S)*.

[Empty box for abstract text]

Application Form for Proposed Sessions

Provide a complete application by filling in and sending from this section of this document, or provide the same information in an easily extractable form. Email this application to 2010-Conference@sge-econ.org.

Applications for conference papers and sessions may be made simultaneously to both conferences, by filling a single application form. *If the application is made to both, and is accepted to both, then it is expected that the presentations will be made at both conferences.*

Provide a complete application in one of the following ways: (1) Follow the instructions online at <http://www.sge-econ.org/conference-registration/>, (2) Fill in this application form and email it to 2010-Conference@sge-econ.org, or (3) email the same information in an easily extractable form, in the same order of questions that appear in this application, to the same address.

Check below the conferences associated with this application; check both if applying for both.

_____ SGE Annual Conference in Washington (Nov. 15-16, 2010; papers presented on the 16th).

_____ ASSA/AEA Conference in Denver (January 7-9, 2011)

Note: Do not send any *other* materials with your proposal, such as drafts of papers or the resumes of the applicant. In fairness to all applicants, additional materials that are not part of the application form will not be read.

List the Session Title, Session Chair, and Session Organizer (if different from Session Chair)

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Complete an “Application Form for Proposed Papers” (in the previous section) for every paper that will be in the section, and provide these forms all together, pasted into one Word document for a single application for the session.

It is the session organizer’s responsibility to provide the entire application, including information about the individual papers, in one document to the SGE.

Applications for papers within a proposed session must not also be proposed independently in another application. Authors must decide if they would like their papers proposed independently, subject to placement in an SGE-organized session, or listed as part of an organized session that is being proposed.

Of course, session organizers must not propose any paper for the session without prior collaboration and consent with the authors of that paper, and an understanding that at least one of the authors of the paper will present the paper at the conference(s) associated with the application.

Call for Sponsored Sessions at the SGE Conference



At the SGE Conference (in Washington in November) any two-hour session can be “sponsored” by an organization, where the organization must be identified in the session title (as it appears in the program), and the session application is deemed acceptable. To be acceptable, a proposed, sponsored session must successfully compete in the peer-review process among all other proposed sessions (whether sponsored or not) in the conference. However, the proposed session of a sponsored session may be exempt for the peer-review screening under the conditions specified in the next section).

No single organization can sponsor more than 3 sessions at the SGE Conference. (With regard to government organizations this requirement would apply at the agency level. For example, for this purpose the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Economic Analysis would be regarded as different organizations, even though both are within the Economics and Statistics Administration of the Department of Commerce).

Session sponsorships are offered to any organization, for a two-hour session at the conference (less 10 minutes in between sessions), in a room that will seat at least 60 people, during the breakout sessions on November 16, 2010. The room will also have a projector and screen set-up, but organizers are asked to provide their own laptop computer to connect to the projector. The sponsoring organization will be mentioned in the conference program distributed at the conference and on the SGE website, and mentioned on the sign by the door of the room where the session will be held.

Any organization sponsoring a session may also purchase refreshments to be provided in the room, at the same cost that would be charged to the SGE by the Marvin Center Catering Office.

Three types of session sponsorships are offered, with the following additional benefits:

General Session Sponsorship (\$300): Includes up to six free admissions to the conference on that day for session participants. (Free admission to the conference includes SGE membership or extension of existing SGE membership for one year.)

Audience-Supporting Session Sponsorship (\$600): Includes up to 20 free admissions to the conference on that day to session participants and to anyone the sponsoring organization believes may like to come to the conference to attend that session (whose names should be provided to the SGE Conference organizers).

Fully Sponsored Sessions (\$1,000): Includes 50 free admissions to support a large audience.

Organizations interested in sponsoring a session at the SGE Conference should contact 2010-Conference@sge-econ.org.

Exemption of Some Sponsored Sessions from Peer-Review

A Sponsored Session is exempt from peer-review selection, and is therefore *guaranteed a session at the SGE Conference*, IF all of the following conditions are met:

- (1) The organization sponsoring the session is a government agency, or an accredited college or university (or a department within it, such as an economics or public policy department).
- (2) The session contains at least three papers, there are at least three different authors or coauthors of the papers presented, and no single person has coauthored all of the papers in the session.
- (3) At least one author of *every* paper presented in the session is affiliated with the sponsoring organization (and that affiliation is specified in the conference program).
- (4) The organizer of the sponsoring organization must make the following statement in the email message that provides the session application:

As the session organizer for _____ (name of organization) I, _____ (name of organizer) hereby affirm that the paper proposals for this proposed session (including their abstracts and justification statements that would normally be provided with conference paper applications to the SGE) have been peer-reviewed by _____ (name of organization). From this peer-review, we have determined that the proposed papers are reflective of scientific merit and contribute significantly to useful knowledge, though these papers may, necessarily, present the opinions of the _____ (name of organization).

Applying for this exemption can be made by (1) Following the instructions online at <http://www.sge-econ.org/conference-registration/>, or (2) Filling in this application form and emailing it to 2010-Conference@sge-econ.org.

Call for Volunteer Distinguished Speakers for Breakout Sessions

Also exempt from peer review are presentations by invited, highly distinguished speakers within the economics community, who are distinguished for their highly important and widely known contributions to economic thought.

Anyone who would qualify to be a distinguished speaker in this regard, and who would like to give a presentation at an SGE conference or plenary session at the AEA meetings, is welcome to contact the SGE with an offer to speak at such an event. The SGE cannot reimburse speakers for their travel or offer a stipend for their presentation, and thus relies solely on the personal interest and willingness of individuals to speak to us.

Offers to give distinguished lectures should be made to our Board of Directors for consideration, with a CV and statement as to how the SGE membership and others would benefit from their presentation. These offers can be made using the online facility at <http://www.sge-econ.org/conference-registration/>, or by emailing the offer to 2010-Conference@sge-econ.org.

Call for Exhibitors and Additional Cosponsors (for the SGE Conference)

Call for Exhibitors: During each of the two days of the SGE Conference, there will be an exhibitors' hall in a separate room which will be accessible to the public (i.e., not restricted to conference registrants). Book signings by some of the distinguished presenters at the conference will also take place in the exhibitors' hall. The Society of Government Economists will have its own exhibitor's booth, which will also be where registration for the conference will take place. Consequently, all conference attendees will be drawn at least once to the exhibitor's hall.

Spaces for exhibitor's booths at the conference will be provided for two sizes of areas:

Regular area: approximately 6 feet x 4 feet for a small table, for a total of \$250 for both days

Large area: approximately 12 feet x 4 feet, for \$350 for both days.

If at least seven exhibitors register (including the SGE), then there will also be coffee offered in the room, for the benefit of the visiting public and the exhibitor staff, at no cost to the exhibitors. This will also contribute to movement of visitors into the room.

Publishers that organize book signing events in collaboration with the SGE, would receive a \$250 discount on any exhibitor's booth they set up, in return for the additional publicity that they contribute in this way to the conference. (Thus, a regular-area exhibitor's booth would be free, and a large area would be at an additional charge of \$100.)

Cosponsoring the Conference: The Economics Department of George Washington University is already an important cosponsor of the conference, and thus all its faculty and students are allowed to attend any of the conference events (except for the paid lunch) without having to pay the conference fee. The GWU Economics Department will also share in giving opening remarks at the beginning of the conference. Other organizations may also cosponsor the conference by sponsoring a breakout session (as described above on page 11) or by contributing to the funding of the conference.

Organizations, in addition to George Washington University, may be recognized as "cosponsors of the conference" subject to mutual approval by the SGE and the GWU Economics Department. Recognized cosponsors are asked to seek this approval, and are asked to contribute at least \$2,000 to the conference. The following free benefits will be available to all additional cosponsors who wish to have them:

A fully sponsored session (as described on page 11).

A large-area exhibitor's booth.

Sharing in introductory remarks on the first day of the conference

Full mention of the co-sponsorship in the conference literature (such as the conference program)

Ability to organize a meal, refreshments, or reception as part of the conference, by coordinating with the SGE and reimbursing the SGE for all of the expenses associated with the event.

Contact: Organizations interested in running an exhibitor's booth or cosponsoring the conference should contact 2010-Conference@sge-econ.org.

Appendix A: Peer-review Guidelines of the Society of Government Economists for the Selection of Papers and Sessions for Economic Conferences

Objectives

The SGE currently organizes several sessions for its own annual conference in Washington, DC, and about 6 sessions for the annual meetings of the American Economic Association. The Society is also planning to organize sessions at other conferences such as the annual meetings of the Eastern Economic Association, and may, as well, organize additional independent sessions. The Society's motivation for organizing these sessions is to promote economic thought that will be beneficial to government economists. Specifically, these sessions will be designed to inform and educate economists, providing valuable contributions to existing knowledge and understanding of economic phenomena. Similarly, such sessions should better enable economists to observe and understand the true nature and causes of actual economic factors and events, which will, in turn, improve their ability to contribute to public decision making. In essence, the Society views these sessions as existing for the benefit of the audience that attends them, and, by extension, to the public at large that will benefit from the enhanced useful knowledge that is disseminated within and beyond the economics community.

For this purpose, the Society will solicit proposals for paper presentations and organized sessions (involving 3-5 papers and discussions of them). These calls for papers and organized sessions will be open to all individuals who share the Society's objectives. In the case of proposed, individual papers, the Society will organize selected papers into sessions and invite other individuals to serve as discussants in those sessions.

To ensure the quality of proposed papers or sessions, the Society will establish and maintain a formal, objective peer-review process. This process will exhibit no favoritism or bias regarding the proposals received, and will be based entirely on the information presented the applications. The Society will design the peer-review process to generate an ordinal *rating* of each application, where this rating will serve the following three purposes:

- (1) To determine, first and foremost, if the paper or session is likely to be of sufficient quality to warrant the Society's support and promotion of its presentation,
- (2) To distinguish, among the papers and sessions proposed, which papers and sessions should be selected for acceptance, under the constraint of a limited number of possible sessions that the Society can support in a given conference.
- (3) To decide whether the Society should incur the additional expense of increasing the number of sessions it supports at a conference, so as to promote sessions and papers of very high quality, if not all such high quality presentations can fit within the existing allotment of sessions that the Society already possesses.

The process will involve voluntary assistance by invited peer-reviewers from the economic community, and will also involve judgments by the Society's Board of Directors. All final decisions regarding such ratings and selections will ultimately be the responsibility of Board of Directors.

The Board will establish a Peer-review Committee to carry out the administrative aspects of the process, such as finding and communicating with peer-reviewers, and compiling statistics on ratings that they will present to the board. The Board will appoint a Chair and Vice Chair to this Committee, who may or may not be members of the Board, but who cannot already hold any of the following four positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, or Executive Secretary, or Members of the Conference Committee.

The Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee are then responsible for selecting all other members of the Peer-review Committee. Where:

The majority of the members of the Committee are not SGE Board Members

The Board is made aware of the selection, and can veto any selection through a majority vote of the full Board.

Submission Requirements for Paper Proposals

The Scoring Sheet below presents how proposed papers will be evaluated. The application to present a paper will require the following information:

1. An abstract of not more than **500 words** that describes the paper. The application process will involve a double-blind review (where the reviews do not know who the authors are, and vice versa). Therefore, applicants are asked to exclude from the abstract any information that reveals their identity, so that the abstract can be easily passed on from the SGE to the reviewers.
2. A supplementary statement of not more than 300 words describing how the paper meets **the criteria** in the scoring sheet. Applicants are likewise asked to exclude any information that reveals their identity.
3. The names and contact information of two peer-reviewers who they do not know well personally, but who they believe are highly qualified experts on the topic of their paper, who could serve as good peer-reviewers. **(Optional)**
4. References to no more than two published articles on topics related to the paper, which contain names of individuals in the reference section who could serve as peer-reviewers. (This is to assist the Peer-review Committee in finding reviewers.) **(Optional)**

For the purpose of fair competition among applications, applicants will be specifically asked to refrain from providing any additional information in support of their application. The Society will make clear that any such information will be discarded and not be allowed to enter the peer-review process.

The Peer-review Committee will first determine if the Committee itself has members who have sufficient background on the subject matter of the proposal to peer-review it. If less than two members can be found to be able to peer-review the proposal, then outside reviewers will be sought, based, if possible, on the voluntary information provided by the applicant regarding potential reviewers.

Selection of Papers

The final score for any paper proposal will be the average of the scores received from the reviewers. All those receiving an average score of 80 or above will be regarded as qualified for presentation.

Among those that did not meet this criterion, the following process will take place:

1. The Peer-review Committee will review the scores received by the reviewers, and make recommendations as to whether any of those scores should be dismissed on the basis of inconsistencies with other scores, or on the basis of the Committee's own judgment of the quality of the proposal.
2. The Board of Directors of the Society of Government Economists will then be presented with the essays and scores received for all of the rejected proposals, and with information from the Committee about what score the Committee feels should be dismissed. The Board may then override the decision to reject the proposal by a majority vote. The Board may also decide to lower the threshold score, thereby allowing for more acceptances.

If the number of highly qualified proposals for papers exceeds the number of available time slots for papers, the Society will consider renting additional rooms for independent sessions where additional papers can be presented. The most highly qualified papers, on the basis of the highest scores received, will automatically be chosen for the session slots that are already allocated to SGE. Among the remaining proposals, if at least three received a score of 80 or above, they will be eligible for possible presentation in additional independent sessions. If presenters are willing to share the cost with SGE for renting additional meeting rooms for this purpose, SGE will pursue these additional meeting rooms where such papers can be presented. Applicants are therefore asked if they would be willing to contribute an additional application fee of \$250 per paper presented to cover this cost, if their papers fall under this group. The Society of Government Economists would not bill applicants for this amount unless and until

Scoring Sheet for Peer-Review of Proposed Papers

Instructions to Peer-reviewers: **Please read the definitions and counter-examples carefully for each criterion #1 to #7.** Then score each criterion #1 to #7 with a value from 0 to 5 in the right-most column of the table, where: 0=failure, 1=poor, 2=acceptable, 3=good, 4=very good, 5=excellent. (Use whole numbers only.)

Please note that the following factors should have absolutely no bearing on the scores given: (1) the prestige or popularity of the coauthors or the institution to which they belong, (2) any affiliation of the coauthors with any government or with the Society of Government Economists, (3) the number of coauthors of the proposed paper, and (4) the race, color, sex, national origin, religion, age, disability, or sexual orientation of the coauthors.

Criterion	Definitions and Counter-Examples	Weight (%)	Score (0-5)
1. Pertinence to Economics	The topic explored fits within the general context of “economics,” e.g., relating in a significant way to some of the existing literature in economic journals. Interdisciplinary research that involves economics is welcome and does not violate this criterion. <i>The vast majority of proposed papers would be expected to score a 5 for this criterion – cross out the 5 and put a different score only if warranted.</i>	25	(5)
2. Scientific Merit	Contributing to improved knowledge and useful understanding, and reflecting a level of thought that is challenging and noteworthy. This quality of the research is distinctly different from the presentation of esoteric or complex models where such complexity, itself, appears to be the goal. The presentation of highly complex, and technically challenging discourse is <i>not</i> discouraged, provided it would be seen by many economists as contributing to useful knowledge. <i>The average expected score among proposals received = 3.</i>	20	
3. Importance	Addressing topics that are important, as reflected by the implications of the research and/or the overall magnitude of the economic effects being studied. For example, the study of a phenomenon that strongly affects millions of people and involves billions of dollars would be greater in importance than one for which these magnitudes are much smaller. However, the study of a very particular, small effect, as an example of a more general phenomenon could also be important if it has broader implications. <i>(Average expected score = 3.)</i>	15	
4. Profound Implications	Legitimately challenging conventional wisdom, either because of important, new observations, or insightful and convincing analysis of existing phenomena. Most papers would <i>not</i> be expected to meet this criterion with a high score <i>(average expected score = 0 or 1).</i>	10	
5. Uniqueness	Reflecting creative and imaginative thinking, as opposed to, for example, repeating studies that have already been published, but with more current data or minor changes in an economic model. <i>(Average expected score = 3.)</i>	5	
6. Level of Effort	Extent of shear work (e.g., hours) on the project. This criterion would likely be violated, for example, if authors are primarily “recycling” research findings or explanations of models that they have already presented elsewhere. <i>(Average expected score = 3.)</i>	5	
7. Quality of the Proposal	Extent to which the proposal is well written. Proposals should also exhibit professional etiquette, e.g., respectful of alternative viewpoints in economics. Most proposals would be expected to receive a high score for this criterion <i>(average expected score = 4 or 5).</i>	3	
REMAINDER TO BE COMPLETED BY THE PEER-REVIEW COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIETY OF GOVERNMENT ECONOMISTS			
8. Preference for Little Previous History	Extent to which authors who have not previously presented a paper in a Society of Government Economists session: 5 for none of the coauthors presenting in the previous 2 years at any SGE event, 4 if none in the previous year, 3 if at least one coauthor has presented in the last year, but there is at least one coauthor who has not in the last 2 years, 2 if at least one coauthor has not presented in the last year (unless it qualifies for a higher score), 1 if no coauthor has presented more than once in the last two years, and 0 otherwise.	5	
9. Timeliness	5 if within the deadline, 4 if within a week of the deadline, 3 for between 1 and 2 weeks late, 2 for 2-3 weeks late, 1 for over 3 weeks late	2	
SUBTOTAL WEIGHTED AVERAGE SCORE			
10. Number of Proposals	Among all the papers received by the same coauthor for the conference in question, a 5 for the paper with the highest weighted average subtotal (for items 1-9), a 3 for the second-highest weighted average (if more than one exists), and a 0 for all other proposed papers.	10	
TOTAL WEIGHTED AVERAGE SCORE x 20 (Providing a score ranging from 0 to 100)			

it is known that their papers fall under this category. The Society assures that the selection of proposals among the initial allocated slots and possible additional slots will be made without regard to the stated willingness of applicants to pay the additional fee for extended sessions. If applicants *are* willing to pay this additional fee for extended sessions, should their proposal fall within this group, they are asked to indicate this in their application.

Appeal Process

Applicants will be informed of the Society's decision whether to accept or reject their application. Applicants whose proposals are rejected will have an opportunity to appeal for a reversal of the decision by the Board. The appeal should include an argument of not more than 500 words sent by email to the Peer-review Committee, which must be sent within two weeks of the receipt of the rejection email. The Committee will then assess the appeal and make a recommendation to the Board about the possibility of reversing its decision. The Board decision will, again, be based on a majority decision by the Board.

Any appeal to the Society for a reversal of its decision must be made on the basis of supporting the proposal initially sent to the Society, and must not contain any revision of the proposal itself (such as offering to perform research that is slightly different). If the appeal does imply a revision in the proposed work, the Peer-review Committee will not accept it, and it will not be presented to the Board. This restriction is made in order to maintain the feasibility of the peer-review process.

Application and Selection of Proposed Sessions

The selection of entire, proposed sessions first involves the evaluation of the individual papers presented in that session. Therefore, session applications must contain all of the items required for a paper proposal, for each paper proposed in the session. Sessions can contain 3-5 proposed papers. Discussants can be proposed in such sessions, or the applications can defer to SGE to assist in finding discussants.

Sessions will be accepted if the highest scoring three papers in the session have an average score of 80 (through the same peer-review process), or an average score of a lower threshold established by the Board for all papers.

If the average score for the top three papers in a proposed session is less than the threshold, but some of the papers in the session are higher than the threshold, then an email would be sent out to each of the session participants which papers have been accepted, and those paper presenters whose papers are accepted can decide if they would like to participate in a different session that is organized by the Society.

The Peer-review Committee will group individual papers into SGE-organized sessions (of 3-4 papers). These sessions will compete with applicant-organized sessions based on the average score of the three-highest scoring papers in the session. Solicitations will be made for discussants in the SGE-organized sessions and in applicant-organized sessions that need them. These solicitations will be made among the SGE membership, where potential applicants are asked why they would like to discuss various papers, and why they feel they are qualified to do so. The Peer-review Committee will make selections for such discussants based on these qualifications. If it appears to be a competitive process, a specific set of rules will be established and followed for these selections.

An appeals process for proposed sessions will work the same way as it does with papers, and at the level of papers. In other words, if a session is rejected because two of the proposed papers received low scores, then the appeal to reverse that decision should be made as an appeal to revise the scoring of the two papers that caused the rejection.