The Science Fair Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Cadis Carroway on July 24, 2023, at 1PM. Area 7 had both Joshua Anderson and Jessica Reeves in attendance as representatives from Area 7.

During roll call, Areas presented their concerns and suggestions for discussion.

1.      There are still schools not using the template required for the paper. The template will now be loaded directly to the Texas FFA website under the Science Fair section.

2.      This year there was some confusion on the check-in process. There will be an official check-in next year, potentially online in order for committee members to identify no shows for the interview portion and to streamline the judging process.

3.      There is still no clear way for the state to check plagiarism, suggestions are welcome.

4.      There was much concern and discussion about the current Gold, Silver, and Bronze ranking. There will be a checklist to ensure teachers and students know what they need to hit in order to be considered Gold. This checklist will be posted to the Texas FFA website under Science Fair.

Tammy Glascock discussed the need to look at potentially moving science fair off of TX FFA Convention or to have a pre-judging because of number of entries increasing, costs, space, and time for judging and editing before national submission. After much discussion, it is the committee's recommendation to have papers submitted 14 days prior to Degree Check. The papers will be graded by the end of Degree Check. Only the top 5 papers in each category and division will advance to the TX FFA Convention for the interview portion. The paper score received during the first judging will be added to the interview score. One of the reasons for this earlier judging of the paper is to allow the 5 advancing students time to correct their papers in anticipation for them potentially advancing to nationals. Even though students are able to redo their paper before convention, they will not be rescored for state. They will be ranked at state by the committee with a Gold, Silver, and Bronze based on quality, using the checklist which will be developed and posted to the TX FFA website. Keep in mind that if the paper does not rate as Gold, it will not be considered as a winner and will not advance on to nationals. It is recommended that if you have a top 5 paper, students and teachers take time to make that paper as great as possible so that we can be even more competitive at nationals.

The implementation of the committee recommendations are contingent on the board’s approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua Anderson and Jessica Reeves