I became Chair of JOPE in the summer of 2016. Currently JOPE’s work is to help prepare PES graduate students for the job market with practical information, foster community among graduate students, encourage on-going membership in PES, and provide an opportunity for graduate students to meet faculty.

After conversations with those involved in JOPE and with PES leadership, we determined that we should build off of last year’s pre-conference success and make the pre-conference an annual tradition.

The JOPE committee felt strongly that the pre-conference should be in the conference hotel in the afternoon before the conference – offering a gateway for graduate students into PES. The focus for this year was publishing and writing.

30 graduate students and recent alumni registered for the conference. Participants hailed from many different countries and programs. Students ranged from masters students to recent alumni of doctoral programs. Panelists were Cristina Cammarano, Chris Higgins, Sam Rocha, and Barbara Thayer-Bacon. The pre-conference went from 2-5. It included opportunities for participants to talk informally with each other, the panel, and participate in small group.

Response from both students and panelists has been very positive. We are hoping to continue the tradition next year around a new theme.

We are currently exploring funding options for the pre-conference as it is a free event for students.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cara Furman
Election Committee Chair