

Memorandum

To: SSSP Board of Directors
From: Lee Student Support Fund Committee (Joya Misra, Chair; James Gruber, Chair-Elect, and Jane MacLeod)
Date: June 30, 2005

Thanks very much for the extremely efficient work of Michele Koontz and Denise Knight on behalf of the Lee Student Support Fund Committee. The unusually high level of organization and transparency in SSSP has made the work of the committee much easier than it would have been otherwise.

Student Support Funds

We received 29 applications for funds to attend the 55th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems. Most applications were submitted electronically, requiring individuals to send copies of student IDs separately.

Three of these students were ineligible (neither members of the association or program participants), and one was awarded funds through the Smigel Fund. Among the remaining 25 graduate and undergraduate students, we distributed \$7505, thanks to the generosity of the board, which had raised the total funds available substantially this year. In most cases, we awarded students with approximately \$250 toward their travel costs; in a few cases we increased the amount for students with unusually high travel costs (for example, a student coming from Turkey) or decreased it for students with lower costs. *We believe that the increase in funds for the Lee Student Support has made an important impact, and urge the Board to continue funding the committee's work at this higher rate.*

Mentor Program

The committee received 39 requests for mentoring and 20 volunteers to be mentors. Additional volunteers were located through an email sent to the SSSP board and division chairs, through activating our networks of friends and colleagues, and through requests of SSSP members listed in the preliminary program. We have been able to find mentors for each mentee, but we are currently continuing the matching process as we receive additional requests. For the most part, we have matched mentees with mentors who shared similar research interests.

We contacted mentors and mentees who had made requests by June 30 on June 30 with information about the program and how to contact one another. This should allow them to set up plans with one another before the meetings. We also tried to be clear about what we expected from the mentoring relationship, and hope that the program is successful in connecting more experienced members with newer members. *If we were to make any recommendations, it might simply be to include a cut-off date of June 15 for mentoring requests.*