

MEMORANDUM

To: SSSP Board of Directors
From: Lee Student Support Fund Committee (James Gruber, Chair; Carolyn Perrucci, Chair-elect, and Thomas Steiger)
Date: June 30, 2006

Our thanks to Michele Koontz for all the work she has done on behalf of our committee. Our committee serves an important function for new, young members, and we are fortunate to have the skills and efficiency of Michele.

Student Support Funds

We received 33 applications for funds to attend the 56th Annual Meetings of the Society for the Study of Social Problems. Nearly all of the applications were submitted electronically, and IDs were sent by mail or fax.

Four of the applicants were ineligible because they did not meet one or more of the requirements. The remaining 29 applicants received funding totaling \$7485. Our committee had a rather daunting task since the travel requests *alone* totaled nearly \$17,000. We used a sliding scale to allocate our scarce resources. Everyone received at least \$125. Those with travel costs between \$200-500 received an additional \$60; those with travel expenses from \$501-\$1,000 were awarded an additional \$120; and costs exceeding \$1,000 were awarded an additional \$500. So, the awards ranged from \$125 to \$625. Though we managed to substantially reduce the travel costs for a number of applicants, foreign travelers were left with substantial travel expenses. It is likely that most applicants are not aware of the limited nature of our funding. *We urge the board to consider a statement on the LSSF application that the average award is around \$250 and that the maximum award rarely exceeds \$600.*

Mentor Program

The committee received 41 requests for mentoring. Fifteen SSSP members offered initially to be mentors. Emails to the SSSP board and division members from Michele Koontz and email contact by the chair with other members resulted in a sufficient number of mentors. Mentor-mentee matches were made by the committee and these were forwarded to Michele before the June 30 deadline. *We believe that it might be useful to have sign-up sheets for mentors and mentees in public spaces during the conference (e.g., registration table, banquet) to attract a larger pool of both groups.*