

To: SSSP Board of Directors
From: 2009-2010 Lee Scholar-Activist Support Fund Committee
Subject: 2010 Lee Scholar-Activist Support Fund Committee Report

July 7, 2010

The committee was informed by Michele Smith Koontz that we had a total of \$4,000 to allocate. The committee chair noted that the total amount of funds has remained fixed at \$4000. for various years despite the rising costs of hotels and airfare. While current efforts are being made to internationalize the SSSP, the ability to help fund international scholars to participate in the annual SSSP meeting is slowly deteriorating. **The 2009-2010 Chair would therefore like to strongly recommend to the Board that the total amount of funds allocated to the Committee be increased to \$5000. for the 2010-2011 year.**

Of the seven applicants received by electronic application this year, two were ruled out after it was determined that they had applied to both this fund and the student fund, as this is not permitted. Both applicants agreed to apply to the student fund.

Of the five remaining applicants, it was checked and verified with the Administrative Office that all were members of the Association and accepted onto the 2010 meeting program. **The total amount requested by the five applicants was \$11,325.**

Following consideration by the full committee, it was determined that all proposals offered positive contributions to the program and so the Committee decided to split the total amount evenly among the 5 applicants, yielding an \$800. award to each candidate. Subsequently, one applicant responded that the award was insufficient to permit travel to Atlanta (from Nigeria) and so the award was forfeited. This allowed the committee to exercise its option to increase the award to each of the remaining four candidates to \$1000.

The 2010 award recipients are:

AWARDEES	COUNTRY	AWARD
Agunbiade, Ojo Melvin	Nigeria	\$1000.
Titilayo, Ayotunde	Nigeria	\$1000.
Murrieta, Patricia	Mexico	\$1000.
Popoola, Bayode I	Nigeria	\$1000.

One issue for possible consideration by the Board this year was the cost of transferring funds. As in previous years, nationals from many of the countries that eventually yield successful candidates have problems with cashing checks issued by the SSSP. In some of those cases, wire transfers offer a plausible alternative but the fees run up to about \$50. per transaction. (This year, one applicant needed the funds to be wired.) The issue was tossed around by the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee as well as the Administrative Office as to how the issue of covering the fees would be resolved, given that all parties, including this committee, agreed that a policy was needed. The Committee was informed of the decision eventually taken that "all Lee Scholar Support Fund awardees will receive their monetary award via a SSSP check. If an awardee can not receive a check, the Administrative Officer will wire the awardee the money. This

year, the Society will absorb the \$50 wire fee. In future years, the wire fee will be deducted from the award amount.”

Since this involves in practical terms a reduction of the amount of the actual awards for travel, it is uncertain if the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee and/or the Administrative Office is the appropriate venue for rendering this decision. It may be appropriate, therefore, for the Board to weigh in on the matter of where the transaction fees, when they arise, should be drawn from. If it chooses to do so, the Board should be mindful that the new policy as stated will have the practical effect of reducing the awards of those recipients who are often the very most needy.

Submitted July 7, 2010 by R.A. Dello Buono.

R.A. Dello Buono, Chair, 2009-2010 Lee Scholar-Activist Support Fund Committee
Hoan N. Bui, Chair-elect, hbui@utk.edu
Ryan Wishart, wwishart@uoregon.edu
Rebekah Zincavage, rzincavage@brandeis.edu