

TO: The SSSP Board of Directors

FROM: 2012-2013 Lee Student Support Fund committee (Ruth Thompson-Miller, Chair; Sondra Fogel, Chair-Elect, and Elizabeth Seton Mignacca, members)

The committee would like to extend our overwhelming thanks to Michele Koontz and the SSSP office staff. Michele was instrumental in clarifying information, problems solving, and she was extremely supportive of the committee. I spoke with Michele on several occasions and she was always courteous and willing to offer her assistance. It would have been impossible for our committee to complete our task without the assistance of Michele and the SSSP staff.

The committee was charged with (1) allocating the Lee Student Travel Support Fund and (2) matching mentors with mentees through the Meeting Mentor Program. This report summarizes our successes and challenges for each program.

THE LEE STUDENT SUPPORT FUND

The Lee Student Support Fund provides up to \$500 in travel support (transportation costs only) for undergraduate and graduate students that participate in the conference. To qualify for funding, applicants were required to submit their on-line application, document their student status, be a current member of SSSP, have one proposal accepted for presentation on the SSSP program, and lastly upload a copy of their documentation of their travel cost. The process of students uploading their travel information was extremely helpful when distributing the funds.

This year the committee received 96 applications for funding. The final count of students that qualified and were offered funding were 74. Unfortunately, there were students that were unable to obtain visas, decided that they couldn't attend after all, some were disqualified due to incomplete applications, and others that were not current members.

The amount of support that was requested was well over the \$11,000 that the committee was allotted to disperse to eligible candidates. The number of students requesting funding from the Lee Student Support Fund continues to increase each year. The committee granted students who requested funds under \$100 the total amount. The rest of the money was distributed evenly to the other qualified students. This meant that many students didn't get the total amount they requested but they did receive some support from the Lee Student Support Fund. The total amount distributed was \$10,952.

Problems and Recommendations

The committee's recommendation to submit supporting document made the process work more smoothly. The recommendation that ALL materials be submitted online, not just the application is a part of the process that should continue.

Recommendation One: The committee recommends that the application and advertisements for the Lee Fund need to state clearly that student MUST ensure that they have uploaded the supporting materials. We had a few students that said they were confused by the instructions. Unfortunately, we felt has a committee to be fair to all applicants they were disqualified.

Recommendation Two: One committee member recommended that students that are traveling internationally should be given more funding. In addition, a committee member suggested that when students have more than one paper accepted to present that they should be given priority and their full travel fees should be covered. All committee members were not in agreement with these recommendations.

Recommendation Three: There needs to be an increase in award monies. Some students were discouraged from coming because the award they received didn't cover enough of their travel cost.

As recommended last year the board might consider limiting the applications to students coming from abroad.

MEETING / MENTOR PROGRAM

The SSSP sponsors a Meeting Mentor Program. "The Meeting Mentor Program is designed to facilitate interaction between new members or graduate students and meeting veterans at the Annual Meeting."

This year the committee received 58 mentee requests and 21 mentor volunteers.

Due to the high number of mentee several mentors were assigned 2 mentees and in some instances 3 mentees.

Recommendation One: Is a repeat of the recommendation from last year. There needs to be an expansion of how mentors are recruited.

Recommendation Two: Mentees and Mentors need to understand that the committee members do their best to match mentees with mentors, however it is difficult when you have so few mentors. It becomes problematic when mentors email stating that they don't want a certain person as a mentee and students email that they don't want someone as their mentor.