

## Lee Student Support Fund Committee

### 2014 Report to the SSSP Board

The Lee Student Support Fund Committee is charged to complete two tasks. The first is the distribution of scholarship funds for students attending the SSSP Annual Conference. The second is the coordination of the Meeting Mentor Program. Each of these tasks are facilitated by the administrative office of SSSP.

#### **Lee Student Support Funds:**

The Committee completed the charge to distribute the scholarship fund to 76 eligible students. As there is very little guidance on what to consider for the distribution model, the Committee used a point system based on the following criteria:

- Location: 0 for Pacific, 1 for Mountain, 2 for Central, 3 for Eastern, 4: International (Canada is International)
- Conference role: 3 for multiple roles, 2 for discussant (or being a chair of a division), 1 for organizing/presiding
- Presenting a paper: 3 for 3 papers, 2 for 2 papers, 1 for 1 paper, 0=no paper but playing another role (which should be counted above)
- Received an award last year: 0 for yes, 1 for no.

Each applicant was assigned a total point score based on the criteria above. Using this, the split of points--# of student applications was as follows:

1--1  
2--6  
3--5  
4--8  
5--43  
6--8  
7--2  
8--2  
9--1

We then moved to create three categories from the point totals:

7-9 points = 5  
4-6 points= 59  
1-3 points= 12

From this, we recommended the following distribution of the \$11,000.

- Those who total 7-9 points (5 applications) receive \$250. (5x 250=1250)
- Those who total 4-6 points (59 applications) receive \$150. (59x150=8850)
- Those who total 1-3 points (12 applications) receive \$75. (12X75=900)

Since there are no guidelines for how the funds should be distributed, the Committee recommends that criteria be established (either by the Board or an ad-hoc committee), that will help future Lee Student Support Fund Committee's identify key criteria to be used for distribution of the funds. We put forth our decision model as one possible recommendations.

### **Meeting Mentor Program:**

For the 2014 meeting, there were 60 mentee requests and 18 mentor volunteers. Last year, there were 58 mentees and 21 volunteer mentors, and in 2012, there were 30 mentee requests for 20 volunteer mentors. The trend suggests a slight, but growing increase in mentee requests, with a stable number of volunteer mentors.

Given the large and growing number of mentee requests, it is recommended that additional efforts be made to help recruit more mentors. It may be helpful to consider creating a document (on-line) with suggested conversation topics to be covered, expectation of time commitment, or other helpful hints for the mentor and mentee relationship.

### **Conclusion:**

As Chair of this Committee, I want to recognize the outstanding and timely work the Committee members provided to these tasks. The members of the committee are:

- Bhoomi K. Thakore-Chair-Elect
- Joyce Bialik
- Shawn A. Cassiman
- Christopher S. Chambers

In addition, Michele Smith Koontz, Administrative Officer & Meeting Manager provided excellent support and guidance throughout our work. Her professionalism, timely responses with accurate and clear information, enabled this committee to function extremely well.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sondra J. Fogel*

2014 Chair, Lee Student Support Fund Committee