

Report: Lee Student Support Fund Committee for 2016

Prepared by: Ligaya Lindio McGovern, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology

2016 Chair of the Lee Student Support Fund Committee

On the Distribution of the Fund

1. The Official Committee members consisted of two, since one member asked to be removed from the committee because she said she did not volunteer for this committee. So Joel Best and Ligaya McGovern composed the Committee.
2. Joel Best and Ligaya McGovern reviewed the 84 applicants for the Fund and each assigned a score for each qualified applicant based on the point-system criteria that was used last year. Ligaya then computed the average score for each applicant. The Committee was able to award all the funds to 67 qualified applicants. Depending on their average score on the point-system criteria used, some received \$255, others \$230 and \$180 as long as the amount did not exceed the price of their airfare, train or bus transportation. One applicant had a bus fare that was less the lowest amount that could be awarded, and the money saved was re-allocated/added to a graduate student applicant from a Third World country whose airfare exceeded \$1,000.00.

Action Items:

(1) I suggest that in the future we give priority to funding Third World students, (2) We can also simply say that each applicant will receive at least a certain percentage of the price of their airfare, (3) If there is a remaining balance we can re-allocate or add the amount to Third World student applicants or to those who have a number of roles to play in the program. The reason why I am suggesting this is that after each student was assigned an amount based on their average score using the point-system criteria, only half of the fund was used and to be able to allocate all the funds I had to divide the remaining balance by the number of applicants and the result allowed me to add \$105 dollars more for each qualified applicant, and that was how the differential distribution of \$255, \$230, and \$180 came to be.

On Mentoring

Action Items:

I think the mentoring program is a good tradition. Since the number of mentee applicants far exceeds the number of volunteer mentors, I suggest that a separate mentoring event reception be organized during the annual meeting where all the mentees and volunteer mentors can come together. Instead of the Committee pairing the mentees and the mentors, we can pre-announce the names of the mentees and the mentors with their interests and other relevant information. The mentors and the mentees can communicate before the event that they would like to meet each other. Tables can be set up with some

light refreshments. During this event, mentees can also display or distribute their CVs on a table and mentors can also display their works that might be useful to the mentees' area of interest, dissertation, etc. This way mentees can have an idea of all the mentors and the mentors can also have an idea of all the mentees. Some mentees are on the job market or working on their dissertation. So this event might be more productive in terms of time-use and networking for mentees and students. I have met graduate students who wanted to get copies of my books because they said they relate to their research.

Pairing of the Mentees and Mentors:

There were 31 mentors who volunteered and 79 mentees who applied. Ligaya did the pairing of the mentors-mentees. To allocate the mentees equitably, I divided the number of mentees and the number of mentors and the result suggested that some mentor would have a maximum of 3 mentees and some would have two. Pairing was based on areas of interest, but difficulty in meeting this criteria occurred due to few mentors with similar interest to more mentees. This is the rationale for my suggestion above. I have learned that this problem is perennially experienced and I thought my suggestion might remedy this situation.