

## **2025 SSSP Student Report**

**August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Foroogh Mohammadi (Outgoing Representative)

Rafia Mallick (Current Representative)

Natasha Kabir (Incoming Representative)

### **Old Business:**

#### **Transition Meeting:**

- Following the 2024 SSSP Annual Meeting, Foroogh Mohammadi (outgoing representative) and Rafia Mallick (current representative) held a virtual transition meeting to discuss the roles, responsibilities, and expectations of the student representative position.

#### **2025 Student Member Meeting - April 22, 2025:**

- The annual Student Member Meeting was chaired by Rafia Mallick on April 22, 2025. One student member attended in addition to the representative. The following topics were discussed:
  - Available resources for student members including mentoring, workshops, and networking opportunities.
  - Guidance on applying for travel awards and the graduate student paper award.

### **Summary of 2025 Student Member Meeting:**

The attending student, a current SSSP member based in the United States, expressed interest in understanding the benefits of SSSP membership and opportunities for student involvement. The current student representative responded with detailed explanations and shared relevant links and resources.

### **New Business:**

Based on feedback from the 2025 Student Member Meeting, as well as ongoing

conversations with SSSP student members throughout the year outside of SSSP-provided platforms, the following action items and recommendations have been identified:

**1. Enhancing Communication with Student Members:**

Student engagement and the visibility of student-focused programming remain areas for improvement. Attendance at student member meetings has declined over the years, with three students attending in 2023, two in 2024, and only one in 2025. Some members have noted that they receive an overwhelming volume of emails from SSSP, making it difficult to stay informed.

**Action Item:**

We suggest creating a dedicated page on the SSSP website specifically for student members, highlighting upcoming events, opportunities, and relevant announcements. This centralized hub would facilitate easier access to information and potentially enhance student participation and engagement.

**2. Strengthening Student-to-Student Communication:**

Currently, there are limited opportunities for student members to connect and collaborate with one another outside of the annual meeting.

**Action Item:**

In addition to in-person events at the annual conference, SSSP should consider offering year-round virtual programming such as professional development workshops, speaker series, and writing accountability groups. These formats can foster stronger community ties and expand access to professional development resources, particularly for international and remote students.

**3. Establishing a Student Resource & Networking Platform:**

Echoing feedback from the 2025 Student Member Meeting, there is a strong need for a centralized, student-led space where members can network, collaborate, and share resources. Although similar suggestions were made in previous years (2022–2024), this initiative has yet to be implemented.

**Action Item:**

Based on the renewed interest expressed during the 2025 Student Member Meeting, the

current and incoming representatives will collaborate to establish a student networking platform (e.g., via GroupMe, Facebook, Instagram, or Bluesky) following the 2025 SSSP Annual Meeting.

### **Transition Meeting - 2025:**

A virtual transition meeting was held on July 23, 2025, via Zoom, between the current representative, Rafia Mallick, and the incoming representative, Natasha Kabir. The meeting addressed expectations for the role and outlined strategies for enhancing engagement with student members in the upcoming year.

Ms. Mallick proposed developing a comprehensive transition document outlining the responsibilities of the Student Representative, along with key dates and deliverables. This resource would serve to streamline the handover process and provide clear guidance for future representatives.

To foster a more personal connection with student members, Ms. Mallick also suggested recording a short video message from the Student Representative to be shared on SSSP's platforms. This would help put a face to the name and encourage student involvement.

Ms. Kabir offered several innovative ideas to further strengthen communication and support among student members. She proposed the creation of a mobile application, or a formal GroupMe group, to be used during the Annual Meeting for real-time sharing of event photos, coordinating ridesharing, and addressing accommodation needs.

Additionally, Ms. Kabir recommended holding a formal virtual meeting among board members before the Annual Meeting, noting that the in-person board meeting often has limited time for detailed discussions.