

## **Fellowship Committee Report**

May 21, 2025

The Fellowship Committee met twice in May.

May 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting (via zoom). In attendance were: Carol Meyer, Libby Ingalls, Christine Morel, Christina Dando, and Claire Raulston.

1. We have an outstanding group of applicants. But we need to have more of the applications read by either readers or committee members so that we can have all the applications read by two SWG members. Committee members will attempt to read at least two more applications that have not yet been read by a 2<sup>nd</sup> reader.
2. Decided that top ten-ish ranked applications automatically will advance. At the moment, we have 15 in our top tiers, aiming to get to around 20.
3. Discussed "middle of the pack" results and whether any should advance.
4. Committee will all look at the one application that asks for funding to pay for "field consultants" to conduct their interviews for them in the field.
5. Made a note to discuss at a future meeting:
  - a. No cost fellowship extensions — fellowship recipients requesting more time to spend their fellowships at no cost to SWG, usually just a matter of a couple more months for a good reason. In the past, the committee generally has allowed these. We probably should develop a policy for this.
  - b. Discuss whether we should add to next year's criteria that funds cannot be used for conference travel.
  - c. Develop guidelines for progress reports and final reports to encourage richer, more detailed accountings.

May 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting (via zoom). In attendance were: Christina Dando, Libby Ingalls, Carol Meyer, Maria Pia Casarini, and Claire Raulston.

1. Claire reported that this was the first time in a while that we were able to get all applications read by two reviewers. We are deeply grateful for all the volunteers and committee members who went above and beyond in reading applications!
2. We had an extensive discussion of the top applications and narrowed the pool down to 13 finalists but are currently approximately \$18,000 over budget. Claire will crunch the numbers and see, if we eliminate the conference funds, if we can

fund all 13. She will also note other unusual expenses that might be cut. She will send us an email later today updating us on her findings.

Follow-up: Claire crunched the numbers and was able to get the shortfall down to \$3872 by eliminating conference funds (registration, hotel, transportation). Maria Pia suggested Chris Dando reach out to the Finance Committee and request \$3872 to fund all 13 finalists, rather than have to make the difficult decision of cutting one of the finalists. Dando sent a late minute request to the Finance Committee requesting the \$3840.