

Approved 2008

AWARDS AND FELLOWS COMMITTEE

This committee is governed by Section 7 of SSSS Bylaws

The President of SSSS shall appoint an Awards and Fellow Committee consisting of not less than three (3) members representing more than one discipline, all of whom are Fellows of The Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality. The primary function of the Awards and Fellows Committee is to evaluate and recommend to the Board of Directors potential candidates for Fellow, the Distinguished Scientific Achievement Award, the Distinguished Service to SSSS Award, and the Public Service Award. This Committee's actions will be guided by the SSSS Awards and Fellows Committee Procedures, as updated by The Society's Board of Directors.

SSSS Awards and Fellows Committee Procedures

1) Awards and Fellows Committee

- a) The Executive Committee of The Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality shall establish an Awards and Fellows Committee consisting of not less than three (3) members, all of whom are Fellows of The Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality. Society policy stipulates that the membership of this committee represents more than one discipline.
- b) The Chair of the Awards Committee is appointed [or reappointed] annually by the President of The Society. The Chair is responsible for supervising the selection of the remaining members of the committee, subject to the approval of the Society President. The committee consists of a minimum of two members in addition to the Chair. Members of the committee are required to be active members of the Society, and each region of the Society is to be represented on the committee if possible. SSSS Awards and Fellows Committee members, including the Chair, are appointed to one-year terms. However, there is a maximum of three consecutive years of service to rejuvenate committee membership.
- c) To encourage emerging leaders, the Chair of the Awards Committee will make an effort to select committee members from diverse age-groups and career stages who meet Awards Committee qualifications (e.g. fellow status in The Society).
- d) The primary function of the Awards and Fellows Committee is to evaluate and recommend to the Board of Directors potential candidates for Fellow, the Distinguished Scientific Achievement Award, the Distinguished Service to SSSS Award, and the Public Service Award. This Committee's actions will be guided by the SSSS Awards and Fellows Committee Procedures, as updated by The Society's Board of Directors.
- e) This Awards and Fellows Committee Procedures Manual should be made available on the SSSS website in the "Members Only" section. The Committee Chair and members of the Awards/ Fellows Committee are to be given all instructional criteria and SSSS website links applicable to their responsibility for selecting fellows and other award recipients.

2) General Awards and Fellows Committee Procedures for Nominating Awards Candidates

- a) Nominations for Fellow of The Society, the Distinguished Scientific Achievement award, Distinguished Service award, and Public Service award all need to be made to and through the Awards/Fellows Committee before names are forwarded to The Board.
- b) The Awards Committee is committed to avoiding potential conflicts of interest. Hence, members of the Awards Committee and Executive Committee of The Society's Board of Directors are ineligible for consideration for any/ all Society awards considered by the Awards Committee during their term of service.
- c) Conference and annual meeting organizers who are members of The Society are free to nominate awards candidates but it is understood that program planning needs alone are insufficient for selection as an award recipient. Awards are based on merit only and are independent of the annual conference program.
- d) All Society award nominations require the following materials in a single evidence file: the award candidate's current vita and two letters of support by Society members. Fellow nominations require that at least one of the letters of support be prepared by a current SSSS fellow. Distinctive additional requirements for each award are described, as needed, in articles 3, 4, and 5.
- e) Whenever feasible, nominations of potential award recipients for any Society award must be confidential and handled with sensitivity. [For obvious reasons, a self-nomination for fellow status cannot be unknown to the fellow candidate]. With the possible exception of a self-nominated fellow candidate, there will be one individual who assumes responsibility for providing evidence to the Awards Committee who is not her or himself a fellow candidate. The individual who assumes responsibility for nominating an individual for a particular award agrees to collect appropriate data for the Awards Committee's consideration (e.g. current vita, appropriate letters of recommendation) without a candidate's knowledge of the nomination to prevent disappointment and safeguard confidential discussion of qualifications
- f) The Awards Committee needs sufficient time and evaluation materials to consider candidates. There is a March 1 deadline prior to the next annual meeting of the Society for the Awards Committee Chair to be in receipt of an electronic complete file for each award candidate. This complete file consists of two letters of nomination, both by a Society member if possible, and a current, complete vita for the award candidate. Incomplete files or nominations following the March 1 date will not be considered by the Committee. Late and unsuccessful applications will not be "rolled over" for consideration at the next round of evaluations. A new, complete set of nomination papers would need to be submitted if the nominee wants the person considered in the next evaluation.
- g) The Awards Committee wishes to clarify in our policies for all awards we consider that: the individual who has assumed responsibility for nominating a particular candidate for an award (not the Awards Committee) bears the responsibility for locating individuals willing to support the nomination and for submitting the complete evidence file for a candidate to the Awards Committee Chair. S/he agrees to collect all necessary information and transmit this electronically to the Chair of the Fellows/Awards Committee on or before the March 1 deadline. The Awards/ Fellow Committee Chair will not take this role.
- h) Individuals will be informed of award or fellow status only after this has been approved by the Board of Directors. The Awards/Fellows Committee chair in concert with the Executive Director of SSSS assumes responsibility for notifying award/ fellow recipients.
- i) Successful awards candidates considered on or before the March 1 deadline will receive their award at the subsequent annual meeting.

3) Fellows Program

a) The purpose of the Fellows Program is to honor members of The Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality who have made unusual and outstanding contributions to the scientific study of sexuality.

b) Eligibility:

i) A member may be named a Fellow on the basis of unusual and outstanding contribution to the scientific study of sex, being defined as formal investigation designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge. It should be noted that the existence of relevant publications is not enough – they must report impressive work, have impact upon the work of others, and have been refereed appropriately. The type and quality of publications should be equal, for example, to that of a full professor at a research intensive university. Citation of the applicant's work by others may be an important indicator of the impact of his/her contributions. Accumulation of impact and performance over time must be demonstrated. Conducting and organizing workshops, and offices held in relevant associations or political and legislative activity, are not in themselves evidence of outstanding contribution to the scientific study of sexuality.

ii) The applicant must have been a member of The Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality for three years preceding the date of their application. Applicants must ordinarily have five years of professional experience in sexual science since the granting of their earned advanced degree (see 'iii' below), and must be actively engaged at the time of their application in the advancement of the scientific study of sexuality. The requirement that applicants have five years of professional experience in sexual science since the granting of their highest earned advanced degree may be waived at the discretion of the Fellows Committee in cases where the applicant has earned one degree, such as an MA/MS, made outstanding and unusual contributions to sexual science, and then earned an additional degree, such as a Ph.D.

iii) Fellows are required to have an earned advanced degree (MA, MS, Ph.D., MD, JD, Ed.D, or equivalent) from a recognized college, university, or other higher education institution.

iv) Process of Appointments: Members may apply to become a Fellow on their own initiative, may be nominated by other members, or may be invited to apply by the Fellows Committee or by members of the Board of Directors. Article 2 of this document, which specifies nomination policies and deadlines, outlines Society-approved procedures for nominating or becoming a Fellow.

c) Publicity:

i) The Society website and Sexual Science (The Society Newsletter) shall carry a brief announcement specifying the qualifications for fellow status and inviting applications.

ii) The names of newly appointed fellows shall be published promptly in *Sexual Science* (The Society Newsletter) or *The Journal of Sex Research*

iii) The Membership Directory of The Society shall contain a separate listing of fellows.

4) The Distinguished Scientific Achievement Award

a) **The Distinguished Scientific Achievement Award** is presented annually by The Society at its annual meetings to honor and recognize a professional for outstanding contributions to the field of sexology. In line with the organizational goal to advance the field as a scientific discipline, the award is presented to honor scientific contributions as reflected in such professional activities as research, education, or therapy. The notion of scientific contribution is intended to be interpreted broadly to include such activities as publishing materials for the public, developing therapeutic or educational programs, and giving service to the public or the profession as well as publishing research or developing new medical practices. Since the award is presented to recognize scientific work in the field of sexuality, it is not necessarily restricted to members of The Society.

b) The recipient of the award is suggested by The Awards and Fellows Committee and approved the Board of Directors of The Society.

Individuals can be nominated for the award in two ways. First, the general membership of The Society may nominate an individual when two active members send letters of nomination and an attached vita for the nominee to the Award Committee. Second, members of the committee itself can nominate a person for the award. Article 2 of this document, which specifies nomination policies and deadlines, outlines Society-approved procedures for nominating a candidate for The Distinguished Scientific Achievement Award.

c) Once an individual has been chosen by the committee and approved by the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors, he or she is invited to attend the annual meeting of The Society to receive a plaque and to present a major address. The Society will assume travel (lowest available coach air rate) and lodging (one night in a hotel) for the recipient to attend the annual meeting. While it is certainly desirable for the award recipient to attend the annual conference, this is not a requirement for selection. This would allow The Society to honor someone who is ill or even deceased.

d) These policies can be modified only with the approval of the Board of Directors of The Society.

5) Service Awards

a) In June of 1985 the SSSS Board of Directors approved the recommendations of the Award Committee to establish two new Service Awards – The “Public Service Award” and the “Distinguished Service to SSSS” Award.

b) The Board approved the following general recommendations concerning the two service awards:

i) That the recipients of both of these awards be selected by the Awards and Fellows Committee for final approval by The Society’s Board of Directors,

- ii) That service award recipients, if any, be honored at the Annual Meeting of the Society in forums to be determined in consultation with the Program Chair of the Annual Meeting;
 - iii) That nominations for the Public Service Award are not open to the general membership of the Society. Rather members of the Awards Committee and/ or of The Society's Board of Directors are able to nominate candidates for this award by addressing a letter to the Awards Committee Chair.
- c) The Awards and Fellows Committee is charged with selecting a recipient of the Scientific Achievement Award each year, but the two proposed service awards are presented only when special circumstances merit the selection of a recipient. (The intent is that neither service award will be conceived as or operated as an annual event);
- d) The Society establishes an endowment specifically for the purpose of funding these two service awards (committee costs, travel and lodging for the recipients, cost of plaques or other remunerations).
- e) Article 2 of this document, which specifies nomination policies and deadlines, outlines general Society-approved procedures for nominating candidates for SSSS awards, including the two service awards. Please note, however, that while any member of The Society can nominate a possible recipient of the **Distinguished Service to SSSS Award, Public Service Award** nominations are not open to the general membership of SSSS. Specifically, only members of the Awards Committee or of The Society Board of Directors may nominate candidates for the **Public Service Award**.
- f) With respect to the Public Service **Award**, it is recommended:
- i) That the award not be restricted to members of The Society, but rather be given to individuals whose service has had a major impact on the profession or society in general,
 - ii) That the awards be granted for outstanding achievement or major impact in such areas as public awareness of sexual issues, public advocacy, professional practice by educators, therapists, or health specialists, and legislation of public policy formation;
 - iii) That the award be focused upon career achievement;
 - iv) That the responsibility for demonstrating these qualities to the committee be placed on the persons making the nomination for the award;
 - v) That members of the Awards Committee or of The Society Board of Directors be enabled to nominate candidates for the award by addressing a letter to the Awards Committee Chair, but that nominations not be open to the general membership of the Society;
 - vi) Article 2 of this document, which specifies nomination policies and deadlines, outlines material that needs to be in the file for any award candidates, including those for the two service awards. Please refer to Article 2 regarding a nominating individuals' responsibilities and deadlines for a

complete electronic nomination packet to be sent to the Chair of the Awards and Fellows Committee.

vii) That

the recipient be presented with a plaque commemorating the award at the Annual Meeting of The Society, that the recipient be reimbursed by The Society for travel to and lodging at the Annual Meeting, and that, when appropriate, the recipient be invited to present a major address at the Annual Meeting (that is to be determined in consultation with the Program Chair for the Annual Meeting).

g) With respect to the “**Distinguished Services to SSSS**” Award, it is recommended:

i) That the award be granted to a member of The Society for outstanding and extensive service to the Society (examples would include, but not be restricted to, extensive participation on committees or task forces, the holding of important organizational positions or election to national or regional office, the creation of a new region or local chapter);

ii) That the process of nomination and selection of a recipient be exactly as described above for the Public Service Award;

iii) That the recipient be the guest of honor at a luncheon or dinner at the Annual Meeting of The Society, that the recipient be presented with a plaque commemorating the award at this same function, and that the recipient be presented with a one-year honorary membership in The Society.

iv) That there be equivalent support, travel and one night’s lodging for both the Public Service Award and the Distinguished Service Award.

FOR INFORMATION ON PAST AWARD WINNERS GO TO SSSS WEB SITE