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Letter to Scholarship Committee members regarding Scholarship Committee business, November 21, 1989

Mary Johns

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November 21, 1989

SEAALL Scholarship Committee:

I have submitted the application form to be published in the next SEAALL newsletter. I have attached a copy of the announcement and form. I made some minor changes in the form, dropping out the question about receipt of an AALL scholarship during the past three years, since this is no longer a consideration in awarded the scholarships. I also left more space on the form for the applicants to answer the questions.

Wes Cochran wrote to me in August about the possibility of establishing a category for minority scholarships. I have also enclosed his letter for your consideration.

Also, according to last year's Committee Chair, Donna Bausch, the committee is under a quasi-mandate to re-examine our guidelines and application form. It has been suggested that the amount of the awards are too low and that perhaps we should award fewer awards of a greater amount. I am attaching the 1989 committee report which compiles the results of a survey made by the committee last year as well as copies of other application forms. Below I am listing other suggestions made by previous committee members. I am enclosing a copy of the committee guidelines.

Previous suggestions by SEAALL Scholarship Committee members for improving the guidelines or procedures for awarding the scholarships:

1) The criterion called "Potential for Staying in Profession", if it cannot be eliminated, ought to be more clearly defined and ought to receive fewer value points on the score sheet. Presently it is unclear on what the Committee members should base a judgment about the applicant's "staying" potential, and indeed, if one bases this judgment on the applicant's past work experience, does this not unnecessarily discriminate against our younger members or those who have chosen a career change?
2) Committee members ought to disqualify themselves from writing letters of recommendation for any individual applicant(s). Otherwise, a person serving in this dual role might be open to accusations of conflict of interest.

3) Define old member

4) Define new member

5) Refine significance of receiving assistance in past 3 years

6) Have space on form to indicate from whom assistance was received and how it was applied

7) More space on form generally

8) More appealing form format

9) Change wording of question 10 on application form to the following:

   Please provide information on your service to the profession such as 1) holding office or serving on a committee in a professional library association, or 2) participation in workshops, seminars, or educational programs.

Please take some time out of your busy schedules to consider all of the above and let me know how you feel about these suggestions or what other improvements you feel should be made to the guidelines and/or application form.

Sincerely,

Mary E. Johns
Chair
SEAALL Scholarship Committee

cc: Wes Cochran
    Hazel L. Johnson