

Status of Women in  
the Profession  
Committee

Society of  
Biblical  
Literature

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This document outlines the role and activity of the Status of Women in  
the Profession Committee and details the responsibilities of the  
members of the committee.

**Handbook**

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## *Description*

The Status of Women in the Profession Committee supports and, when necessary, advocates for the female members of the SBL, by tracking the status and progress of women in the field, providing mentoring and networking opportunities, and creating open opportunities of discussion. It also seeks to open the Society to greater participation by women and call attention to the various ways in which the Society speaks to and about women.

## *Committee Body*

The committee is comprised of 9 national and international committee members, including 1 Chair, that expand across various disciplines in the field of biblical studies. Societal terms of members are 3 years, beginning on January 1 of a member's first term year, allowing for one term renewal. For example, terms beginning in 2020 will begin on January 1, 2020, and end on December 31, 2022. If renewed, a second term will begin on January 1, 2023.

## *Responsibilities*

Responsibilities include (but are not limited to):

- Track the academic and professional situations of women in Biblical Studies and related fields
- Create forums where possible for women members to discuss academic and professional issues and conditions
- Evaluate CSWP annual activities and impact on women in the Society
- Develop and consider alternative CSWP initiatives relevant to current issues affecting women in biblical scholarship
- Provide mentoring and networking opportunities
- Advocate for:
  - The development of programs and policies that support the full inclusion of women in the activities of SBL
  - Information-gathering regarding women's experiences within the academy at all career stages
  - Women biblical scholars in contexts beyond the Society
  - Developing policies and monitoring complaints of sexual harassment and ethical misconduct

## *CSWP Annual Meetings and Events*

The Status for Women in the Profession Committee conducts one annual meeting and two annual events, all of which occur at the SBL Annual Meeting in November. They are as follows:

- Committee Meeting
- Women Student Members Networking Session
- Women Members Breakfast

## *Calendar*

January – Annual Meeting debrief

- In mid-January, committee members follow-up via conference call, on items discussed at the Annual Meeting, and plan the year's annual events. New committee members are also welcomed and recognized at this time.

April – Annual Meeting site needs

- Meeting location changes for the CSWP meeting, Networking Session, and Women's Breakfast are due to the CSWP Staff Liaison or Global Conferences Director. AM site accommodations for each CSWP meeting/event are duplicated yearly. If changes are needed such as room size, seating, etc., requests should be submitted as early as possible.

May – mid-year conference call

- Annual Meeting programming details discussed (Networking Session participants, Women's breakfast agenda, etc.).
- Following the mid-year conference call, requested participants of Annual Meeting CSWP programs are contacted.

June – Mentor Award nominations due

- All nominations for the CSWP mentor award are due on June 1st

September – The Mentor Award recipient is determined

November – Annual Meeting

- The CSWP meeting, Networking Session, and Women's Breakfast occur at this time

## *CSWP Mentor Award*

Each year at the SBL Annual Meeting, CSWP honors women who have been excellent mentors to women in the field. These mentors have provided invaluable guidance, advice, and encouragement. They serve as role models and assist other women in navigating career choices, building professional networks, and developing strategies for work-life balance. CSWP honors mentors in order to recognize their contributions and to encourage mentoring relationships. Nominations should be submitted to the committee chair, and are to be received by June 1<sup>st</sup> annually. Nominations received following the deadline will be considered for the following year.

Criteria used in determining the Mentor Award is as follows:

- Mentor has exhibited regular participation in peer/mentor interactions
- Educates women in the field about tools and services addressing needs of peer
- Communicates with other professionals in biblical studies and related fields in order to provide peers with relevant up to date resources and activities