

August 15, 2003

TO: SSSP Board of Directors

FROM: Margaret Andersen, Chair, Editorial and Publications Committee

SUBJECT: Annual Report from Editorial and Publications Committee

***NOTE: Items requiring action by the Board of Directors indicated in bold***

I. The primary activity of the Editorial and Publications Committee in 2002-2003 was the development of the SSSP Presidential Series of books being published by Rowman and Littlefield. Margaret Andersen and Peter Conrad (former E&P Chair) coordinated this effort as “point persons” for the committee. Five books were accepted for the series, with three to be published in September 2003. A summary of the proposals received and their status is on the attached table. (Note that the Holstein proposal has been withdrawn.)

Proposals were generated by a letter circulated to all former SSSP presidents, past-vice presidents, and *Social Problems* editors, as per earlier agreement. Proposals were circulated to E&P committee members for review and recommendation on publication.

Alan McClare, the newly appointed editor at Rowman and Littlefield, met with the E&P Committee to discuss the series. There was considerable discussion of issues regarding production (in particular, the difficulty of producing electronic files for production and the cost of indexing). It was agreed that Margaret Andersen and Nancy Naples would serve as “point persons” for the series in the year ahead. This will include working out the best way to provide the electronic files needed for production (in accordance with the contract with Rowman and Littlefield). The E&P Committee will be soliciting proposals for volumes to be published in 2005 (proposals due February 1, 2004; manuscript turnover by December 1, 2004).

The Editorial and Publications Committee unanimously endorsed the following motion (4-0):

**That the SSSP Board of Directors broaden the eligibility for those who can propose a volume for the SSSP Presidential series to include all current members of SSSP.**

We offer the resolution in the spirit of an open and inclusive process where proposals are judged on their merits. Moreover, the E&P Committee is concerned that no further proposals have nee forthcoming from the small pool of currently eligible current and former SSSP presidents, nice-presidents, and *Social Problems* editors. Without more proposals, we fear for the vitality of the series.

Presuming that this resolution is accepted by the Board of Directors, the Editorial and Publications Committee will promptly announce a call for new proposals and will review

proposals in accordance with the guidelines we developed at our August meeting. The guidelines include:

- a. a well-defined focus and coherence to the proposed volume;
- b. indication of the continuing significance of the topic for social analysis, action, and/or policy
- c. broad enough interest for significant course adoptions;
- d. accessibility to student readers;
- e. articulation of plans for an introductory essay and/or introduction to sections
- f. length in accordance with Rowman and Littlefield guidelines

II. The E&P Committee elected Leon Anderson as the new chair. He gracefully agreed to serve and will spearhead the effort to find a new editor of *Social Problems* (appointment to be made at the August '04 annual meeting). All members of the E&P committee and the Board of Directors are reminded of the importance of encouraging good proposals from prospective editors. Leon Anderson will work with Michele Koontz to place the Call for Proposals in the appropriate outlets.

III. We agreed to sponsor a session at next year's meeting (co-sponsored with SWS and, hopefully, ABS) on "What It Takes to Edit a Journal." The idea is to mentor those who might be interested in such professional service and generate, in the long run, a larger pool of possible editorial candidates for various journals. Nancy Naples will coordinate this.

IV. We approved a proposal from Steve Couch to cease publishing all SSSP reports in the paper copy of the Newsletter. All such reports will be available on the electronic version of the newsletter, but only Official Minutes of the Board of Directors, the Annual Business Meeting, the annual audit, and the SSSP budget will be included in the paper version. This does not require a change in the SSSP By-Laws because they do not specify the form of the newsletter in which such reports are required. This change will result in considerable financial savings to the association because of reduced printing and mailing costs. This discussion generated a discussion about the advisability of publishing the newsletter only in electronic form, but it was decided that this was not wise at this time.

V. The Editorial and Publications Committee is also pleased that *Social Problems* will soon be available via JSTOR. As of now, JSTOR's administrators are still receiving back issues from the scanning department, but they anticipate that the full set of back issues will be digitized by November 2003. The E&P Committee discussed ways to announce the availability of JSTOR to SSSP members and suggests that an announcement be placed in SSSP Forum, *Social Problems*, and electronically posted to all SSSP members.

VI. Prior to the Annual Meeting, the Editorial and Publications committee approved a change in format for references in *Social Problems* to make it easier for the editors and for authors. Those on the committee required to do so also endorsed renewing the contract with the University of California Press for *Social Problems*.

VII. New Business:

The Committee agreed to consider (in the year ahead) a recommendation to revise the SSSP By-Laws to allow more flexibility in the length of term held by the *Social Problems* editor. Current policy only allows for renewal of a full three-year term; yet, we can imagine circumstances in which SSSP might want to renew an editor for a fourth or fifth year only. In the year ahead, we will review the policies of other journals on this matter and expect to make a recommendation about this following next year's committee meeting.

Submitted by,

Margaret L. Andersen  
Chair, Editorial and Publications Committee  
(2002-2003)

In attendance at meeting of Editorial and Publications Committee (August 15, 2003):

Margaret Andersen, Chair  
Leon Anderson  
Kimberly Cook  
Nancy Naples  
Steve Couch  
Jim Holstein  
Tom Hood  
Michele Koontz