

Minutes of the SSSP Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, August 9, 2006, Montréal, Québec, Canada

The meeting was called to order by President Claire M. Renzetti.

Those present introduced themselves: Claire Renzetti, President, Valerie Jenness, President-Elect, Gary Alan Fine, Past-President, Kim Cook, Vice President, Keith Kilty, Vice President-Elect, Susan Carlson, Treasurer, JoAnn Miller, Secretary, Kathy Lowney, Wendy Simonds, Tracy Dietz, and Donald Cunnigen, Board of Directors; Luis Fernandez and Naomi Nichols, Student Members, Board of Directors; Thomas C. Hood, Executive Officer, Michele Smith Koontz, Administrative Officer and Meeting Manager; Carrie Yang Costello, Chair, Council of Special Problems Divisions Chairpersons; David Rudy, Chair, Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee; Amy Wharton, Editor, *Social Problems*, Nancy Jurik and Joel Best, Permanent Organization and Strategic Planning Committee; Rebecca Simon and Rebekah Darksmith, University of California Press; Yesim Bayar, Chair, Local Arrangements Committee; Phoebe Morgan and James Gruber, Program Committee Co-Chairpersons

The Agenda was accepted as presented.

Tom Hood announced the results of the 2006 General Election, as printed in the Summer 2006 issue of SOCIAL PROBLEMS FORUM: Nancy Naples, President-Elect; Carrie Yang Costello, Vice President-Elect; JoAnn Miller, Secretary; David Rudy, Treasurer; John Galliher, Michelle Yvonne Janning, and Carolyn Perrucci, Board of Directors; Naomi Nichols, Student Representative, Board of Directors; Frances G. Pestello, Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee; José A. Cobas and Elizabeth Ettorre, Committee on Committees; James Holstein and Suzanne Vaughan, Editorial and Publications Committee. The Bylaws Amendments were approved.

The minutes of the Board Meetings were approved. Gary Alan Fine requested that the minutes be printed with the Board of Directors materials.

JoAnn Miller and Carrie Yang Costello were named to represent the Board on the Nominations Committee.

James Gruber and Phoebe Morgan presented the report of the Program Committee. Four issues were discussed: (a) Should money be set aside to fund non-academic speakers or should an effort be made to collaborate with ASA to co-sponsor invited speakers? (b) Should a program committee member be designated to organize co-sponsored speakers and events with ASA, SWS, and ABS? (c) Program Committees need to recognize and be sensitive to cultural differences when international scholars present abstracts to SSSP; (d) A large number of orphan papers were submitted, perhaps due to the online submission process. The report was received with thanks.

Kim Cook suggested that more workshops should be organized for young scholars. The Speed Mentoring Program, new this year, is designed to give new members and young scholars the unique advice they may need regarding the job market, publishing, and so forth.

Yesim Bayar presented the report from the Local Arrangements Committee. She noted that holding the meetings in Canada presented the Committee with the additional challenge of determining appropriate travel arrangements. The report was received with thanks.

Michele Smith Koontz presented her Meeting Manager's Report. A total of 591 persons pre registered; approximately 60% are professionals and 40% are students. "Midnight Madness" is a new feature to the program this year. On Thursday and Friday, films will be shown following the regularly scheduled events. A total of 42 guests registered this year. It is important that "guests" are guests of attendees and not co-presenters who need to register for the meeting.

Michele recommends the purchase of an additional LCD projector, noting that hotels will still charge for equipment. The book exhibit is at no cost to SSSP. Michele noted that Mary Walker has been an exceptional asset, as a grad assistant, to SSSP this year and she is pleased that Mary will return next year. The University of California Press and the University of Dayton made generous contributions that support the program. Carrie Yang Costello designed the logo for the bags and the programs. The report was received with thanks.

Nancy Jurik reported on the site visit made to the Executive Office by her, Gabriel Aquino, and Judi Caron Sheppard. Nancy reports that all is going well and Tom Hood will continue in his position through 2009. Her committee recommends: (1) Handbook revisions; (2) Salary increases for Tom Hood, Michele Koontz, and Mary Walker; (3) A renewal of the University of Tennessee Contract with SSSP; (4) additional funds for the Sociology Department; and (5) The adoption of procedures for a smooth transition when Tom Hood steps down.

Nancy Jurik discussed some of the changes made to the Operations Manual, most of which were intended to clarify the language in the manual.

MOTION: THAT THE CHANGES IN THE OPERATIONS MANUAL BE APPROVED.  
SECONDED. PASSED.

Rebecca Simon reported on the finances of *Social Problems*. They are projecting a net return to SSSP of \$161,056.

Rebekah Darksmith reported on *Social Problems* marketing strategies. She noted that article downloads increased, and part of the increase is likely a result of Google searches. Institutional subscriptions, comparing 2005 to 2004 volumes, eroded slightly. Libraries that cancel subscriptions are surveyed. The Community College campaign was not highly successful. Thus, Ms. Darksmith will pursue consortia of community colleges on the premise that more funds are available through consortia to purchase subscriptions.

Valerie Jenness suggested that SSSP could get academic knowledge to public policy type of organizations by sending topical areas published by *Social Problems*. Tracy Dietz asked about targeting subscriptions to graduate departments in the social science disciplines. Rebecca Simon noted that current strategy is moving from 'ownership' to 'access' of materials in many universities.

Susan Carlson presented the Treasurer's Report. She noted that a 1998 auditing error related to press fees for *Social Problems* that, in conjunction with the required penalty paid to the Stanford Court Hotel, resulted in a decrease in net assets. As a consequence Domini Social Equity Fund shares were redeemed. At the May BFA meeting, the committee decided to move the balance of the Domini funds and the Lee Founders account to a more balanced mutual fund (the Parnassus Equity Income Fund). The society's income from membership dues continues to increase.

Susan Carlson reported that the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee recommends acceptance of the Auditor's Report.

Susan Carlson reports that BFA recommends two strategies for increasing revenue: (1) increase institutional subscription rates for *Social Problems*, and (2) increase membership dues. BFA recommends \$175 for the 2008 volume.

**MOTION: THAT THE INSTITUTIONAL SUBSCRIPTION RATE FOR THE 2008 VOLUME OF *SOCIAL PROBLEMS* BE INCREASED TO \$175. SECONDED. PASSED.**

David Rudy reported that BFA will recommend a membership increase. The issue will be introduced in the spring issue of *Social Problems Forum*. Tom Hood noted that the Bylaws require a five percent of membership quorum is needed to take action at a Business Meeting. David Rudy also reported that BFA recommended to accept the Auditor's Report.

The proposed revised 2006 budget was discussed.

**MOTION: THAT THE REVISED BUDGET BE ACCEPTED. SECONDED. PASSED.**

Susan Carlson was thanked for her years of service. She will continue to advise on investments in an informal capacity.

Joel Best discussed the procedures for selecting the Executive Officer for SSSP. This is a three year process that begins with a letter of invitation to all members of SSSP. Those who express an interest need to include a statement of vision for SSSP.

Tom Hood presented the Report from the Executive Officer. He focused on three issues: (1) the possibility of creating an awards committee; (2) electronic ballots for the Special Problems Divisions and General Election; and (3) the creation of a Special Problems Divisions booklet.

**MOTION: THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AN AWARDS COMMITTEE BE REFERRED TO THE PERMANENT ORGANIZATION AND STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE. SECONDED. PASSED.**

**MOTION: THAT THE BYLAWS COMMITTEE BE CHARGED TO WRITE AN AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS THAT WILL ENABLE ELECTRONIC BALLOTS FOR THE SPECIAL PROBLEMS DIVISIONS AND GENERAL ELECTION. SECONDED. PASSED.**

MOTION: THAT THE COUNCIL OF DIVISION CHAIRS WILL HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ARRANGING CHAPTERS AND RECRUITING AN EDITOR TO PREPARE A BOOKLET THAT WILL BE POSTED ON THE SSSP WEB SITE. SECONDED. PASSED.

Amy Wharton presented the *Social Problems* Editor's Report. She thanked the editorial office and noted that the typesetter transition went smoothly. The editorial office operated under budget. A total of 343 manuscripts were submitted. On average nearly four reviewers considered each paper. One change, which cuts costs, is electronic processing of manuscripts. The one exception to the electronic process is the Editor's decision letter. The acceptance rate is 9.7 percent.

Claire Renzetti and Keith Kilty discussed unfinished business from 2006. The key question, should SSSP meet apart from ASA along with allied organizations, was asked of 13 groups. All told there is no overwhelming interest in meeting apart from ASA.

Claire Renzetti also discussed the need to make decisions about the 2009 meetings.

MOTION: THAT TOM HOOD AND MICHELE KOONTZ BE AUTHORIZED TO EXPLORE SITES, INCLUDING THE STANFORD COURT HOTEL, FOR THE 2009 MEETINGS THAT WILL BE HELD IN SAN FRANCISCO. SECONDED. PASSED.

The meeting was adjourned.