

August 15, 2004

To: SSSP Board of Directors

From: Leon Anderson, 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 Editorial and Publications Committee had two primary activities during 2003-04: review of proposals for anthologies in the SSSP Presidential Series and recruitment and evaluation of candidates for the next editor of *Social Problems*.

A. Presidential Series anthologies. This year, based on policy change authorized by the Board of Directors' at the 2003 meetings, the eligibility for those who could propose a volume for the Presidential Series (published by Rowman and Littlefield) was broadened to include all current SSSP members. This year, under the conscientious guidance of Nancy Naples, six new proposals were reviewed and approved by the Committee. Two previously approved anthologies were published during the year by the press, bringing the total number to five anthologies.

At the Committee meeting Alan McClare, Executive Editor for Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, presented figures indicating disappointing sales of the Series anthologies to date, describing it as "what publishers call a disaster." None of the Series anthologies has yet reached a "break even" sales point (approximately 750-1,000 books), let alone yielded a profit. (Largest sales for any volume to date is 300 copies.) Rowman and Littlefield has decided to not publish any more volumes in this series until at least some of the current volumes turn a profit.

The Committee recognized two significant problems with the Series. First, the Series anthologies are limited because anthologized articles must come exclusively from articles published in *Social Problems*. Second, there has been no market analysis prior to publication of volumes. The Committee has expected market analysis to be conducted by the publisher, while the publisher has assumed that Editorial Committee approval of proposals indicated a viable market for the volumes. The publisher intends to do a marketing survey regarding current volumes between now and the end of the year. The results from this survey should help clarify the future visibility of this series.

In the meantime, the Chair of the Editorial and Publications Committee will inform those with proposals currently approved by the Committee that the press has put a hold on publication of new volumes.

If the press decides to return to publication of volumes in the series, the Committee will revise its requested proposal information to ask proposers for market information (e.g., information on competing books, classroom demand, etc.).

A copy of Nancy Naples' Presidential Series update and of the royalties statement submitted by Rowman and Littlefield Publishers are included as appended material.

B. Recruitment and evaluation of candidates for the next editor of *Social Problems*. This year the Editorial and Publications Committee solicited proposals for the next editor of *Social Problems*. Letters of initial interest were received from several candidates, while two candidates ultimately decided to pursue the editorship. Each submitted a full proposal and provided additional materials as requested by Committee members during the recruitment and evaluation process. The Committee interviewed both candidates, Amy Wharton (Washington State University) and Ray Michalowski (Northern Arizona University) at the committee's Friday meeting. The Committee felt that both candidates had strong qualifications for the position.

Based on an evaluation of proposals, supplemental materials, and personal interviews, the Committee unanimously recommends Amy Wharton as the next editor of the journal.

**The Board is responsible for the final decision regarding selection of the next editor of Social Problems, and it is the Editorial and Publications Committee's recommendation that the Board select Amy Wharton for the position.**

II. The Committee selected Nancy Naples as the 2004-05 Committee Chair.

III. New Business.

A. At the Committee meeting, the SSSP Newsletter Editor, Stephen Couch, announced that he intends to step down from that position at the end of the coming year, following two three year terms in the position. The Committee acknowledges his long-term service to the SSSP in this position. The Committee will review the By-Laws and consult with Tom Hood and Michele Koontz to determine the appropriate procedures for recruitment and selection of the next SSSP Newsletter editor.

B. Committee members offered a set of individuals to propose as potential nominations for new members of the Committee. Leon Anderson was charged with bringing those names to the Nominating Committee.

IV. Unaddressed Business. Only in preparing this report did I realize that the Committee has not addressed the issue of "a recommendation to revise the SSSP By-Laws to allow more flexibility in the length of term held by the Social Problems editor. Since this is not an issue of imminent concern, it can be addressed by the Committee at an appropriate time in the future.

Submitted by,

Leon Anderson  
Chair, Editorial & Publications Committee  
(2003-04)

In attendance at the meeting of the Editorial and Publications Committee (August 13, 2004):

Committee Members:

Leon Anderson, Committee Chair

Margaret Andersen

Wendy Chapkis

Kimberly Cook, Budget and Finance Committee Representative

Stephen Couch, Editor, *Social Problems Forum: SSSP Newsletter*

Jim Holstein, Editor, *Social*

Pat Martin

Nancy Naples

Guests:

Raymond Michalowski, editorial candidate

Amy Wharton, editorial candidate

Alan McClare, Executive Editor, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers