

Memorandum

TO: Board of Directors  
Society for the Study of Social Problems

FROM: Julie Cowgill, Chair  
Standards and Freedom of Research, Publication, and Teaching Committee

RE: 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Report, 2003-2004

The Standards and Freedom of Research, Publication and Teaching Committee has been an inactive committee in recent years. Although a standing committee, the Standards committee is active only when issues are brought forth by concerned faculty. Given the long term inactivity of the committee, we believe that it might be beneficial for the board to revisit the nature of the committee and offer clarification of the committee's functions.

We believe that the committee might better SSSP by expanding its responsibilities. We have identified some supportive functions that the Standards Committee might perform given Board approval. Our suggestions include:

- Identifying issues concerning research, publication and teaching that are salient to SSSP membership. The committee might devise a survey that would be submitted to the general membership and present the results at a future meeting.
- Conducting a workshop for graduate students on the rights and expectations of new faculty.
- Articulating the committee's functions and publicizing the committee in SSSP publications.
- Offering "brainstorming" sessions at annual meetings to discuss emerging issues in research, publication, teaching.

Thank you for your consideration.