

Minutes of the SSSP Board of Directors Meeting  
Thursday, August 11, 2005, Philadelphia, PA

The meeting was called to order by President Gary Alan Fine.

Those present were introduced: Gary Alan Fine, President; Claire Renzetti, President-Elect; Kathleen Ferraro, Past President; Martha Hargraves, Vice President; JoAnn Miller, Secretary; Susan M. Carlson, Treasurer; Kathe Lowney, Paul Luken, Wendy Simonds, A. Javier Trevino, and Amy Wharton, Board Members; Aimee Van Wagenen and Luis Fernandez, Student Members, Board of Directors; Thomas C. Hood, Executive Officer, Michele Smith Koontz, Administrative Officer; James A. Holstein, Editor, SOCIAL PROBLEMS; Stephen Couch, Editor, SOCIAL PROBLEMS FORUM: THE SSSP NEWSLETTER, Carrie Yang Costello, Chair, Council of Special Problems Division Chairpersons; Tim Diamond and PJ McGann, Program Committee; David Rudy and Bruce Johnson, Budget, Finance and Audit Committee; Kimberly J. Cook, Vice President Elect and Long Range Planning Committee; Rebekah Darksmith, University of California Press.

The Agenda was accepted as presented.

Tom Hood announced the results of the 2005 General Election, as printed in the Summer (Volume 36, No. 2) 2005 SOCIAL PROBLEMS FORUM: Valerie Jenness, President Elect; Keith M. Kilty, Vice President Elect; JoAnn Miller, Secretary; Susan M. Carlson, Treasurer; Donald Cunnigen and Tracy L. Dietz, Board of Directors; Ingar P. Johnson, Student Member, Board of Directors; Gray Cavender, Budget, Finance and Audit Committee; Beth Mintz and Stephani A. Williams, Committee on Committees; Peter J. Kivisto and A. Javier Trevino, Editorial and Publications Committee.

The minutes of the Board Meeting of August 15, 2004 were approved.

Paul Luken was named to serve on the Nominations Committee.

Claire Renzetti, Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee, reviewed and highlighted her written report. It was discussed and accepted with thanks to the Committee (Raquel Kennedy Bergen and Shana Maier, Committee Members).

Michele Koontz reviewed and highlighted her written report of the meeting management. As of August 11, 593 meeting attendees pre-registered and 39 guests registered. SSSP exceeded the contract for sleeping rooms. The room pickup, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, was 984 rooms on July 29. SSSP will not have to pay for meeting room rental. SSSP took proactive steps toward achieving its goal of making the meeting fully accessible to all its members. An accessible sleeping room was arranged and a number of sessions were tape recorded. Mental Health Resources, the book exhibitor, has arranged to donate 10% of sales revenue generated at the conference to SSSP. In addition it donated one display copy of each of the C. Wright Mills Finalists for the SSSP AIDS Fundraiser. Two LCD projectors were rented at a discount of 50% with the in-house audio visual

company. The Department of Sociology and the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences of Northwestern University made financial contributions to the reception honoring past presidents. A total of 180 banquet tickets were sold. The Lee Student Support Fund Committee, chaired by Joya Misra, coordinated the meeting mentor program. A total of 44 attendees requested a mentor and 24 attendees volunteered to serve as mentors. The University of California Press contributed \$1,500 toward registration bags. Michele thanked all those with whom she worked for the meeting and the board for the opportunity to serve as meeting manager. The report was received with thanks.

Tom Hood highlighted some sections of his written report, the Annual Report of the Executive Officer, 2005. He congratulated Denise Knight for her excellent work as the Graduate Associate for SSSP and he welcomed Mary Walker, the new Graduate Associate. The web site has been redesigned with the assistance of Avera Media Corporation. The Executive Office operated under the budgeted amount by \$6,000, and SSSP, based on the report from the Budget, Finance and Audit Committee finished 2004 without problems. Tom suggested that the board consider establishing a SSSP Foundation to ensure support for the aims of the Society beyond the present generation of members. He discussed how SSSP may be affected by ASA's decision to move its 2006 meeting location from San Francisco. He said that the AGENDA FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE project was an important step toward speaking to groups outside our community of scholars and urged SSSP to consider other projects.

Tim Diamond distributed the Final Committee Report from the Program Committee. He and PJ McGann (Co-Chairs) recommend future program committees to consider: (1) web submissions and submission cover sheets; (2) a policy and procedure for handling dual submissions; (3) a formal procedure for organizers requesting additional sessions; (4) providing more information to the Special Division Chairs; (5) discouraging direct submissions to the program committee; (6) continuing the encouragement of innovative scholarship and presentation formats; and (7) the creation and distribution of a calendar of dates and deadlines. The report was received with thanks.

Rebekah Darksmith presented the SOCIAL PROBLEMS Marketing and Circulation Report. She highlighted marketing campaigns, including a Community College Outreach strategy for increasing subscriptions and the exhibits at key academic meetings. She also noted that the SOCIAL PROBLEMS Impact Factor Score (1.778), as reported by the Social Science Citation Index, ranks the journal fourth among all sociology journals.

Susan M. Carlson, Treasurer, presented the financial condition of SSSP to the board. She noted that the condition is very good. As of December 31, 2004, the Society had total assets of \$478,002. This represents an increase of \$39,985, primarily due an unrealized paper gain on investments. Revenue from membership dues increased by \$8,838 between 2003 and 2004. Membership retention, however, continues to be a problem. The annual audit was clean.

Bruce Johnson presented the 2005 amended and revised budget. Because the Society's expenses are \$11,000 less than projected last year the deficit projection is less. The June

30, 2005 statement of assets and liabilities indicated that investments, saving, and other assets totaled \$632,936.12. Discussion focused on increasing student meeting registration fees and establishing a SSSP Foundation.

MOTION: THAT AN AD HOC COMMITTEE BE ESTABLISHED TO DETERMINE IF A SSSP FOUNDATION SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED; THAT THE PURPOSE AND GOALS OF SUCH A FOUNDATION BE CLEARLY IDENTIFIED; THAT THE AD HOC COMMITTEE SEEK ADVICE FROM THE BUDGET, FINANCE, AND AUDIT COMMITTEE; THAT THE AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE BOARD AT ITS NEXT MEETING. SECONDED. PASSED.

MOTION: THAT THE 2005 AMENDED BUDGET BE APPROVED. SECONDED. PASSED.

MOTION: THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE THE AUDIT REPORT. SECONDED. PASSED.

James Holstein summarized and highlighted the 2004-2005 Annual Editor's Report for SOCIAL PROBLEMS. The total number of submissions for the calendar year 2004 was 351. The acceptance rate was 8.8 percent. The editorial office worked on three special sections: "Residential Segregation in the Post Civil Rights Era," "Language, Interaction, and Social Problems," and "Institutional Ethnography." The transition of the editorial office to Washington State University (Amy Wharton, Editor) is proceeding smoothly. James Holstein, outgoing editor, expressed gratitude to Michele Koontz, Leon Anderson, Patricia Yancey Martin, and Margaret Anderson. The report was received with thanks.

Stephen Couch summarized the annual report from the editor of SOCIAL PROBLEMS FORUM: THE SSSP NEWSLETTER. The report was received with thanks.

Kimberly J. Cook presented the report of the Ad Hoc Long Range Planning Committee. The report summarized the Committee's prior recommendations. Topics discussed in 2005 included the location for the 2006 annual meeting; the culture of racism with SSSP, and membership issues. The report was received with thanks.

MOTION: THAT THE AD HOC LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE BE RE-AUTHORIZED FOR ONE YEAR; THAT THE COMMITTEE MEET DURING THE ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE; THAT THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PAY THEIR OWN COSTS (EXCEPT FOR THE STUDENT MEMBERS, SSSP WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THEM). SECONDED. PASSED.

There was no unfinished business from 2005 to consider.

President Gary Alan Fine introduced new business: the uncertain location of ASA 2006 meetings and how that will affect SSSP. Tom Hood reported on a meeting he had with Janet Astner, the annual meeting planner for ASA. Michele Koontz reported on the consequences of canceling the current SSSP contract in San Francisco and the difficulty

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of negotiating a contract for 2006. Claire Renzetti noted the importance of considering numerous contingencies and options. Gary Alan Fine summarized four shared sentiments expressed by the Board: (1) SSSP should try to get a hotel contract in the ASA city for 2006; (2) before 9/15/2005 SSSP needs to decide if the San Francisco contract will be canceled; (3) SSSP needs to prepare for contingencies; and (4) SSSP needs to discuss long term and future issues that are associated with the location of its annual meetings.

The meeting was adjourned.