

Minutes of the SSSP Board of Directors Meeting
Friday, August 12, 2005, Philadelphia, PA

President Gary Alan Fine called the meeting to order.

Persons 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, 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; Stephen Couch, Editor, SOCIAL PROBLEMS FORUM: THE SSSP NEWSLETTER, Carrie Yang Costello, Chair, Council of Special Problems Division Chairpersons; Frances G. Pestello, Chair, Membership Committee; Joel Best, Permanent Organization and Strategic Planning Committee; Roland Chilton, Chair, Standards and Freedom of Research, Publication, and Teaching Committee; Robert Perrucci, Chair, Ad Hoc Justice 21 Committee.

The agenda was amended to discuss the Permanent Organization and Strategic Planning Committee report as the first item of business. The amended agenda was accepted.

Joel Best summarized and highlighted the written report from the Permanent Organization and Strategic Planning Committee. The Committee makes four recommendations to the Board: It recommends that the Board send a letter to the University of Tennessee to thank the University for maintaining the SSSP Executive Office. It recommends that SSSP assure representation of race and ethnic group minorities on committees and among elected officers. Further it recommends that a race and ethnicity question be included on the SSSP membership form. To prepare for the biannual site visit, scheduled for Spring 2006, the Committee recommends that a detailed job description be prepared that can be used in future recruitment for an Executive Officer.

MOTION: THAT THE SSSP MEMBERSHIP FORM INCLUDE A QUESTION ON RACE AND ETHNICITY. SECONDED. PASSED.

Discussion followed to identify the best wording for the race and ethnicity question. Martha Hargraves suggested that a preface to the question be included, to explain the purpose of the question, and to remind members that their responses are voluntary.

Michele Koontz summarized and highlighted sections of the Accessibility Committee report.

Wendy Simonds, Chair, presented the 2004-05 C. Wright Mills Award Committee report. She thanked the committee members for their work and acknowledged the eight finalists. The Committee announced the winner, Mario Luis Small, VILLA VICTORIA: THE TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIAL CAPITAL IN A BOSTON BARRIO, noting "This excellent ethnographic study definitely fulfills the goals a Mills award winner should: it

critically addresses an issue of contemporary public importance; it brings to the topic a fresh, imaginative perspective; is theoretically sophisticated; beautifully written; and has policy implications.” The Board thanked the Committee for its work.

Michele Koontz presented the Smigel Committee Report and noted that \$500 was awarded to Nancy Balazadeh. Discussion followed on how SSSP could encourage more applications. Michele Koontz noted that the announcement, in addition to going out with all other SSSP announcements, could be emailed to unemployed members.

The Lee Founders Award Committee report was presented by Gary Alan Fine. Robert Perrucci is the recipient of the award.

Michele Koontz presented the Lee Scholar-Activist Committee report. She noted that five scholars received awards, ranging from \$450 to \$1,300.

Michele Koontz presented the Lee Student Support Fund Committee’s report. A total of 25 students received approximately \$250 each toward their travel costs. The Committee received 39 requests for mentoring and 20 members volunteered to be mentors.

Frances Pestello, Chair of the Membership Committee, presented a report to the Board. As of June 2005, SSSP membership is up by approximately 2.5 percent. The largest membership category is student member. The three special divisions with the largest number of members are Poverty, Class and Inequality; Racial and Ethnic Minorities; and Crime and Juvenile Delinquency. The Committee focused on two projects: Using email to do the initial recruitment for renewing members and targeting a recruitment drive. Thanks were expressed to Frances Pestello and the committee members.

Michele Koontz presented the report from the Racial/Ethnic Scholarship Award Committee. The Committee recommends that a set of Frequently Asked Questions be included with announcements of the award that appear in newsletters or on web pages. The Committee reviewed a total of 27 applications and achieved strong agreement in making the 2005 award to Robert John Duran, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Colorado-Boulder. The Committee also notes that another candidate received strong support. Discussion followed regarding the possibility of making two awards in future years.

Michele Koontz presented the report from the Social Action Award Committee. This year’s recipient is the Alliance for a Clean Environment. The Committee made four recommendations regarding recruiting candidates and selecting award winners.

Roland Chilton presented the Report from the Standards and Freedom of Research, Publication, and Teaching Committee. The Committee recommends that the Board affirm SSSP’s commitment to the principles of academic freedom and civil liberties generally, by affirming the AAUP (2005) position that states: “In the United States, neither teachers nor students are responsible to the government for the content of their teaching or learning.”

MOTION: THAT THE SSSP BOARD OF DIRECTORS ENDORSE THE PROPOSAL FROM THE STANDARDS AND FREEDOM OF RESEARCH, PUBLICATION, AND TEACHING COMMITTEE TO ENDORSE THE 1940 AAUP STATEMENT, AS IT HAS BEEN AMENDED, ON THE PRINCIPLES OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM. SECONDED. PASSED.

Discussion followed. Next year's Program Committee is encouraged to schedule a session on the issues relevant to academic freedom.

Robert Perrucci summarized the report from the Ad Hoc Justice 21 Committee. The Committee met and decided to use the 2006 meetings to encourage more participation in the ongoing project. It will approach special division chairs, prepare sample press releases, and work on developing strategies to distribute the next report.

Carrie Yang Costello summarized concerns expressed by Chairs of the Special Divisions. Division Chairs continue to request an annual calendar to help them meet deadlines in preparing for the Annual Meeting. (Note from Executive Office, a monthly calendar is available in the Roles and Responsibilities of Division Chairs distributed annually to Division Chairs.) Further, there appears to be little rationalization for budget requests. The Board expressed thanks for the report.

Unfinished business from 2005 was discussed. Concern was expressed for race and ethnic group insensitivity that was communicated at the 2004 Awards Banquet.

MOTION: THE BOARD CONCURS WITH THE LANGUAGE OF A RESOLUTION THAT WILL BE INTRODUCED AT THE BUSINESS MEETING TO THE FULL MEMBERSHIP EXPRESSING REGRETS ON BEHALF OF SSSP. IT REAFFIRMS ITS COMMITMENT TO ADDRESSING PROBLEMS OF RACISM. SECOND. PASSED.

The meeting was adjourned.