

August 12, 2006  
2006 – 2007 Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes of the SSSP Board of Directors Meeting  
Saturday, August 12, 2006, Montréal, Québec, Canada

President Val Jenness called the meeting to order. People were asked to tell something interesting about themselves. They did.

The following persons were present: Amy Wharton, Ken Kyle, Tracy Dietz, Carolyn Perrucci, Naomi Nichols, Carrie Yang Costello, Michelle Janning, Michele Smith Koontz, Wendy Simonds, Donald Cunnigen, John Galliher, Valerie Jenness, David Rudy, Keith Kilty, Nancy Naples, Claire Renzetti, and Tom Hood. The following people attended the meeting to give reports: Marino Bruce, James Orcutt, and Nancy Mezey.

JoAnn Miller was unable to attend the meeting and asked Tom Hood to take the minutes in her place. The Board approved this action by common consent.

The printed agenda and related documents were circulated. Val called for additions to the agenda. Three items were added. Two items were added to the end of the agenda. Val asked that time to discuss a response to the call in Claire Renzetti's Presidential Address be added. David Rudy asked that time for a report from the Committee on Establishing a SSSP Foundation be added. The revised agenda was approved.

The Board considered nominations for the positions of Secretary and Treasurer: JoAnn Miller was nominated for the position of Secretary; David Rudy was nominated for the position of Treasurer. These nominations were approved without dissent.

Claire Renzetti gave the report of the Long Range Planning Committee. She gave background on the first recommendation of the Long Range Planning Committee. The change in the Executive Officer is considered an opportune moment to think about the purpose and mission of SSSP. Donald Cunnigen added that the retreat might be devoted to thinking through the changing role of the Executive Officer in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Claire noted that the Long Range Planning Committee appreciated the clarity of the replacement steps and the recommended addition to the proposal from the Permanent Organization and Strategic Planning Committee.

Multiple reasons for a retreat and the possible mechanics of a retreat were discussed with an emphasis on whether the current formally stated vision of the SSSP needs to be reconsidered and whether the Executive Officer will have a different role in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The idea of having the retreat a day before the Board meets at the next annual meeting was discussed. Nancy Naples suggested that discussing how to ensure the mission of the SSSP is actually implemented is as important as knowing what the mission is.

The Long Range Planning Committee offered the following motion:

We recommend that the Board of Directors hold a retreat with a facilitator, including all members of Permanent Organization and Strategic Planning Committee and as many committee chairs and division chairs as is financially feasible, to discuss/develop our collective vision for the future on the basis of our history and professional identity so that we can move into the future with clearly articulated goals. MOTION CARRIED.

We interrupted the report of the Long Range Planning Committee to hear the report of the Editorial and Publications Committee by James Orcutt, Chair. He summarized his written report. Jim noted the good news is that the number of citations of *Social Problems* articles ranks the journal as #5 this year among sociology journals. The Editorial and Publications Committee discussed converting all journal content to a digital format. They have requested an estimate from UC Press for this service. The long-term relationship with UC Press has been very good. However, the committee recommended seeking bids from other presses for the contract. Our current contract ends December 31, 2009 but we must notify UC Press of our intent not to renew or to make modifications by July 1, 2008. This means that seeking alternative bids should begin in early 2007. The two previous bid committees have been the Editorial and Publications Committee Chair, the Treasurer and the Executive Officer. In addition the Editorial and Publications Committee is beginning the search for the next Editor of *Social Problems*. They will launch this process this fall.

The Editorial and Publications Committee responded to a recommendation of the Budget, Finance and Audit Committee by raising THE PUBLICATION processing fee for non-members to \$100. The processing fee will remain \$50 for an article to members. Non-members will be invited to join the Society in order to avoid paying the nonmember fee. The Board approved this recommendation from the committee. After this change is published in the journal and announced in other places, every new submission will be expected to come under this rule.

President Jenness asked if other Board members had experience dealing with the type of negotiations that accompany writing a contract with the journal. Claire Renzetti indicated that she had been involved in such negotiations. The Board approved adding Claire Renzetti to the bid committee. The Editorial and Publications Committee Chair will chair the committee. Other members will be the Treasurer and the Executive Officer.

The Board would like to know about the firm in India that copy edits *Social Problems* for UC Press. Jim indicated that the Editorial and Publications Committee would seek such information from the Press.

The Board returned to discussion of the timing of the retreat and the financing of attendance at the meeting. Such a retreat will be held Wednesday, August 8, 2007. SSSP will cover hotel costs for those whose institution will not cover the cost of attending the retreat.

A motion was offered to amend the action taken on the previous motion concerning the retreat. The persons invited to the retreat will be limited to Board members and to members of the Permanent Organization and Strategic Planning Committee. These persons should consult with as many committee chairs and division chairs as possible. Motion carried without dissent.

A committee was appointed to plan the retreat. Nancy Naples, President-Elect will serve as chair. The other members of the committee are Claire Renzetti and Donald Cunnigen. The retreat will be held on August 8, 2007. Michele Koontz was asked to secure a room for the entire day for the retreat. The working budget for the retreat including facilitator charges and underwriting of attendance of those invited that cannot obtain institutional support will be \$20,000. The Board of Directors without dissent approved these actions.

President Val Jenness noted that some sessions are very poorly attended. She solicited comments. One comment is to cut down on the number of competing sessions. We need to come up with creative programming ideas. Ask each person who is presenting to invite someone to come to the presentation. Another comment pointed out that scholarly solidarity in the division should increase attendance. Institutional Ethnography is a case in point. Their sessions have been very well attended at these meetings.

We turned to the report of the Council on Special Problems Divisions on Nominations:

The President-Elect nomination list was discussed and an ordered list of eleven potential candidates was approved.

The Vice-President Elect nomination list was discussed and an ordered list of eight potential candidates was approved.

The Board of Directors nomination list was discussed and an ordered list of ten candidates was approved.

The Student Representative to the Board of Directors nomination list was discussed and an ordered list of six candidates was approved.

The Budget, Finance and Audit Committee nomination list was discussed and an ordered list of five candidates was approved.

The Committee on Committees nomination list was discussed and an ordered list of twelve candidates was approved.

The Editorial and Publications Committee nominations list was discussed and an ordered list of twelve candidates was approved.

Marino Bruce presented the 2007 budget to the Board. He called attention to the annual meeting contribution line and noted that this varies depending on what contributions and grants can be secured to support the activities at the Annual Meeting. In 2007 the charge

to members for the awards banquet at the Annual Meeting will be at least \$50 and to achieve that figure may require subsidizing each banquet ticket by approximately \$30. The Budget, Finance and Audit Committee has received a request from the Program Committee and renamed the line in the Annual Meeting Budget "Program Committee Expenses and Honoraria." This change reflects how the money is used. The Accessibility Committee has requested money to give an award and plan a program. The Lee Scholar-Activist Support Fund carryover line reflects money returned from foreign scholars who were not able to obtain permission to attend the annual meeting this year. Marino noted that the committee is exploring the possibility of saving money by going to an online version of the preliminary program for the annual meeting. The committee is not suggesting that this be done in 2007 but will discuss the cost of any additional software needed at the May meeting. Assuming that these costs are not prohibitive, the committee expects to go to an online preliminary program distribution in 2008.

It was moved and seconded that the budget be approved as presented. The budget was approved as presented. The Board approved going to an electronic distribution of the preliminary program by no later than the 2008 Annual Meeting.

Naomi Nichols moved that the student members be allowed to create a listserv. The motion was seconded. After discussion, which included concerns that have been raised in the past, Naomi agreed to prepare a full proposal to forward to the board. This proposal will speak to the monitoring of the listserv and such things as guidelines on postings. Nancy Naples suggested checking the guidelines on the Women's Studies listserv.

The students in their discussion session welcomed increase dues and membership fees as long as it is not the same for everybody.

Sarah Damaske was approved to work with the Local Arrangements Committee in New York.

The Board reviewed the report of the Committee on Committees as presented by Wendy Simonds. Kathryn Fox was added to the Membership Committee by extending her term one year. Wendy Simonds was asked to fill the remainder of A. Kathryn Stout's term on the committee and to serve as chair for 2006-07. She agreed and the Board approved. Donald Cunnigen moved that the report of the Committee on Committees be accepted. Motion seconded and passed.

A motion to approved revised report on procedures for selecting the Executive Officer for SSSP was seconded and passed.

The Board reviewed the Resolutions passed at the business meeting. They suggested that the Executive Office contact the Environment and Technology Division to learn to whom a copy of resolution #1 should be sent. All of the resolutions will be printed in the Newsletter and posted on the website. On resolution # 6 some discussion seemed to

conclude that leaders of the Canadian Parliament and of the U.S. Congress should receive copies of the resolution rather than all members of each of these bodies.

Michele Koontz reported on a request for space (two meeting rooms) at next year's meetings from the International Coalition Against Sexual Harassment. The request was voted on and approved without dissent.

Tom Hood presented and discussed briefly the \$50,000 bequest from Joseph Gittler. A committee should be appointed to prepare a report by the 2008 annual meeting. President Val Jenness plans to ask the following members to serve on the committee: Nancy Jurik, Luis Fernandez, Susan Carlson and Ken Kyle. The Board approved this committee and its charge.

David Rudy reported on the work of the committee exploring the establishment of a foundation to further the work of SSSP. The committee has corresponded, has met and is continuing its exploratory work.

Claire Renzetti led a discussion about the call in her Presidential Address. Carrie Yang Costello has been doing work in response to this, including plans to survey the members of SSSP. Details were not available. Pam Roby has been working at Santa Cruz on these issues; Claire and Pam will be in touch over the fall and will bring this information back to the Board. Val Jenness is contemplating inviting a special speaker to the meetings to speak on issues related to the hard work Claire called for in her address.

Meeting was adjourned at a little after 12 noon.

Respectfully submitted

Tom Hood  
Acting Secretary