

August 12, 2006

TO: SSSP Board of Directors

FROM: James Orcutt, Chair, Editorial and Publications (E&P) Committee

RE: 2005-2006 SSSP E&P Committee Report

The meeting of the 2005-2006 E&P Committee opened with the report of the Editor of *Social Problems*, Amy Wharton. Her editorial office appears to be running smoothly as indicated by prompt turn-around of editorial decisions and the publication of issues on schedule over the past year. In response to questions regarding the impact of the recent "out-sourcing" of typesetting to a firm in India, Dr. Wharton noted that the new typesetter has shortened the production time of the journal and seems to be working out well. The E&P Committee congratulated Dr. Wharton on a successful first year as Editor.

In his report to the Committee, *SSSP Newsletter* Editor, Ken Kyle, said that his editorial operation had produced three issues of the newsletter on time and within budget. He also noted that he has taken a new position with California State-East Bay, although he will continue to teach at Penn State-Harrisburg during the coming year. He anticipates no problems moving the editorial office to California and will keep the E&P Committee updated on the progress of this move. The Committee thanked Dr. Kyle for his successful efforts in producing interesting issues of the newsletter over the past year.

The reports of Rebecca Simon and Rebekah Darksmith for the University of California Press indicated that *Social Problems* continues to generate solid revenues for SSSP from sales, advertising, and reprint fees despite slight declines in subscriptions. In addition, the journal ranked fifth in the ISI citation impact index among all sociology journals in 2005 (and ranked fourth in 2004).

The committee discussed several ways that SSSP could work with UC Press to make the content of *Social Problems* more readily available online. One proposal that can be easily implemented is place a feature article from each issue of the journal on the Society's website. The committee also asked Ms. Darksmith to provide a price quote for converting all back issues of *Social Problems* to digital format. She will report back to the E&P Committee in the near future.

The E&P Committee agreed with the UC Press representatives that the long-term relationship between UC Press and SSSP has been positive and productive. However, the E&P Committee feels that it would be in the best interest of the Society to seek bids from other presses as well as UC Press prior to the renewal of the five-year UC Press contract in December 2009. Tom Hood, SSSP Executive Officer, informed the committee that bidding from publishers should begin early in 2007 in order to conform to the terms of the current contract. Therefore, the E&P Committee recommends that bids be solicited early in 2007 for subsequent review by an appropriate SSSP subcommittee, perhaps composed of the Chair of the E&P Committee, the Treasurer of SSSP, and the Executive Officer.

The Committee reviewed and discussed procedures for selecting the next Editor of *Social Problems*, whose three-year term would begin in mid-year 2008. Given the success of the previous search, the Committee recommends following the same timeline that was followed in the search for the current editor. An announcement of the Editorial Search, based on the attached copy from the previous search, will be placed in *Social Problems*, the *SSSP Newsletter*, newsletters of the SSSP Divisions, and *ASA Footnotes* before the end of this year. The procedures and timeline for the search will be modeled after those used in the previous search. Interviews with finalists and selection of the new Editor would occur during the 2007 annual SSSP meeting.

The Committee discussed a proposal from the Budget, Finance and Audit Committee to increase the fee to authors publishing in *Social Problems* from \$50 to \$100, which would include a one-year membership in SSSP. The Committee approves the recommended increase in the publication fee for non-members of SSSP to \$100; however, we do not approve the provision of a one-year membership because of the administrative burden it would place on the editorial office.

The last item of business in the meeting of the E&P Committee was the nomination and election of a Committee Chair for 2006-2007. James Orcutt was selected to continue in this position for the coming year.