

**Minutes of the SSSP Board of Directors Meeting  
Thursday, August 9, 2007, New York, New York**

1. The meeting was called to order by President Valerie Jenness.
2. Those present introduced themselves: Valerie Jenness, President, Nancy Naples, President-Elect, Claire Renzetti, Past-President, Keith Kilty, Vice President, Carrie Yang Costello, Vice President-Elect, David Rudy, Treasurer and Treasurer-Elect, JoAnn Miller, Secretary and Secretary-Elect, Michelle Janning, John Galliher, Carolyn Perrucci, Wendy Simonds, and Tracy Dietz, Board of Directors; Naomi Nichols, Student Member, Board of Directors; Thomas C. Hood, Executive Officer, Michele Smith Koontz, Administrative Officer and Meeting Manager; Nancy Mezey, Chair, Council of Special Problems Divisions; Gray Cavender, Chair, Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee; Amy Wharton, Editor, *Social Problems*, Ken Kyle, Editor, *Social Problems Forum*, Rebecca Simon and Rebekah Darksmith, University of California Press; Susan Will, Chair, Local Arrangements Committee
3. The Agenda was revised and accepted.
4. Tom Hood announced the results of the 2006 General Election, as printed in the Summer 2006 issue of SOCIAL PROBLEMS FORUM: Steven E. Barkan, President- Elect; Cheryl Boudreaux; Vice President-Elect; JoAnn Miller, Secretary; David Rudy, Treasurer; Luis A. Fernandez and Alison Isobel Griffith, Board of Directors; Melanie Carlson, Student Representative, Board of Directors; Anna Maria Santiago, Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee; Shari L. Dworkin and Lloyd Klein, Committee on Committees; Lora Bex Lempert and Barbara Katz Rothman, Editorial and Publications Committee. The Bylaws Amendments, regarding electronic balloting, were approved.
5. JoAnn Miller reviewed the Board Meeting Notes from 2006.
6. John Galliher was named to represent the Board on the Nominations Committee.
7. JoAnn Miller presented the report of the Program Committee. She expressed special thanks to Michael Smyth for the film exhibit; and to Michele Koontz and Valerie Jenness for the privilege to organize the program. The Program Committee makes the following recommendations to the Board:
  1. Revisit the sole author rule to accommodate student winning papers.
  2. Consider the possibility for additional types of exhibits. Should there be a fee? What types of organizations are reasonable exhibitors?
  3. Draft wording for waiving registration fees that focuses strictly or exclusively on financial need rather than employment in the social sciences.
  4. Consider a number of general roundtable sessions for future programs to accommodate the large number of “orphan” papers. Or, consider assigning a Program Committee member, other than the Chair, the responsibility of creating new sessions.
  5. Consider carefully the co-sponsored sessions. Keep the topics broad enough to generate submissions.

6. Increase the number of papers per session to six in the Call for Papers; with a statement that sessions with five papers or less may have papers added, at the discretion of the Program Committee Chair, in consultation with the session organizer; and a discussant will be placed on the program if none is specified by the organizer.

The report was received with thanks.

**MOTION: THAT REGISTRATION FEES BE WAIVED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHAIR. SECONDED. PASSED.**

8. Susan Will presented the report from the Local Arrangements Committee. New York costs were discussed. Sarah Damaske, an NYU Graduate Student, wrote a special “Welcome to New York” message for students. Two press releases were prepared. Susan suggested that Boston businesses and other organizations should be approached in preparation for next years AIDS fundraiser.

The report was received with thanks.

9. Michele Smith Koontz presented the Meeting Manager’s Report. A total of 737 persons pre registered; 13% are from New York (10% of the membership are New Yorkers). A total of 143 sessions are scheduled. The film exhibit will be held on one day, due to space limitations. Thirty-one publishing companies were contacted for ads in the final program. Valerie Jenness wrote to all Ph.D. granting universities urging them to advertise. Two companies inquired about exhibiting at the annual meeting. Audio-visual costs this year are \$8,300, prompting Michele Koontz to encourage SSSP to purchase an additional LCD projector (approximate cost is \$468 each). Catering costs at the Roosevelt Hotel exceeded \$36,000 and did not include the awards banquet. To cut costs, Val Jenness combined her Presidential Reception with the Past Presidents’ Reception. The room block set aside for SSSP was exceeded on May 24<sup>th</sup>. The Lee Student Support Fund Committee coordinated the mentoring program with 38 attendees requesting a mentor. The University of California Press donated \$1,500 toward the registration bags that Carrie Yang Costello designed.

The report was received with thanks.

The Board discussed the possibility of using local university resources to help defray the audio visual costs.

David Rudy noted that purchasing five additional LCD projectors would pay for themselves in one year.

The Board discussed the possibility for other organizations to be exhibitors at future meetings. Should there be a fee? How should vendors be prioritized? Will space be adequate? The Board also noted that site selection is complex and the issue of additional exhibit space should not be linked to site selection.

Michele Koontz presented the Scholar's Choice report on the book exhibit. Ten tables were set up on the lobby level of the hotel for the exhibit.

10. Money Matters. Rebecca Simon reported on the finances of *Social Problems*. Income (\$176,708) was greater than budgeted because manufacturing costs were less than anticipated, and the press fees were less.

Rebekah Darksmith reported on *Social Problems* marketing strategies. She noted a total loss of 52 (2.7 percent) subscriptions. Marketing efforts are focused on the library community. An infrastructure is being developed to international sales. In the United States, marketing is focused on the Community Colleges and small colleges. Electronic promotions are doing well.

The University of California Press Report was accepted with thanks.

11. David Rudy presented the Treasurer's Report. Overall, financial conditions are good, with \$429,378 in net assets, representing 84 percent of the annual operating costs for SSSP. This year, SSSP will face a real deficit on account of the expenses of the New York meetings. Thanks to Susan Carlson, investments are doing very well. The audit was absolutely clean. David Rudy notes that annual operating expenses are not covered by SSSP income. BFA, therefore, recommends a 2-prong strategy to increase revenue: (1) increase institutional journal subscription rates to \$190 in 2009, and (2) increase membership dues.

MOTION: TO ADOPT THE AUDITOR'S REPORT. SECONDED. PASSED.

Gray Cavender, BFA Committee Chair, reports to the Treasurer that BFA recommends a flat \$20 increase in dues. BFA and the Treasurer note that the "small" decline in *Social Problems* subscriptions is significant because the journal is an important stream of revenue.

The Board discussed in detail the dues increase issue. The last increase was in 2000 and student dues have increased only \$5 since 1989. Should there be a flat increase? A progressive or sliding scale increase? An "a la carte" pricing policy? How do SSSP dues compare to other association dues? How will increases affect student participation in meetings? Does a \$20 increase across the range of membership categories generate sufficient income?

MOTION: THAT A SLIDING SCALE INCREASE IN DUES BE ADOPTED. SECONDED PASSED.

12. Tom Hood gave the report from the Executive Officer. He announced that he will resign no later than the 2009 meetings. Membership is at an all time high level. He is receiving updates on the Division Booklet. He notes that although not in the typed version of the report, he recommends a half-time assistant be added to the staff.

The report was accepted with thanks.

13. Amy Wharton reported on *Social Problems*. The acceptance rate is 11.1 percent. The editorial office has changed slightly. This year, only a 72 day turnaround time characterized

submission to decision. A substantial reviewer data base is in place and future editors may want to consider using “Manuscript Central” for submissions.

The report was accepted with thanks.

14. Ken Kyle reported on *Social Problems Forum*. New features were added, “News of Note” has been continued, and Ken thinks that an “advice from the Board” column could be useful.

The report was accepted with thanks.

The Board continued its discussion of membership dues.

MOTION: THAT THE INSTITUTIONAL *SOCIAL PROBLEMS* RATE, FOR THE 2009 ISSUE, BE INCREASED TO \$196.00. SECONDED. PASSED

MOTION: THAT A NEW CATEGORY OF MEMBERSHIP, THOSE EARNING ABOVE \$85,000 BE ADDED. SECONDED. PASSED.

MOTION: THAT MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES BE CHANGED. ELIMINATE FIRST YEAR EMPLOYMENT CATEGORY. ADD A \$75,000 - \$84,999 CATEGORY. SECONDED. PASSED.

MOTION: THAT ALL MEMBERSHIP DUES(EXCEPT FOR LIFE MEMBERS, EMERITI, BEFORE 1989) BE INCREASED. SECONDED. PASSED.

15. Under other unfinished business, student representative votes were discussed.

MOTION: THAT EACH STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE HAVE A FULL VOTE. SECONDED. PASSED.

Valerie Jenness adjourned the 2006-2007 Board.