

Minutes of the SSSP Board of Directors Meeting

July 31, 2008, Boston, Massachusetts

The meeting was called to order by President Nancy Naples.

Those present introduced themselves: Nancy Naples, President; Steve Barkan, President Elect; Cary Yang Costello, Vice President; Cheryl Boudreaux, Vice President Elect; David Rudy, Treasurer; JoAnn Miller, Secretary; Luis Fernandez, Tracy Dietz, Alison Griffith, Michelle Janning, and Carolyn Perrucci, Board Members; Antwan Jones, Student Representative to the Board; Nancy Mezey, Chair of Chairs; Amy Wharton, Outgoing Editor of *Social Problems*; Ken Kyle, Editor of *Social Problems Forum: The SSSP Newsletter*; Liat Ben-Moshe, Chair, Accessibility Committee; Gabriel Aquino, Chair, Permanent Organization and Strategic Planning Committee; Susan Carlson, Chair-Elect, Permanent Organization and Strategic Planning Committee; Tom Hood, Executive Officer; Michele Koontz; Administrative Officer & Meeting Manager; Wendy Chapkis, Chair, Elections Committee; Kimberly Cook, Chair, Membership Committee.

The agenda was adopted.

Gabriel Aquino, Chair of the Permanent Organization and Strategic Planning Committee, presented two candidates for the Executive Officer position (to replace Tom Hood, when he retires). The Board discussed both candidates at length. One has far more experience with SSSP than the other, but his West Coast location may result in unanticipated expenses for SSSP. The other has very little experience with SSSP but his location would probably result in a small cost savings to SSSP during the transition.

The Board met with both candidates. Gabriel Aquino recommended that separate contracts should be pursued with the universities that host the Executive Officer and the Administrative Officer and the administrative staff. He also agreed with the Board as members discussed the need for more information and site visits at both candidates' universities. The Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee needs to be consulted. The Board concluded that it would be premature to make a decision or an offer at this point.

Committee Reports followed the Board's discussion about the Executive Officer.

The Accessibility Committee requests more travel funds for students with accessibility needs.

The C. Wright Mills award was made to Daniel Jaffee for his book *Brewing Justice: Fair Trade Coffee, Sustainability, and Survival* (University of California Press).

Wendy Chapkis presented the Elections Committee report. The electronic balloting went smoothly. More members (19.13 percent) voted electronically this year, compared to those casting paper ballots last year (13.16 percent).

The Erwin O. Smigel Award Committee distributed funds to Ms. Marlene Chait to enable attendance at the annual meeting.

The Lee Founders Award was made to David Snow.

The Lee Scholar-Activist Support Fund Committee reviewed nine applications for this year's awards (with \$4,000 to allocate). Five awards were made and two deferred awards (persons who could not attend last year's meeting) were made.

The Lee Student Support Fund Committee reviewed 35 applications. Thirty-two received funds to travel to the Boston meetings. The requests for funds far exceeded the allocation.

MOTION: LEE STUDENT AWARDS SHOULD BE CAPPED AT \$500. SECONDED. PASSED.

MOTION: ONLY COMPLETE LEE STUDENT AWARD APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED. SECONDED. PASSED.

The Membership Committee reported that the committee works more effectively without regional representatives. This would require a bylaws change. Thus the board recommended that the discussion continue with the incoming committee chair.

Gabriel Aquino (Chair) and Susan Carlson (incoming Chair) reported on the Permanent Organization and Strategic Planning Committee. The Executive Office site visit focused on six items of business: an evaluation of the executive and administrative office; a review of the Operations Manual; an assessment of the website and electronic balloting; the development of a paper ballot bylaws amendment; a discussion of the 2009 contract with the University of Tennessee; and recommendations for salaries for the Executive Officer, the Administrative Officer, the Meeting Manger, and the Graduate Research Associate. The Operations Manual must be revised to reflect the following items. The description of the administrative assistant and webmaster positions must be added; the administrative assistant's duties include annual meeting responsibilities to assist the meeting manager; the working relationship between the Administrative Officer and the administrative assistant should be specified; the language in Part I A. Executive Office, must reflect the new contract with the host institution.

The Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Scholarship Committee, Social Action Award Committee, Joseph B. Gittler Award Committee, and Justice 21 Committee reports were not discussed.

Nancy Mezey discussed concerns of the Special Problems Divisions. Not all division chairs attend meetings; questions were raised about winning papers and their availability on the SSSP webpage; resolutions must be introduced two weeks prior to the annual meeting; division budgets were not increased this year.

Nancy Naples adjourned the 2007-2008 Board.