

2009 SSSP Student Business Meeting  
Telegraph Hill Room, Stanford Court Hotel, San Francisco, CA  
Friday, August 07, 2009, 6:30 – 7:30 pm  
Minutes

The meeting was attended by twelve graduate students (six white, five black, and one Latino). We also had an excellent turn-out at the graduate student reception (about 30-40 students at peak) and met our allotted \$750 budget for drinks and appetizers. It would be nice to increase the budget for this line item because it is the main way in which graduate student members of SSSP connect with each other.

At the business meeting, we discussed that it would be nice to increase the applicants to the Lee Scholar Activist Award and the Racial/Ethnic Minority Award. We discussed several possible solutions, among them, distributing the announcement among Graduate Program Coordinators, and to target those at HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities).

We discussed the existing opportunities available to students of SSSP and there was some discussion about the definition of diversity that we would like to embody in the organization. There seemed to be two paradigms of diversity: one which prioritizes black and Latino, US-born members and another which targets all perceived disenfranchised communities, including racial and ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, and persons from economically depressed backgrounds.

There was some discussion about a scholarship for students to cover the costs of membership to SSSP as well as the cost of a certain number of division memberships.

Two student volunteered to get involved with the newsletter and they would like to see SSSP give more advice to graduate students about strategies for turning their work into publications. The idea for a student column in the newsletter was enthusiastically endorsed.

It was expressed by one person that there were not enough sessions on the topic of disabilities. A connection between SSSP and academic organization focusing on disabilities could be a possibility, if it is not already in place. It was also suggested that a formal partnership between SSSP and the Association for Black Sociologists (ABS) take place as a strategy to help increase the number of racial and ethnic minorities in the Society. It was suggested that it be encouraged that all panels incorporate race as an issue in some way, as opposed to segregating the issue within certain division and/or invited panels, to help address institutional racism.

A few students expressed the concern that there were too few panels addressing issues relating to transgendered persons and that those few panels addressing the issue had conflicting schedules on the panel (they were occurring at the same time). It was suggested that SSSP consider reviewing the panels addressing transgender issues to make sure that they do not overlap with each other in the future, especially since they are so

few of them and since SSSP has a commitment to support the transgendered community in a multitude of other ways.

It was communicated that a new email address, [sssp.student@gmail.com](mailto:sssp.student@gmail.com) was created for the SSSP Student Rep to facilitate communication between students and the Board of Directors.

There was interest in establishing a student listserv that student members of SSSP may choose to opt into.

Students expressed a desire to know more about the structure of SSSP and what the opportunities are for students to become active within SSSP. A commitment was made to send out opportunities through SSSP that are relevant to students to all student members, particularly a reasonable amount of time before the deadline for major student opportunities.

Overall support was expressed to the resolutions before SSSP, with particular vocal enthusiasm for Resolution #4 on Gender-Neutral Pronouns, with only a suggestion to amend the resolution so as to include the words “they/their” in the fourth Whereas clause where “ze/zir” is listed.

Thank you for your attention and we look forward to continuing to serve the SSSP student community.

Best,

Louis Edgar Esparza  
Stony Brook University

Antwan Jones  
Bowling Green State University