

August 8, 2009

To: Michele Koontz, Administrative Officer
From: Nancy Mezey, Chair of Special Division Chairs
RE: Council of Division Chairs Report

This report covers the 1st Nominations meeting of the Council of Special Division Chairs on Friday, August 7, 2009 at the SSSP conference.

A. Election of Chair of Chairs

Three people ran for the Chair of the Council of Special Division Chairs: Elisabeth Sheff, Glenn Muschert, and Stephani Williams. Stephani Williams was elected as the new Chair of Chairs. I thank all of nominees for running and congratulate Stephani on her new position.

B. Division Activities

I discussed the importance and purpose of Division Newsletters in creating more active Divisions. I also discussed the Board's decision to review the criteria for how to objectively evaluate what it means to be an active Division. I reported on the possibility of Chairs writing an end-of-the-year report to describe their activities. Chairs were agreeable to the review process and discussion.

C. Paper Sessions

I relayed the Program Committee's recommendation that Divisions be allowed to suggest only four co-sponsored sessions per Division. After a robust discussion, the Council respectfully argues that four co-sponsored sessions is too limiting. The issue was also raised as to whether or not only four co-sponsored sessions might leave the program a bit bare. Several Chairs stated that they liked the current system, but were okay with setting a higher limit. **Therefore, the Council requests that the limit for co-sponsored sessions be set at seven instead of four.** I also discussed the possibility of adding a paragraph describing each session. The Council agreed that a descriptive paragraph would be helpful.

D. Mission Statements

I congratulated the Divisions who have updated their mission statements and requested that Divisions that have not yet updated their mission statements please do so in the near future.

E. Workshops/Special Panels

Per the discussion at the previous Board meeting, I explained to the Council that there are no additional funds from the Program Committee to cover costs of outside speakers or workshops. I suggested that Divisions use their own funds, charge a fee, or use SSSP members in order to make such sessions cost-neutral. **Division Chairs have asked if workshops would count toward their allotted sessions (either sole sessions or co-sponsored).**

F. Timing of the First Meeting of the Council of Special Division Chairs

The Council has requested that whenever possible, the first meeting of the Council of Division Chairs be held before the Divisional Meetings. Having the meeting prior to the Divisional Meetings would allow the Chair of Chairs to share information with Division Chairs, including information about sessions, the transitions of outgoing to incoming Chairs, and other valuable information pertinent to the Divisions. The Council would like to continue the practice of having several different times for Divisional Meetings as that allows members to attend more than one Divisional Meeting.