

2008-2009 SSSP Board of Directors Minutes
Thursday, August 6, 2009

Meeting Called to Order by President Steven E. Barkan and adoption of the “revised” Board Agenda.

Members Present:

Steve Barkan	President
JoAnn Miller	President-Elect
Nancy Naples	Past-President
Cheryl Boudreaux	Vice-President
PJ McGann	Vice President-Elect
Martha Hargraves	Secretary
Dave Rudy	Treasurer
Luis Fernandez	Board Member
John Galliher	Board Member
Alison Griffith	Board Member
Michelle Janning	Board Member
Carolyn C. Perrucci	Board Member
Melanie Carlson	Student Board Representative
Nancy Mezey	Chairperson, Council of the Special Problems Divisions
Ted Chiricos	Editor, <i>Social Problems</i>
Ken Kyle	Editor, <i>Social Problems Forum: The SSSP Newsletter</i>
Frances Pestello	Chair, Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee
Len Gordon	Chair, User’s Guide Development Committee
Rebecca Simon	Associate Director for Journal Publishing, UC Press
Rebekah Darksmith	Sales & Marketing Director, UC Press
Héctor Delgado	Executive Officer
Tom Hood	Past Executive Officer
Michele Koontz	Administrative Officer & Meeting Manager

The agenda proceeded as approved with Tom Hood presenting the results of the 2009 General Election as follows:

President Elect (2009-2010); President (2010-2011)	A. Javier Treviño
Vice-President Elect (2009-2010); Vice-President (2010-2011)	Carolyn C. Perrucci
Secretary (2009-2010)	Martha A. Hargraves
Treasurer (2009-2010)	Susan M. Carlson
Board of Directors (2009-2012)	Sarah Jane Brubaker, Barbara Katz Rothman and Wendy Simonds
Board of Directors: Student Representative (2009-2011)	Louis Edgar Esparza
Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee (2009-2012)	David L. Levinson
Committee on Committees (2009-2012)	Cary Yang Costello and Sandra E. Schroer
Editorial and Publications Committee (2009-2012)	Marjorie L. DeVault and Lara Foley

Tom Hood further advised that the bylaws amendment proposed was approved.

Martha Hargraves provided a summary of actions taken from the 2008 Board meeting and Annual meeting with acceptance by the Board. Clarification from Ted Chiricos regarding the Board approved charge of \$25 submission fee for all manuscripts submitted to *Social Problems*. This fee will help defray the costs.

Carolyn Perrucci was appointed to represent the Board on the Nominations Committee at its first meeting but scheduling would not allow her participation at the Committee's second meeting. Allison Griffith represented the Board at the Committee's second meeting.

Report from the Program Committee Chair, A. Javier Treviño provided a stimulating discussion regarding the success of the implementation of the new planning software made possible by the Administrative Officer and her colleagues. It was suggested, with Board acceptance, that this software and the methodology be implemented again in 2010.

The Program Committee presented several recommendations with actions to follow:

- In the interest of balance, the Program Committee recommended that the number of co-sponsored sessions for each Division be limited to four (4).

ACTION: That the Program Committee study realistic applications of the recommendation based on space available at each meeting site. And that the Chairperson of the Council of the Special Problems Divisions considers how more focus to co-sponsored sessions based on space availability under the current rule of three (3) division sponsored sessions.

- The Program Committee recommended that the Board determine whether the Program Committee can/should fund leaders and speakers of workshops and sessions sponsored by the Divisions.

ACTION: That a committee be formed to look into the recommendation and that Division Chairs consider how these workshops can be financially revenue neutral.

Tom Hood recounted that the Society has done so in the past; given early lead time, the Executive Office can be helpful.

- The Committee recommended that all Social Action Award winner(s) be required to attend the Social Action Award session.

ACTION: Board moved that this issue be addressed by the Social Action Committee involved.

- The Program Committee recommended that the Board examine the issue of whether we should move to abstract only or continue to offer the abstract/paper option. This recommendation arises from the fact that, tables and other computations were skewed during electronic submission of complete papers.

ACTION: Board adopted the recommendation to submit abstracts only.

- The Program Committee reported that twenty-one exemptions were granted for presenters meeting any of the following criteria: (A) Non-students who are unemployed and/or receiving monthly financial assistance to meet living expenses. (B) Individuals from community, labor, and comparable organizations working on social problems or social justice issues who have been invited to serve on a panel or to make a presentation. (C) Non U.S. and non-Canadian scholars who are from less advantaged countries. (D) Co-authors of papers who will not be attending the meeting. One co-author must be a paid registrant. Both co-authors must pay if both expect to attend the meeting (E) Persons excused by direct request of the Program Committee Chair. The majority of these requests were made after the deadline of May 31 and all but one of the requests were approved.
- The Program Committee recommends that, in the future, it be made clear to all who request exemptions that they must be current members of the Society in order to qualify for initial consideration of exemption.

ACTION: Board approved the recommendation except for category (B) *Individuals from community, labor, and comparable organizations working on social problems or social justice issues who have been invited to serve on a panel or to make a presentation.*

- The new submission process allowed session organizers to place, in a “repository,” those papers which they could not use: either because they did not fit their session topic or because they were a surplus among other papers for that session. However, we were able to place 21 papers in the repository that were placed in five (5) sessions under catchall topics.
- The Committee recommends the continued use of the repository in the future.

ACTION: Board approved the recommendation.

The 2009 Annual Meeting marked the first year that the Program Committee encouraged the formation of Tables in the Round. Six roundtable sessions were organized accommodating 12 roundtables.

- The Program Committee recommends the continued use of “Tables in the Round”.

ACTION: Board approved the recommendation.

- The Program Committee recommends that the Board consider whether the Personal Mentoring Program should continue to be the responsibility of the Program Committee.
- The Committee raised this issue because the organization and implementation of the Personal Mentoring Program occurs independent of the SSSP program meeting.

After considerable Board discussion the following motion was approved:

ACTION: It was moved and second that the Board combine the Personal Mentoring Program with the Meeting Mentor Program into one program titled “The Mentorship

Program” that will be housed under the Lee Student Support Fund (LSSF) Committee and between the mentor and mentee over the course of the year. The LSSF Committee does not need to return to the Board with their recommendations.

Report of the Local Arrangements Committee Chair was accepted with the following :

ACTION: The Board approved that the amount in the per person allocation for the Board of Director’s Dinner be increased from \$40 to \$55 inclusive to allow future local arrangements chairs more latitude in selecting appropriate restaurants to meet the Board’s needs and that this action be effective in 2010.

Meeting Manager’s Report

The report highlighted that the 2009 Annual Meeting had 663 attendees with the following break-down: 370 (56%) were professionals; 249 (38%) students/unemployed/ emeritus; 21 (3%) were *Critical Sociology* registrants and 23 (3%) were exempt from paying meeting registration.

The Society hosted 133 sessions with 478 papers, 27 panelists, 7 workshop facilitators, 3 film representatives, 7 critics, 3 authors, and 1 plenary speaker.

Based on feed-back from last yeas’ participants, we reinstited the comfort room.

- Recommendation for future meetings: That the Board consider providing an **LCD projector and screen only** in each meeting room next year. This action would save the Society approximately \$2,000.

The rational for removal of the overhead projectors is preference on the part of presenters toward LCD projectors.

ACTION: The Board accepted the report of the meeting manager and approved the recommendation to remove of overhead projectors at next years’ annual meeting.

University of California Press report provided that the Society can anticipate a projected year-end net income of \$191,493 – slightly higher than the April projection of \$189,956 provided to the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee.

Subscription revenue for *Social Problems* came in at \$299,972 – slightly lower than the \$300,000 projected in April. Advertising revenues also came n lower than projected. These decreases reflect a response to our economic downturn. The revenues from single copy sales came in higher than originally projected.

A recommendation from the Press requesting a 9% increase in institutional and non-member subscriptions was referred to the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee.

ACTION/APPROVAL: The Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee provided that, with Board approval, it would like to study the proposal and consider the impact on institutions given current economic challenges. The committee anticipates making a recommendation to the Board prior to their spring meeting.

UC Press announced to the Board their intention to enter a strategic partnership with JSTOR, the not-for-profit research platform currently home to more than 1,000 back runs of scholarly journals and used by faculty and students at 5,500 universities, colleges, and other educational institutions around the world.

Beginning in 2011, all UC Press published journals will be hosted on the JSTOR platform. On a practical level, the partnership will result in three key benefits for *Social Problems*:

- Greatly expanded sales and marketing infrastructure to increase the reach and visibility of *Social Problems* content in both domestic and international markets;
- Year-on-year growth in subscriptions and subscription revenue;
- Enhanced technical capabilities and increased discoverability via current content hosting of the JSTOR platform.

Treasurer's Report

The financial condition of the Society continues to be good. In five of the past seven years, the Society's cash income (i.e., income excluding paper gains on investments) has been below However, the annual meeting deficit was smaller (\$496) than it has been in a very long time!

As of December 31, 2008 the Society had total net assets of \$313,677. These assets represent slightly over 52 percent of the Society's annual operating costs, and provide a substantial cushion.

Membership dues showed a significant increase (\$32,991) as our new fee structure was implemented and net journal income also increased.

Tom Hood call attention to the audit report recommendations regarding the Society's exercise of internal controls and recommended the following:

1). Management should consider proper controls with a designated person to review bank statements and electronic wire transfers other than the Administrative Officer and further suggested that the BFA address the auditors recommendations and report to the Board next year.

ACTION: The Board accepted the auditor's report and requested the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee to study Tom Hood's suggestion and bring a recommendation to the Board.

Report on Investment Performance

Accepted by the Board

Fran Pestello presented the 2009 Amended Budget.

ACTION: THE REVISED BUDGET SHOULD BE ADOPTED. PASSED.

Executive Officer Report (highlights)

The Executive Officer, Tom Hood, was asked at the 2008 meeting of the Board of Directors to negotiate a contract with the University of Tennessee, Department of Sociology to retain the

support of the Administrative Office for at least three years. In September of 2008, a three-year contract was proposed to the Department of Sociology, the College of Arts and Sciences, The University of Tennessee and the Board of the Society for the Study of Social Problems. By the first of October 2008, all relevant parties approved that contract to cover the calendar years 2009, 2010, and 2011, with an annual review of the contract's budget as appropriate. The contract was signed in time for the committee appointed by the Board to do campus visits and interview the two candidates for Executive Officer.

Tom expressed that he believes that much of the work that he had accomplished as Executive Officer had happened because Michele Smith Koontz has been working with him. Further, as expressed by Tom, as the Society moves forward, the Board and the new Executive Officer may wish to reflect on the centrality of the Administrative Officer position to the success of the organization and consider whether or not recognition of this in the Bylaws is appropriate.

Tom noted that our membership as of June 30, 2009 was 1546 paid members as compared to the June 30, 2008 total of 1594. Of the 2009 total, 571 were student members and 132 were first time professional members. Further, he challenged the Society to continue its reputation as an organization to support new scholars and new scholarship by supporting and nurturing our growing membership.

UTK Effort:

The UT Project Director's report to the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee (BFA) was accepted by the Board. It was noted in the report that relationships between the Department of Sociology at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, continues to be positive.

Changes in the Associate Dean for Research, Graduate Studies, and Facilities will not lessen the strong support of the SSSP Administrative Office continuing to receive the support of the UTK as "the institution is delighted that the SSSP Administrative Office is housed on their campus".

Bylaws:

Tom Hood and Gary Fine were charged by the Board to make changes in the bylaws of the Society as follows:

Article VI. Special Problems Divisions and Committees; Section 1. (d)

The wording of this portion of the bylaws of the Society is not consistent with **Article II. Section 3. Communication with members.**

Recommendation:

- The Bylaws Committee recommends that the wording of Article VI. Section 1. (d) be changed by deleting the second and third sentences and substituting the last three sentences from Article III. Section 3.

The wording would then read as follows:
Article VI, Section 1 (d) (as revised)

“Election procedures shall insure to all members of the Division an opportunity to vote in the election. It is considered the member’s responsibility to notify the Executive Office of any changes in email or postal address in a timely fashion. Any member of the Society may request annually at the time of annual renewal of membership that they receive mail notices and mail ballots during that year. Such a request must be renewed each year or the preferred method of electronic notification and balloting will be used for all communications.”

ACTION: Board voted to approve this amendment and it is not necessary for the amendment to appear on the 2010 ballot.

Article VI, Section 2 (c)

Current wording is:

“The Council of Special Problems Divisions may recommend that a Division be terminated, if it has less than 150 members for two years running and if a strong argument in the judgment of the Council is not made for continuing the section. The recommendation goes to the Board of Directors for final disposition.”

Proposed Wording:

The Executive Officer/Administrative Officer shall report to the Council annually on the activity of each Special Problems Division including newsletters prepared, elections held and annual meeting sessions organized. The Council of Special Problems Divisions may recommend that a division be declared inactive. If inactive status is to be considered by the Council by placing it on the agenda of a meeting, the members of that Special Problems Division shall be notified by email at least two weeks in advance of such a consideration. The Board of Directors must approve such a recommendation. If a division is declared inactive, the division will not be permitted to organize sessions for the annual meeting. To regain status as a recognized special problems division, the former division must follow the provisions for new divisions outlined in Article VI, Section 1.

ACTION: After considerable discussion by the Board regarding the development of more specific criteria which would determine both the ability of subject division(s) to carry out the tenets of the Operations Manual, and in the absence of suggested content to be covered within the divisions activity report and task undertaken during the year to accomplish their missions, the Board moved to refer the proposed revision back to the bylaws committee. Additionally, in recognition of the changes underway within the Council of Chairs regarding division activities, the Board determined that a new revision be developed by the bylaws committee that would reflect those changes.

New Proposed Article

The Joseph B. Gittler Award Committee does not appear in the Bylaws. Given the terms of the endowment, establishing the committee as an annual committee seems desirable. The Bylaws Committee suggests that the appointment of the committee follow the same style as the other award committees rather than the current procedure in the Operations Handbook.

Recommended as: New Article VI. Section 25 The Joseph B. Gittler Award Committee

- *The President-Elect shall appoint the Chairperson-elect for the Joseph B. Gittler Award Committee. On the basis of nominations from the Committee on Committees and in consultation with the Chairperson-elect, the President shall appoint no more than five members. The Chairperson-elect shall serve as a member of the committee during the year prior to becoming Chairperson. The Committee serves during the term that the individual who appointed them is President.*

Following criteria specified by the Board of Directors, the award should be given to the SSSP member whose scholarship over the preceding three or more years has most significantly promoted ethical solutions to social problems. By ethical solutions, we mean scholarship that promotes awareness and/or activism to increase public recognition that social problems and social injustices are ethical issues; or scholarship that identifies and promotes societal level responses to social problems and injustices. By scholarship, we mean academic work including both applied research (qualitative or quantitative research) and normative work (e.g., argumentative, historical, philosophical, textual or theoretical analyses).

ACTION: Board approved to be placed on the next year's annual ballot.

Remarks for the incoming Executive Officer – Héctor Delgado

Héctor expressed his appreciation for being selected as the incoming Executive Officer and acknowledged his personal pleasure to serve the Society.

He provided that his principle emphases this coming year will be to help the membership of SSSP take ownership of our organization through greater participation in all aspects of the Society's mission. He hopes to accomplish this task by working closely with the Board and Committee structure of the organization.

Report from the Editor of *Social Problems*

Accepted by the Board

Report from the Editor of *Social Problems Forum: The SSSP Newsletter*

Accepted by the Board

Board moved and Second to Adjourn – 6:30 p.m.