

2009-2010 SSSP Board of Directors Minutes
Sunday, August 9, 2009

Meeting Called to Order by President JoAnn Miller who requested the adoption of the revised agenda which was approved by the Board.

Members Present:

JoAnn Miller	President
A. Javier Treviño	President-Elect
Steve Barkan	Past-President
PJ McGann	Vice-President
Carolyn C. Perrucci	Vice President-Elect
Martha Hargraves	Secretary
Susan Carlson	Treasurer
Luis Fernandez	Board Member
Alison Griffith	Board Member
Raymond Michalowski	Board Member
Sarah Jane Brubaker	Board Member
Barbara Katz Rothman	Board Member
Wendy Simonds	Board Member
Antwan Jones	Student Board Representative
Louis Edgar Esparza	Student Board Representative
Nancy Mezey	(for Stephani Williams) 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>
Héctor Delgado	Executive Officer
Michele Koontz	Administrative Officer & Meeting Manager

Report of the Council of Chairs

The report was given by Nancy Mezey on behalf of Stephani Williams, the newly elected Chair of Chairs. During the meeting of the Council it was decided that more evaluation would be undertaken by the Council to determine what it meant to be an active Division and may include a request of Division Chairs to submit a report on Division activities during the year. Chairs were amenable to the idea.

Further, they requested, from the Program Committee approval for seven (7) co-sponsored sessions at next year's conference. Chairs felt that the usual 3 were insufficient and that 4-6 would be better but **preferred seven**. The Board concurred. Further, the Council requested that the program should facilitate a meeting of the Council prior to the beginning of business meetings for the individual Divisions. The rationale for the request was based on the number of important discussions and extensive information exchanged that would be helpful to the Divisions at their business meetings. Michele felt that it could be arranged that the Council meet about 10:30am prior to the beginning of divisional business meetings the first day. However, they did not want all divisional business meetings to occur at the same time.

The Council congratulated the Divisions on up-dating their mission statements. However, there remain three divisions who had not yet completed the process.

An additional concern from the Council to be brought to the Program Committee was an inquiry that if they wanted to have a special workshop or panel session, would it count against their seven co-sponsored sessions? They requested that the Program Committee evaluate that issue and get back to them.

Lastly, the Council expressed the desire to have its meeting prior to the beginning of the Divisional Business Meetings on the first day. A number of issues are discussed in the Council that would benefit divisions prior to their meeting. **The Administrative Officer agreed to lay out the program to accommodate this request as follows: The first meeting of the Council of Division Chairs and the Resolutions meeting will be held on the first day at 10:30am. 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. Institutional Ethnography expressed the desire to meet independently earlier in the day so as to have enough time to respond to the nomination process.**

Nominating Candidates for Secretary and Treasurer

Susan Carlson agreed to serve an additional term as Treasurer and Glenn Muschert agreed to serve as Secretary. Both candidates received Board approval. Additionally, Barbara Katz Rothman was elected to the Board of Directors but the Society's by-laws do not permit her to serve on both the Editorial and Publications Committee and the Board. Therefore, Jim Holstein agreed to serve out Barbara's term on the Editorial and Publications Committee receiving Board approval.

The Report of the Student Representatives communicated that a new email address, sssp.student@gmail.com was created for the SSSP Student Representatives to facilitate communication between students and the Board of Directors. Discussions related to how best to provide orientation to students resulted in suggestions that the Handbook would be a likely source and would provide a brief overview of SSSP, its structure, and operating procedures. Additionally, adding a link to student issues on the SSSP website would be helpful. Board members suggested that students go to their divisional meeting to contribute to the development of the Divisions sessions and volunteer to organize a session of interest to graduate students. The Board accepted the student report.

Report of Ad Hoc Nomination Committee

Nancy Mezey provided a brief overview of how the ad hoc committee came into existence and charged with the task of revisiting the nominations process and making recommendations for the more efficient conduct of this process.

A brief review of the current process was provided which included the method by which nominations are sought.

The committee identified the following main problems with the nomination process:

- **The Structure of the Current Nominations Committee is Problematic**
The current bylaws require nominations to come from the Division Chairs. Some Division Chairs are highly institutionally aware, many are fairly "unseasoned" members who know neither the process, nor much about their membership, or they are Chairs of a new division or a division with a large membership. Therefore, the evaluation of

nominees is often superficial due to the relative inexperience of some of the Division Chairs, their unfamiliarity with their membership, or their workload prior to and during the annual meeting.

- **The Nominations Process Is Problematic**

Because of the structure of the Nominations Committee and the differing levels of familiarity with SSSP members willing and able to serve in elected positions, the selection process is problematic because:

1. The suggested candidates tend to seesaw between sociological celebrities with name recognition and contacts of attending Chairs who may be less well known.
2. The Nominations Committee is not easily able to determine which SSSP members have the necessary skills required for certain committees, such as the Editorial and Publications Committee and the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee.
3. Unless indicated on the nomination form, the Nominations Committee does not know if a person nominated during the meeting will accept the nomination. The lack of pre-acceptance of a nomination requires that the Nominations Committee create a significantly longer list of names than may be necessary.

Because of the above structural and procedural problems, the nomination meetings are long and require that the committee push through important nominations faster than is appropriate to develop a strong slate of candidates.

Recommendations

After consulting with long-term SSSP members, including several past Presidents, who have extensive SSSP experience in multiple capacities and are involved at high levels in numerous other professional organizations, and in consultation as a committee, the ad hoc committee made the following recommendations requiring a by-laws change:

1. SSSP should create an elected Nominations Committee comprised of seven SSSP members who have been continuous members for the past five years. Committee members would serve for three-year, staggered terms so that there would be continuity from year to year. The committee chair would be elected by a committee member who has served for at least one year on the committee. The chair will be elected by the committee itself. The committee will be responsible for:
 - a. Holding and attending two meetings during the annual meetings (at times not shared with any other meetings)
 - b. Soliciting nominations from members throughout the year, particularly from seasoned members and leaders in the organization who have a depth and breadth of knowledge of current SSSP members
 - c. Review nominees suggested by Division Chairs
 - d. Suggesting nominations
 - e. Gathering materials regarding qualifications, including the prospective nominee's willingness to be on a slate
 - f. Accessing the qualifications of nominees
 - g. Making recommendations to the Board of Directors

2. The Board of Directors will proceed as it currently does by reviewing and reordering nominee as necessary and approving the final slate of nominees.
3. The Division Chairs will remain involved in the process by being responsible for soliciting nominees from their divisions. Each Division Chair will send their division's nominee list to the Chair of the Nominations Committee no later than three weeks prior to the start of the annual meeting. Division Chairs will no longer be charged with creating the final nominations list or evaluating nominees.

After considerable discussion by the Board related both to the value of the “organized chaos” in the current process and the need to provide more structure over the year, it was determined that the nomination process should continue to be managed primarily by division chairs. Therefore, **the Board requested the ad hoc committee to re-design their recommendation to include a sub-committee of Division Chairs to implement an active (through-out the year) process of generating a list of nominees. Further, the Board provided the following guidance to the ad hoc committee:**

- **That the members of the sub-committee of division chairs be elected by their fellow division chairs with guidance provided by the ad hoc committee as expressed by the Board during this meeting.**
- **That the sub-committee be comprised of approximately 5 or more Division Chairs and one Board representative. Ray Michalowski agreed to represent the Board during this initial phase.**
- **Attention should be given to addressing the structural issues raised by addressing time limitations of individual and/or division representation on the sub-committee.**
- **That all division chairs provide names to the sub-committee**
- **That a more active solicitation process be developed from the general membership (e.g. twice a year or more than we currently provide).**

Further, the Board requests that the ad hoc committee share in full the recommendations with division chairs to secure their feed-back prior to bringing the recommendations back to the Board for final approval.

Presentation of the 2010 Proposed Budget

Anna Santiago presented the proposed budget by providing the Board with information related to the projected deficits for 2009 and 2010 due to the continued deficits of the Annual Meeting. She provided that while these deficits have, in the past, been off-set by the Society's investment income, the committee does not anticipate that we can expect investment income for this year or the forthcoming next two years based on the current economy. Therefore, the committee provides the following recommendations as cost savings:

- Having received approval from the Editorial and Publications Committee, the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee proposed an increase in mailing fees for “*Social Problems and Social Problems Forum*” as follows: **For SSSP members who reside outside the United States, the fee went from \$3 to \$20 for members with mailing addresses in Canada and Mexico and from \$15 to \$30 for all others outside the United States.** Members can opt to receive both publications electronically and avoid these increases.

Action: Board approved increased mailing costs.

Committee proposed an increase in Annual Meeting registration. The last increase to registration was in 2006. The proposed increases would increase revenues by \$10,000 if adopted and represents one-half of the deficits from the Annual Meeting as follows:

- Pre-Registration Member: \$105 to \$125
- Pre-Registration Student/Underemployed/Emeritus: \$25 to \$30
- On-Site Registration Student/Underemployed/Emeritus: \$45 to \$50
- On-Site Registration Member: \$120 to \$150
- One-Day Registration: \$45 to \$75
- Exempt Conference Registration: \$50 to \$60
- Guest Registration: \$10 to \$15
- Critical Sociology* Conference Registration: \$45 to \$50
- Non-Member Registration: \$50 to \$60

Action: Board approved increases in Annual Meeting Registration fees as proposed and requested that the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee review fees annually. Board approved the revised budget for 2010.

Report of the Editorial and Publications Committee

The Editorial and Publications Committee recommended that abstracts of award winning papers be posted on the SSSP Website. Contact information for authors shall be provided so that others may request full text of the papers from the authors. This recommendation would eliminate the possibility of endangering the future publication of the papers.

Further, at the request of the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee, the Editorial and Publications Committee unanimously endorsed the following recommendations:

Paper copies of the February issue of *Social Problems* will no longer be delivered to persons who have not renewed their SSSP memberships. Instead non-renewing members would be granted courtesy electronic access to the February issue.

An e-mail/on-line link will become the default option for delivery of *Social Problems* and *Social Problems Forum*.

Action: The Board adopted the above recommendations on the part of the Editorial and Publications Committee.

Finally, Jim Holstein strongly encouraged Board members to contact Claire Renzetti, incoming chair of the Editorial and Publications Committee and also chairs the committee to select the next editor of *Social Problems*. Board participation in contacting people/potential candidates to apply for the editor of *Social Problems* will enrich the process of identifying superior candidates.

Further, Ted Chiricos presented his efforts to increase the Advisory Editors to *Social Problems* and reported that three Canadian Scholars had been invited: Lisa McCoy, Elaine Weiner, and Sandy Welsh who all accepted. He noted that each was told that if they were not current members of SSSP they must become members.

The question of how many other diverse scholars were represented on the Advisory list was raised. Ted expressed that there were not enough Hispanic or African Americans but that he would gladly move to correct that with help from the Board and membership regarding names of potential persons as was the case with the Canadian Scholars.

Report from the Committee on Committees

The Committee presented a proposal to the Board for approval related to the number of committees an individual could serve on during the nomination process. After Board discussion the following action was taken by the Board.

Action: The Board approved the recommendation that individuals can serve on not more than two committees within the Committee on Committees authority. Further, the Board accepted the slate of committees provided for appointment by the Committee on Committees naming Alfred Louis Joseph as Chair of the Elections Committee.

Report on Resolutions Approved at the Business Meeting

Cheryl Boudreaux reported that all four resolutions had been approved by the body at its business meeting. An additional resolution was presented from the floor regarding the Troy Davis case, an inmate on death row in Georgia, calling for, along with many other groups, a new trial for Mr. Davis in light of the fact that he was convicted largely on the basis of (typically unreliable) eyewitness testimony and now virtually every eyewitness has recanted. **It was determined that the Administrative Office would send a letter to the District Attorney, Larry Chisolm, registering the concerns of the Society copying Governor Sonny Perdue.**

Action: The Board approved the request that resolutions be e-mailed to Congressmen rather than sent through the postal service as a cost saving tactic.

Unfinished Business from 2009

The Board approved the Expert List as presented.

New Business

The Board approved the name change of the Sport Sociology Division to the Sport, Leisure, and the Body Division.

It was announced that Glenn Muschert would be the Program Chair for the 2010 Annual Meeting.

There being no further business the meeting of the 2009-2010 Board of Directors was adjourned.