

TO: Board of Directors
Society for the Study of Social Problems

FROM: Jim Holstein; Chair, Editorial and Publications Committee

RE: 2008-2009 Editorial and Publications Committee Report

DATE: 7 August 2009

The Editorial and Publications (E&P) Committee conducted extensive business by e-mail throughout the 2008-2009 year. The major issues considered include the following:

- **Electronic submissions of manuscripts to *Social Problems***

The move to using *MsCentral* to process electronic submissions of manuscripts to *Social Problems* has well. *Social Problems* Editor Ted Chiricos consulted several times with the E&P Committee Chair regarding details of the process over the course of the year. As Ted's report indicates, the new system appears to be working efficiently.

- **Approval of Supplementary Budget Request for *Social Problems***

Due to a large backlog of accepted manuscripts passed along from the WSU to FSU editorial offices, the Editor of *Social Problems*, in consultation with the E&P Committee Chair, requested a one time budget augmentation to allow for the publication of up to 128 extra pages in Volume 56 (2009). The E&P Committee unanimously approved the request for an additional \$9,487 to cover this one-time expense. This will alleviate the backlog, which would have delayed to publication of some manuscripts for up to 24 month.

- **Posting of Award Winning Student Papers on the SSSP Website**

In October, the Council of Division Chairs requested a recommendation from the E&P Committee regarding the posting of award winning student papers on the SSP website. After extensive discussion and research into various publishers policies regarding "previously published" material, the Committee unanimously agreed that posting the complete texts of papers might endanger their future publication. Some publishers, (e.g., Sage), consider manuscripts "which have appeared on a commercial or public website not run by the author or the author's institution in the same or substantially (over 70%) the same form are considered to have been previously published." Consequently, the E&P Committee strongly urged that the text of papers *not* be posted and made the following recommendation to the Council of Division Chairs:

The Editorial and Publications Committee recommends that abstracts of award winning papers be posted on the SSSP Website. Contact information for authors shall be provided so that others may request to full text of the papers from the authors.

- **2010 Budget for *Social Problems***

In his projected *Social Problems* budget for 2010 and accompanying justifications, Editor Ted Chiricos proposed to divide the entire \$9000 editorial stipend among his four Associate Editors. He also proposed raising the Editorial honorarium from \$1500 to \$3000. The Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee consulted with the E&P Committee on the advisability of this request. The E&P Committee discussed the issue via e-mail and unanimously supported the Editor's request.

The Committee approved the \$1500 increase in the editorial honorarium and supported the Editor's desire to divide the stipend among the Associate Editors. The Committee also noted that the Committee does not consider its support for the 2010 allocation of the stipend the Associate Editors to represent a formal policy change. The Committee believes that the allocation of the stipend should remain within the discretion of the editor. The Committee does not recommend that the full stipend necessarily be allocated to the Associate Editors in the future.

- **Preliminaries to the Upcoming *Social Problems* Editorial Search**

The E&P Committee initiated preliminary announcements of the upcoming search for the next editor of *Social Problems*. Committee members were asked to alert potential candidates to the upcoming search and to encourage their application. The general SSSP membership was sent a message via e-mail from the chair of the E&P Committee announcing that the formal search would begin in the fall. The message invited requests for information and nominations of potential candidates. Formal plans for the search will be established at the San Francisco meetings.

At the 2009 meeting, the E&P Committee conducted the following business:

- **UC Press Report and Discussion**

The Committee heard and considered reports from UC Press regarding the publication and circulation of *Social Problems*. [See UC Press Reports.] UC Press is also initiating a relationship with JSTOR which will be advantageous to SSSP/*Social Problems*.

- ***Social Problems* Annual Report**

Ted Chiricos, editor of *Social Problems*, delivered the annual report. The journal is doing very well and the editorial transition been achieved with minimal complications. The move to *MsCentral* has gone extremely well.

The Committee thanks Ted and his staff for the fine work they are doing.

- **New policies regarding distribution of *Social Problems* and *Social Problems Forum*.** At the request of the Budget, Finance and Audit Committee, the E&P Committee considered proposals to cut the cost of distribution of the journal and newsletter. The 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*.

- **Development of policies and practices for editorial transitions at *Social Problems*.** Ted Chiricos agreed to work with recent past editors *Social Problems* to outline guidelines for assisting in the transition between editorial offices.
- **Policy Regarding Copyright Fee Waivers.** In June, Executive Officer Tom Hood received a request from a Taiwanese scholar to waive permission fee for the publication of a *Social Problems* article that would be re-printed in a textbook/anthology. Tom consulted with incoming Executive Officer Hector Delgado and E&P Committee Chair Jim Holstein regarding this matter. We decided that the fee should not be waived in this particular instance and recommended that the matter be brought to the attention of the E&P Committee to see if policy should be developed for fee waivers in special instances.

The Committee unanimously recommends that requests that are directed to the SSSP for copyright fee waivers be referred to the Executive Officer. If the Executive Director determines that there may be good cause for granting a waiver, s/he will refer the matter to the E&P Committee for discussion and a final decision.

- ***Social Problems Forum* Annual Report**

The Committee heard the annual report from Ken Kyle, editor, *Social Problems Forum*. The newsletter is doing very well. Ken raised several items for discussion including:

Reminder that a new editorial search must be undertaken next year,

The *SPF* budget does not coincide with the SSSP budget year and that this creates potential problems.

SPF received an interesting but unconventional submission regarding harassment and intimidation of campus “progressives.” Ken has agreed to work with members of the Committee to find a way of bringing this issue to the attention of the membership outside the format of a traditional *SPF* article.

The Committee thanks Ken for his good work.

- **Election of E&P Committee Chair for 2009-2010**

Claire Renzetti was unanimously elected Committee chair for 2009-10. Part of the Chair’s charge for 2009-2010 will be to organize the search for the next editor of *Social Problems*.

- ***Social Problems* Editor Search**

The Committee will begin the formal search for the next editor of *Social Problems* beginning early in the fall. A call for nominations will be placed in *Social Problems*, *Social Problems Forum*, and other SSSP outlets. Final interviews of candidates will take place at the 2010 meetings and a recommendation of the next editor will be presented to the Board of Directors at that time.

The E&P Committee thanks Ted Chiricos and Ken Kyle for their superb editorial work, Michele Koontz for her unwavering administrative support, and Tom Hood for all the good works he has accomplished for the SSSP over the years.