

July 9, 2009

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

The 2008 meeting ran smoothly regarding the Special Divisions, thanks largely to the work of Michele Koontz, Division Chairs, and active members of each division.

This report highlights activities and thoughts of the Council of Division Chairs since the 2008 meetings. I will update this report after the second meeting of the Council in order to share the thoughts and concerns of Division Chairs with the Executive Office and Board of Directors.

A. Nominations Form

The nominations form continues to be an effective means of soliciting nominations for elected positions. The Executive Office distributed an electronic nominations form in April and July 2009 to all SSSP members. The form is also posted on the SSSP website. A hardcopy will also be included with the registration packet. To date, we have received 12 electronic nomination forms.

B. Review of Nominations Process

Despite efforts to solicit nominations for elected positions prior to the annual meetings, and while the recent addition of the nominations form has proved useful as discussed above, efforts have not been sufficient. Past Chairs of Chairs have repeatedly voiced their concerns about the nominations process, and Division Chairs have voiced their concerns with the long and sometimes frustrating/exhausting meetings at which they are tasked with developing a long slate of nominees. At the 2008 meetings, SSSP President Steven Barkan created an ad hoc committee comprised of past and current Chair of Chairs to address the problem. The committee will be submitting a detailed report under separate cover identifying main concerns and presenting suggested solutions.

C. New Chair of Chairs

As this meeting marks the end of my third year as Chair of Chairs, the Council of Division Chairs will be electing a new Chair of Chairs during the 2009 meetings. As outgoing Chair of Chairs, I want to thank Division Chairs, the Board of Directors, and the Executive Office, for making my service enjoyable and rewarding. I especially want to thank Michele Koontz for making everything at SSSP so easy. I look forward to serving SSSP in the future in other capacities.