

2009-2010 SSSP Board of Directors Minutes
Thursday, August 12, 2010

ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Called to Order by President JoAnn Miller.

ITEM #2 – INTRODUCTIONS

Members Present:

JoAnn Miller, President
A. Javier Treviño, President Elect
Steve Barkan, Past President
PJ McGann, Vice President
Carolyn C. Perrucci, Vice President Elect
Glenn W. Muschert, Secretary
Susan M. Carlson, Treasurer
Stephani Williams, Chairperson, Council of the Special Problems Divisions
Sarah Jane Brubaker, Board Member
Alison Griffith, Board Member
Raymond Michalowski, Board Member
Barbara Katz Rothman, Board Member
Wendy Simonds, Board Member
Antwan Jones, Student Board Representative
Louis Edgar Esparza, Student Board Representative
Anna Santiago, Chair, Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee
Ted Chiricos, Editor, *Social Problems*
Héctor Delgado, Executive Officer
Michele Koontz, Administrative Officer and Meeting Manager

ITEM #3 - ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Agenda adopted as written.

ITEM 4 - ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ELECTION AND BYLAWS RESULTS

The meeting proceeded according to the approved agenda, with Héctor Delgado presenting the results of the 2010 General Election as follows:

President Elect (2010-2011); President (2011-2012)	Wendy Simonds
Vice-President Elect (2010-2011); Vice-President (2011-2010)	Wendy Chapkis
Secretary (2010-2011)	Glenn W. Muschert
Treasurer (2010-2011)	Susan M. Carlson
Board of Directors (2010-2013)	Valerie Leiter and Nancy Mezey
Board of Directors: Student Representative (2010-2012)	Mandy Frake-Mistak
Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee (2010-2013)	Patrick Donnelly
Committee on Committees (2010-2013)	Matthew W. Hughey and Janet M. Rankin
Editorial and Publications Committee (2010-2013)	David A. Smith and Suzanne Vaughan

Membership and Outreach Committee (2010-2013)

Gina Petonito and
Anna Maria Santiago
Mary Scherer

Membership and Outreach Committee: Student Rep. (2010-2013)

In addition, the Bylaws Amendments were approved in the election. Héctor clarified the changes to the bylaws, approved by the membership vote.

ACTION: The approved bylaw changes related to the termination of a Special Problems Division were amended to keep the wording to make them appear less punitive, without changing the spirit of these amendments.

A discussion of the Lee Scholar-Activist Support Fund was tabled, and was continued to the following board meeting (to take place the following day).

ITEM #5 – REVIEW OF THE MINUTES

Glenn Muschert reviewed the minutes of the 2009 Board Meetings and the Annual Business Meeting. On page 11, the paragraph pertaining to the Lee Scholar-Activist Support Fund Committee Report was stricken from the minutes. The minutes were otherwise approved.

ITEM #6 – NOMINATION OF BOARD MEMBER TO SERVE ON NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

The Board approved that JoAnn Miller would attend the first meeting of the nominations committee and that Glenn Muschert would attend the second.

ITEM #7 – REPORT FROM THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHAIR

Glenn Muschert presented the report of this year's program committee. Included in the report were a number of recommendations. These include the following.

Recommendation: The Committee recommends the continued use of the on-line submission system.

Recommendation: The Committee recommends that the Society solicit feedback regarding the success of this year's "papers in the round" sessions. If these are successful, we can continue to offer these. This helps us get more names/sessions on the program, and help us deal with issues of space pressure. In addition, reducing the number of allowed co-sponsored sessions could help to expand the use of papers in the round sessions.

Recommendation: The Committee recommends that future Program Committees continue to maintain a list of cancellations and late submissions. Place late submissions in sessions that have had cancellations. This can continue up to early July.

Recommendation: The Committee recommends that future Program Committees continue to invite co-sponsorship with ABS and other interested associations.

Recommendation: If possible, such hybrid sessions and interactive film sessions might be of potential interest to the membership. The Committee recommends exploring more hybrid-type sessions.

Recommendation: The Program Committee agrees that initiatives 1 & 2 should continue, however it seems that initiative 3 is not viable.

Recommendation: This separation seems appropriate, and the Committee recommends the continued separation.

The Board suggested that the session featuring Minority Scholarship Award winners be offered at an interval of five years (offer again in 2014).

ITEM #8 – REPORT FROM THE LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Wendy Simonds reported that the local arrangements went very well.

ITEM #9 – REPORT FROM THE MEETING MANAGER

Michele Koontz discussed the issues related to the meetings. As of August 1, there were 563 attendees. Of these 313 (56%) are professionals, 239 (42%) are students/unemployed/emeritus, and 11 (2%) are exempted from paying meeting registration. The society hosted 114 sessions with 402 papers, 29 panelists, 5 workshop facilitators, 3 film representatives, 4 critics, 2 authors and 1 plenary speaker. Other items relevant to the meeting were a discussion of disability access (which will be discussed at the next board meeting) and the use of technology at the meetings which will be discussed at future meetings.

ITEM #10 – MONEY MATTERS

Rebekah Darksmith (from the University of California Press) reported on the financial situation of *Social Problems*. The journal continues to be ranked in the top 10 journals in sociology. The year-end net income to the SSSP for the journal stands at \$220,002. This is 16% above the previous year. The University of California Press is starting a new relationship with JSTOR, which will change the access of *Social Problems*. They are recommending a 9% increase for the 2012 calendar year in institutional and non-member subscriptions, resulting in a print+ electronic subscription price of \$256 and an electronic-only subscription price of \$216. This increase would make the journal priced in a competitive way with other top 20 ISI ranked sociology journals.

Susan M. Carlson (Treasurer) reported on the financial status of the SSSP. The SSSP continues to hold its own financially, and as of December 31, 2009, had net assets of \$386,445. There are two primary revenue streams for the SSSP -- membership dues and proceeds from sale of journal subscriptions, subsidiary rights, etc. Membership dues are likely to remain constant, thus our outlook for increasing revenue through members would be to increase the membership. For the journal, we have lost subscriptions, but we have also raised subscription rates. We are likely to continue to raise the institutional subscription rates in small increments (not more than 9%). Given these limited channels for increasing revenues, we are unlikely to increase our revenue significantly. The board is advised to be mindful of increasing expenses without increasing revenues, as this would be untenable in the current financial climate.

Susan M. Carlson also reviewed the SSSP financial audit conducted by Lattimore Black Morgan & Cain, who gave the Society a "clean bill of health" for its finances.

ACTION: The board approved the results of the annual audit.

Susan M. Carlson also suggested that the SSSP might need to explore other channels to gather revenue. A discussion of ways to increase revenue ensued.

ACTION: The board moved that the Editorial and Publications Committee take up the issue of whether the SSSP can pursue other avenues for publication that create revenue, i.e. a new online journal.

NOTE: On August 15, 2010, the board did not support a motion to form an ad hoc committee to explore the viability of a new, policy-based SSSP journal. Thus, this motion was, in part, undone in a subsequent board meeting.

ACTION: The board moved for the creation of an ad hoc committee for the discussion of channels for all other avenues (excluding publications) for creating revenue. The committee is composed of Héctor Delgado (Chair), Alison Griffith, Ray Michalowski, JoAnn Miller, and Barbara Katz Rothman.

ITEM #10A – 2010 AMENDED BUDGET

Anna Santiago discussed the issues related to the 2010 amended budget. This included the issue of the contract with UTK, which currently runs in a three-year term. To increase revenues, the budget will include a price increase for institutional subscriptions. The SSSP projects a \$24,610 deficit for the current year and a \$42,438 deficit for the 2011 calendar year. In addition, the board discussed various measures to increase revenue and/or reduce expenditures.

ACTION: The board approved that the SSSP should sign a five-year contract with the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, effective 1/1/12 – 12/31/16.

ACTION: The board approved a 9% increase in the institutions subscription rates for *Social Problems* for the 2012 calendar year.

ACTION: The board decided to set a limit of \$600 annually for each active Special Problems Division.

ITEM #10B – JUNE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Anna Santiago discussed the June financial statements. The projected deficit for the 2010 budget is \$24,610.

ACTION: The board approved the 2010 revised budget.

ITEM #11- REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Héctor Delgado reported on the issues related to the SSSP office. The SSSP hired Kelley Flatford to replace Sharon Shumaker who stepped down from the position. Unfortunately, the newsletter editor had to step down suddenly, but Steve Couch and Anne Mercuri, previously newsletter editors, stepped in on very short notice and agreed to produce the summer and fall newsletters. The interviews are taking place for editors for both *Social Problems* and *Social Problems Forum*. The board sent letters to both the Governor of Arizona regarding Arizona Law 1070, and a letter to the President of Marquette University regarding academic freedom and their hiring practices. The discussion about the international nature of the SSSP is still in discussion. Héctor and the original proponents of the expert list decided that for the time being it is best to have individuals wishing to speak to an “expert” contact the Executive Officer, who will, in turn, contact the appropriate division chair. The Board and membership can of course resuscitate the issue anytime it wishes. The SSSP will also continue to explore ways to contact practitioners. There are new resolution guidelines. The Committee on Race and Racism functioned, and will potentially be proposed as a permanent committee. The SSSP now has a Wikipedia page. The Executive Officer discussed the wish list that the SSSP office has. In a future time when the SSSP is operating in less austere times, the SSSP office’s wish list would be a priority for the Society.

ACTION: The board accepted the Executive Officer’s report.

ITEM #11A – REPORT FROM THE UTK PROJECT DIRECTOR

ITEM #11B – PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGES FOR THE 2011 GENERAL ELECTION

Héctor Delgado discussed the changes to the by-laws regarding election procedures.

ACTION: The board approved the following change to the by-laws governing Special Problems Divisions. The Council of Special Problems Divisions may recommend that a Division be discontinued, if the division fails to comply with one or more of the following requirements: (1) have at least 150

members for two years running, (2) distribute at least one newsletter a year, (3) have a replacement chair elected by the end of the current chair's term of office, (4) organize at least two sessions for the annual meeting, (5) be represented at every meeting of the Council of Special Problems Divisions, (6) hold a divisional meeting at the annual meeting, and (7) maintain a current entry in our online publication *Working Toward A Just World*. The division can appeal the Council's recommendation, first to the Council itself, and ultimately to the Board if it is unsuccessful in its appeal to the Council. **NOTE: This change to the by-laws was approved by the board, and does not need to be approved in the 2011 general election.**

For additional changes, see item 11C, below.

ITEM #11C – DISCUSS MOVING TO ELECTRONIC-ONLY ANNOUNCEMENTS, REMINDERS, BALLOTS, AND *SOCIAL PROBLEMS FORUM*

Héctor Delgado discussed the utility of moving to electronic only formats.

ACTION: The board approved that the society would move to an electronic only production of *Social Problems Forum* (i.e., the SSSP newsletter).

ACTION: The board approved, that on the 2011 general election ballot, the SSSP membership will vote on the SSSP moving to an electronic-only voting procedure.

ITEM #12 – Report from the Editor of *Social Problems*

Ted Chiricos discussed the functioning of the journal, acknowledging all the help that he received from assistants. Manuscript Central has been a tremendous help. There were 386 submissions in the past year, with a 5.4% rate of acceptance. There were a mean of 3.2 reviews per manuscript, and in all there were 506 reviews completed. There has been no problem with the \$25 submission fee.

ITEM #13 – Report from the Editors of *Social Problems Forum: The SSSP Newsletter*

Héctor Delgado reported on behalf of Anne Mercuri and Steve Couch. There was a turnover in the editorship of *Social Problems Forum*. Two colleagues edited during the interim, and the SSSP is now searching for a new editor.

ITEM #14 – Unfinished Business from 2010

ITEM #14A – Follow-up Discussion Regarding Retreat Items

Héctor Delgado discussed the outreach to non-sociologists, especially practitioners. The board is in agreement that this is a favorable path of action, but it will need more discussion in the future.

ITEM #14B – Follow-up discussion regarding Administrative Office Assessment

Héctor Delgado discussed this in his Executive Officer's report.

ITEM #15 – New Business

No new business was brought to the board.

ITEM #16 – Adjournment of the 2009-2010 Board

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Glenn W. Muschert, SSSP Secretary