

2009-2010 SSSP Access Committee Meeting Agenda and Minutes

Friday, August 13th 2:30 PM - 4:10 PM Georgia 7

Minutes are in blue

I. Welcome and Introductions

Members present: Kathe Lowney, Chair
 Cary Gabriel Costello
 Tommy Horejes
 Michele Koontz, Administrative Officer

II. Access requests for this year - updates

Only two -- one for food at banquet and another for professional interpreting at several sessions and 1 committee meeting

III. Review of minutes from last year

Unable to locate

IV. Access survey results

- Thoughts on results

Mobility issues (to/from ASA hotel and in hotel)

Room concerns (temperature levels, accessibility for wheelchairs in some of the smaller presentation rooms)

- Discussion of changes/modifications for next year - tentative text is:

Please tell us your experiences accessing SSSP meeting resources at the 2010 Atlanta meeting. Did you find the physical spaces used for the meeting (e.g., conference rooms, hotel rooms, hallways, building entrances, public restrooms, the SSSP registration area, etc.) as accessible as you needed? And what were your experiences regarding accessibility while attending sessions? Did presenters offer multiple formats for their work (e.g., PowerPoint slides, large copy texts, etc.)? If there were access problems, please tell us about the concerns in more detail below. If you wish to share more about this or other concerns

with the Chair of SSSP's Accessibility Committee, she would welcome hearing from you. You can reach Deborah Little at little@adelphi.edu. Please put SSSP Accessibility in the subject line.

"Unanimous support in committee to modify the text to read:

Please tell us your experiences accessing SSSP meeting resources and if you experienced any problems at the 2010 Atlanta meeting. If you wish to share more about your concerns with the Chair of the SSSP's Accessibility Committee, she would welcome hearing from you. You can reach Deborah Little at little@adelphi.edu. Please put SSSSP Accessibility in the subject line."

Committee members felt that the more detailed text could narrow people's focus to only those concerns which were listed and that we wanted the text to be broader and let the SSSP member decide what was a concern.

V. Proposed policy on accessibility services (edited at Committee meeting)

1. With the professional costs of interpreting needs, the Accessibility Committee requests that the SSSP Board of Directors and the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee raise the line item from \$250 (or \$1200, as was revised for this year) to \$2500.

Given the costs of professional interpreting services and/or other possible accessibility costs, we feel this is fair increase. The Committee also recognizes that it is a significant increase, however, in this moment of fiscal concern.

2. SSSP Annual Meeting registration materials will ask any member who has a accessibility request to notify the Administrative Office by June 30th. That will give the Administrative Office and/or the Accessibility Committee time enough to locate resources.

3. The Accessibility Committee and the Administrative Office will help any member who requests interpreting services by contacting local area agencies that provide interpreting (unless member does not want us to do this) and get estimates.

4. SSSP will cap services per member in the following ways:

~~A. No more than \$1000 per member (normally), with a cap of \$2500 per annual meeting~~ **The money would be divided equally among those requesting services.**

~~B. If several members request this service, then each member would receive a percentage of the \$2500 based on number of hours of interpreting needed/requested (i.e., if one member requests only the 80 minutes of 1 session, that should be paid for completely)~~

C. B. Members will be responsible for rest of costs

5. Accessibility Committee in 2011 will be charged with

A. Contacting ~~all~~ **other** sociology professional organizations and find out how this is handled

B. Creating a list of possible additional funding sources to supplement SSSP funds

C. Brainstorming other ways to fulfill accessibility requests, based on the ADA, the needs of members, skills of Society members, and privacy considerations

D. Suggesting revisions to the final policy based on this research

VI. Access at future meetings

- Chicago **2011**
- Denver **2012 Grand Hyatt**
- New York City **2013 Westin**
- **San Francisco 2014**

VII. Collaboration with the disabilities division

The division helped to fund the cost of professional interpreting this year, which was extremely gracious of them. Perhaps our Committee could co-

sponsor some sessions with them. The new chair of Accessibility might want to reach out to the Division and brainstorm ways of working together.

VIII. Universal design session - should Committee propose one?

While we thought this could be a good idea, no one came to this session in 2009, so we might want to see if many Divisions would want to co-sponsor it, in order to increase the likelihood of people attending. This could be an idea for 2012 and take a year to build interest, etc.

IX. Other thoughts

X. Immediately after the Accessibility Committee meeting, I attended the Board of Directors and presented our Committee report. The BOD and I talked for about 10-15 minutes on the increase in funding we requested and many of the ideas that we discussed at our meeting (e.g., difficult fiscal situation of the Society, social justice concern about providing professional interpreting services, etc.). The BOD accepted our committee's report but requested that I send information on this item to the Society's Treasurer, Susan Carlson, to take to Budget, Audit, and Finance for their consideration. I have done that. Deborah - you might want to follow up with her in a few months (I do not know when that Committee next meets).