

## 2009-2010 SSSP Elections Committee Report

Submitted July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010 by Alfred L. Joseph, Chair

The Elections Committee was comprised of the following members:

Alfred L. Joseph, Chair, Miami University  
Gabriel Aquino, Westfield State College  
Jenniffer Santos-Hernandez, University of Delaware  
Debra Street, University at Buffalo, SUNY

The Elections Committee received the prioritized nominations list from the Administrative Office on August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The breakdown of the nominees is as follows: There were 8 nominees for President (2 were needed), 6 nominees for Vice-President (2 were needed), 11 nominees for 2 positions on the Board of Directors (4 were needed), 6 nominees for 1 position on the Board of Directors-student representative (2 were needed), five nominees for 1 position on the Budget, Finance, & Audit Committee (2 were needed), 8 nominees for 2 positions on the Committee on Committees (4 were needed), 8 nominees for 2 positions on the Editorial & Publications Committee (4 were needed), 10 nominees for 2 positions on the Membership & Outreach Committee (2 were needed). On the same committee there must be one position filled by a graduate student. For this spot we had four nominees (2 were needed). For the positions of Secretary and Treasurer the board nominated Glenn W. Muschert and Susan M. Carlson respectively. The Administrative Office verified that all nominees were members in good standing of SSSP.

The committee began work on the 2009-2010 elections in late August. As prescribed by the by-laws, the committee began to contact nominees in order of their appearance on the 2010 Approved Nominations List. The higher ranked nominees were contacted first; this was done until the appropriate number of candidates for each office was attained. The committee, by and large, used email addresses to contact nominees. In a number of cases the email addresses were no longer valid or potential nominees were no longer using them. The Administrative Office was a much-valued resource as they clarified issues related to the appearance of nominees who were up for election for more than one office. Also there were times when people had been nominated for more than one office. Again the Administrative Office provided guidance. Policy was explained and adhered to.

The timing of the whole process which we started in late August necessarily complicates matters because some people are not yet back in their offices or they are in the midst of trying to prepare for the beginning of the fall semester or quarter. It was common to have to contact people more than once and in different ways before it was determined whether the nominee actually wanted to stand for election. Our bylaws indicate that nominees have a two week period to consider the nomination. Waiting a week for people to return calls or emails (or to not hear from them at all) can really draw out and complicate the process since we cannot contact the next name on the list until either we have heard from someone or one week has passed. There were times when it seemed everyone was taking the maximum allotted time before coming to a decision on whether to run for office or not. Trying to be as accommodating as possible, the committee often had to call candidates to

remind them that there was a limit on the time they could take to make a decision. Some candidates inquired as to whom else was running. No information about other candidates was given out.

Another complication was that we ran out of nominees; we had a lot of declining to put their names forward for nomination. When this occurred, the Administrative Office was contacted and approved names were given to the committee to contact.

Eventually, an approved slate was assembled and forwarded to the Administrative Office to begin the voting process. SSSP members have the option of voting electronically or of voting with paper ballots.

The Elections Committee collected, counted and recorded the paper ballots. The results were forwarded to the Administrative Office.

The Elections Committee received the results of the election on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010. This year, 1,748 members with a valid e-mail address had the option of voting electronically and 102 members had the option of voting by paper ballot. Twenty members requested not to vote in elections. Forty-nine members were not allowed to vote (4 members requested to vote electronically but had an invalid e-mail address and 45 members do not want to receive group e-mails and did not request a mail-in paper ballot).

Of the 1,748 members eligible to vote electronically, **367 voted**. This translates to a 21% electronic participation rate. Last year there was a 22% electronic participation rate.

Of the 102 members eligible to vote by paper ballot, **17 voted**. This translates to a 17% participation rate. Last year there was a 20% paper ballot participation rate.

**Total members eligible to vote: 1,850**

**Total members who voted: 384**

**Participation rate: 21% (last year there was a 22% participation rate)**

Below is a sample email to a nominee.

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Nominee's name, first let me congratulate you on being nominated for a position on the SSSP \_\_\_\_\_ Committee. The term you would serve if elected would be from 2010-2013.

Duties of the job can be found at [http://www.sssp1.org/file/handbook\\_2008.pdf](http://www.sssp1.org/file/handbook_2008.pdf) (pages 30-31). I realize you need to give serious consideration to this nomination. I would ask that you notify me of your decision by Wednesday, September 23rd. This will allow us enough time to assemble a slate of candidates for the upcoming election. Thank you and have a nice week-end.

Alfred Joseph  
Elections Committee Chair