

Committee on Race and Racism
Report to the Board of Directors
August 16, 2012
Submitted by Nancy Mezey on behalf of the Committee

In attendance: Adriana Bohm, Hector Delgado, Nancy Mezey, Nancy Naples, Andrew Plotkin, Jane Rodriguez, Amy Shmaefsky, Javier Trevino, Monica White

As we begin our third year as an ad-hoc committee, the Committee on Race and Racism has three firm recommendations for immediate Board consideration and action. We also have one tabled item included in this report, but with no request for action.

IMMEDIATE ACTION ITEMS:

1. We propose conducting an internal "Survey on Race and Climate".

The goal of the survey is to survey recent past and present SSSP members about what attracted them to join SSSP, what keeps them coming back or prevented them from coming back, and what SSSP does well and what needs improvement. The primary motivation for the study is to examine race and racism within or related to the organization.

The committee also recommends that the survey be designed, analyzed, and written up by an expert researcher, with oversight from the committee. The researcher can be found or hired from within or external to SSSP.

The committee would like to create by September 15, 2012, a final version of a call to membership soliciting oversight of survey.

The committee further recommends adding a qualitative research component through focus groups and/or in-depth interviews to complement the survey.

2. The committee recommends that SSSP reach out to the Association of Black Sociologists (ABS) in order to establish a more formal, collaborative, and institutionalized relationship between SSSP and ABS. Such collaboration should consist of, but not be limited to, joint programming during the annual meetings that will benefit both organizations.

3. The committee recommends that SSSP advertise the Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Scholarship through print posters that SSSP sends to targeted graduate programs such as at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and other programs with concentrated numbers of racial-ethnic minority graduate students. In addition, SSSP may want to consider creating short videos for YouTube and FaceBook that highlight SSSP's benefit to graduate students and how to become involved.

TABLED ITEM:

4. The committee discussed giving discounted SSSP memberships to graduate student members of ABS. However, because of disagreements on the committee, we have tabled this item for future discussion and possible action.