

Report of the Editorial and Publications Committee, 2012

Submitted by David A. Smith on behalf of the committee

The Editorial and Publications Committee met on August 16th from 8:30-10:10 in Mt. Yale Room at the Grand Hyatt Hotel. Committee members present at the meeting were: Ted Chiricos, Marjorie DeVault, Paul Luken (new), Suzanne Vaughan, David A. Smith (chair), David Levinson (BFA representative), Becky Pettit (SP Editor), Brent Teasdale (SP Forum Editor). Members absent were: Mary Bernstein (new), Lara Foley, Nancy Jurik, Joann Miller.

UC Press

At the August 16th meeting the Committee heard reports from Hannah Love, Rebecca Darksmith and Allison Mudditt of UC Press. Allison did an overview, Rebecca highlighted the “healthy circulation” level and proactive marketing strategies, Hannah discussed editorial development strategies and a 2012-2013 UC Press action plan to promote SP as well as suggestions for SSSP and SP editorial strategies. Becky Pettit asked a series of questions, including one on implementing Ahead of Print articles available “online first” (and Becky and the UC Press staff will try to work this out so that this will be implemented in the next few months). Increasing the “diversity” and/or “internationalization” of the Advisory Editors was also raised and discussed.

Social Problem’s Editor’s Report (Becky Pettit)

Becky Pettit reviewed her Editor’s report which will also be shared with the Board of Directors at their meeting on August 15th. The editorial transition from the previous Editor is complete, and the new office at the University of Washington is operating smoothly, submissions are up (on target to get 350 new ones this year), issues are appearing on time, etc. She asked that we particularly thank the multitude of SP reviewers who are critical to the journal’s success (and SP papers that are sent out always get at least three reviews). Currently, the editorial office has a policy against “second R&Rs” (up or down decision on all R&Rs). There was some discussion at the meeting of the challenges of trying to organize special/themed issues – but both the committee and the editor agreed that “themed sections” which group separately submitted papers around topics would be a good strategy.

Social Problems Forum Editor’s Report (Brent Teasdale)

Brent Teasdale shared with the Committee the report that he had delivered to the Board of Directors on August 15th. There was also a discussion of the BFA proposal to change the way the newsletter editorial office and staff are funded. Currently the SP Forum budget has been limited to a small honorarium and some travel money, with a very large percentage going to a graduate assistant. If the grad assistant budget (\$10,500) is moved to the University of Tennessee that will lead to virtually NO financial support for the SP Forum Editor’s home institution. Various committee members (including

the chair) expressed concern about how drastically reducing the budget at the disposal of the SP Forum Editor might lower the “incentive” for people to apply for and/or accept that position (particularly Currthe BFA representative, David Levinson, wanted this “message” conveyed back to BFA in the hopes that their proposal can be “reworked.” The sense was that it is legitimate to make more resources available to a University of Tennessee graduate student working for the SSSP Executive Office to compensate for work done there in support of the newsletter, BUT we also believe that the SP Forum Editor should continue to have control over a budget that includes more than simply an honorarium and (perhaps) some additional funds for travel (for instance, some new editors may want to be able to “buy out” courses, etc). Our recommendation is that BFA should carefully consider ANY reduction of this budget and it certainly should NOT be reduced by the full amount that they current recommend. We look forward to further discussion and negotiations on this matter.

Preparation of calls for new Editors of both SOCIAL PROBLEMS and SOCIAL PROBLEMS FORUM

The committee chair (David A. Smith) will resend the template calls to all committee members and anyone who has a recommendation for editing those documents should respond to him fairly promptly. We will try to get the final, ready-to-post, versions of these calls ready by sometime in September. The deadline for applications for the SP Editorship should be in February. We discussed the various timelines and steps in the deliberative process. But it was determined that the chair should contact both Claire Renzetti (former E&P Cmte chair) and Michele Koontz Smith to fully clarify the deadlines and procedures.

Procedures for the possible renewal of the UC Press contract for publishing SOCIAL PROBLEMS

This topic was raised – briefly – at the meeting (we had virtually “run out of time”). Again the committee chair will be in contact with the former committee chair and the SSSP Executive Office to clarify our role, procedures, etc.

Review of committee work during 2011-2012

David briefly reviewed this, including a visit to the UC Press office in November by Editor Pettit and himself, various online/e-mail discussions that the committee successful carried out during the year, etc.

Election of E&P Committee Chair

Current committee chair David A. Smith agreed to continue in this role (with the proviso that other committee members would be providing lots of help during what promising to be a rather busy upcoming year) and was “elected” by unanimous assent.

Respectfully submitted,

David A. Smith