

To: SSSP Board of Directors

From: Glenn A. Goodwin, Chair, Permanent Organization and Strategic Planning Committee

Date: July 10, 2013

Re: Annual Committee Report

Article VI, Section 12. "Permanent Organization and Strategic Planning Committee" (pp. 9-10) of the **BY-LAWS OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS, INC.** states in part that:

"...The duties of the committee shall be (a) the critical survey of the functioning of the Society; (b) the development of proposals for the improvement of the organization and operation of the Society; (c) the examination of the distribution of functions between volunteer members and paid staff for more effective achievement of organizational objectives; (d) initiate the process of planning for new goals and future development for the Society; (e) review of the maintenance of a system of permanent records and operating procedures; (f) serve as personnel committee for the Society..."

At its 2012 annual meeting, the POSPC recommended that it consider discussing proposals for streamlining the special problems divisions, the SSSP committee structure, and exploring the development of a SSSP List Serve. The committee has been working throughout the year with the Executive Officer (Hector Delgado) and Administrative Officer and Meeting Manager (Michele Koontz) toward accomplishing these goals. The latter (Hector and Michele) were initially asked to review these issues and to suggest recommendations to the committee; they did so in a report sent to the committee on December 7, 2012. Below is a summary of the committee's response(s) to the report and its recommendations.

### **Special Problems Divisions**

There are currently 22 Special Problems Divisions that the By-Laws [ARTICLE VI, Section 2-(c)] say require "at least 150 members for two years running"; 12 of those Divisions do not currently meet the membership requirement. The Report suggested that we consider combining and/or eliminating some Divisions or consider reducing the number of members required from 150 to 100 for two years running. The committee is divided on this and will discuss (in New York) the possibility of recommending to the Board a By Laws Amendment that says: "If **after 3 years** a Division fails to have at least 150 members, it may be discontinued".

### **Streamlining Committee Structure**

In addition to recommending that we look at all of our committees (which the POSPC has not yet done), the December 7, 2012 report commented specifically on the SSSP Standards and Freedom of Research, Publication and Teaching Committee which, during the past 11 years, has met only when the Board of Directors, the President, or a member alerted the Society to a specific case or issue and, since 2009, has not dealt with any issue. The Report suggested this committee should no longer be a permanent committee and if at some juncture issues arise that would normally be handled by such a committee, the Board can always appoint an

ad hoc committee to deal with the issues. The POSPC, while generally in agreement with this suggestion, will review the proposal further in NYC. We will also, hopefully, discuss a plan to look at the entire committee structure of SSSP.

### **SSSP ListSERV**

The ListServ, as the Board knows, has been established and is in operation, with Nancy Mezey serving as Moderator for the first two years.

### **Personnel**

In October, 2012, the POSPC approved a job description for a permanent Information Technology Specialist position and approved the movement of Sharon Shumaker into that position. The committee also approved the hiring of Marisa Tate Stone for the vacated Administrative Assistant position.

During the 2011 annual meeting the POSPC voted to meet and conduct evaluations of the personnel during the annual meetings when no site visit is to be conducted. We plan to do this at the meeting in NYC.

### **Scholarly Organization of Annual Meeting Sessions and Presentations**

When it meets in NYC the committee will continue to discuss a proposal that attempts to address the problem of low attendance at too many sessions at our annual meetings. The proposal considers eliminating current restrictions on divisions, considers extending the time division chairs are in office, and tries to allow for the creation of more attractive sessions. The draft proposal has been circulated to POSPC members and to Hector and Michele, all of whom have offered commentary on it.