

2014 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2014

4:15PM – 5:25PM

ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Anna Maria Santiago

ITEM #2 – ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as presented.

ITEM #3 – REVIEW OF THE MINUTES FOR LAST YEAR'S MEETING

Secretary, Glenn W. Muschert presented the action items from the 2013 business meeting.

ITEM #4 – REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY SUMMARIZING 2014 BOARD ACTIONS

Secretary, Glenn W. Muschert presented the action items from the 2014 Board meetings, as follows.

ACTION: The Board approved Glenn Muschert and Susan Carlson as candidates for Society Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.

ACTION: The Board approved Oxford University Press as publisher for *Social Problems* from January 1, 2015-December 31, 2019.

ACTION: Empower the Editorial and Publications Committee to cooperate with the Editors of *Social Problems* (both current and in-coming) to develop a list of opportunities and challenges involved in internationalizing *Social Problems*, including submissions and members of the advisory board. The Board requests a proposed action plan to be discussed at the 2014 Board meetings.

ACTION: The Board approved the 2013-2014 list of Advisory Editors and Student Editors for *Social Problems*.

ACTION: The Board approved the proposed changes to the nominations form: 1. Include an email field on the online nomination form. 2. Ask individuals to rank their choices of positions

on the online nomination form. 3. Change the nominations spreadsheet so that nominations are split by position rather than by person. 4. Include a character limit in the space that asks candidates for additional information.

ACTION: The Board approved the amended nominations list for the 2014 SSSP general election.

ACTION: The Board approved the Report of the Chair of the Nominations Committee.

ACTION: The Board developed a list of appointees for the 2013-2014 Nominations Committee: Shirley Jackson, Alfonso Latoni, Valerie Leiter, and Stephani Williams.

ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Student Representatives of the Board of Directors.

ACTION: The Board approved the 2014 budget as proposed.

ACTION: The Board, with the approval of the Chair of the Lee Student Support Fund Committee, approved the consideration of a three-person committee for 2013-2014 only. If the Chair does not agree to this temporary change in Committee composition, the President will inform those members who will not serve on the Committee.

ACTION: The Board approved the revised report of the Committee on Committees.

ACTION: The Board accepted the Resolutions approved at the Board Meeting.

ACTION: The Board accepted the report of the Committee on Social Action.

ACTION: The Board approved the verbal report of the Committee on Race and Racism Chair.

ACTION: The Board approved the continued existence of the Information Technology Options Committee.

ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Information Technology Options Committee Chair.

ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Justice 21 Committee Chair.

ACTION: The Board approved the continuing existence of the Revenue Generating Committee.

ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Revenue Generating Committee Chair.

ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Transnational Initiative Committee Chair.

ACTION: The Board approved the request of the Institutional Ethnography Division for meeting space at the 2014 meetings.

ACTION: The Board approved the request of *Critical Sociology* for meeting space at the 2014 meetings.

ACTION: The Board approved the request of the Program Committee to hold a cross-disciplinary poverty summit to coincide with the 2014 meetings.

ACTION: The Board approved the report of the annual audit.

ACTION: The Board approved that, beginning in 2016, the site visit for negotiating the contract with the University of Tennessee, Knoxville should include the Chair of the Permanent Organization and Strategic Planning Committee, one member of that committee, and the Treasurer.

ACTION: THE Board approved the 2014 amended budget.

ACTION: The Board approved the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee's report

ACTION: The Board approved the Executive Officer's report.

ACTION: The Board approved the report from the UTK Project Director.

ACTION: The Board approved that the deadline for program participants to register will be moved to June 1 of each year, after which non-registrants will be dropped from the conference program.

ACTION: The Board forwarded the issue of a web-based conference program, including the feasibility and cost, to the Information Technology Options Committee.* The Board requested a report from the Committee by the end of 2014, including the feasibility and cost.

***Note:** The Board voted on 8/15/14 to disband the Information Technology Options Committee. Thus, in lieu of the ITOC, this issue will be forwarded to the SSSP IT Specialist, Sharon Shumaker, for her investigation and subsequent report to the Board.

ACTION: The Board approved the Program Committee Co-Chairs' report.

ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Local Arrangements Committee Chair.

ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Meeting Manager.

ACTION: The Board empowered the Administrative Office to investigate the feasibility, obligation, and legality of revising the current accessibility services policy, which currently includes interpretive services only, to include all accessibility services.

ACTION: The Board approved the Meeting Manager to pursue the option of negotiating a multi-year contract for audio-visual services for annual meetings, and that the Meeting Manager has the option to pursue a minimum of three audio-visual bids.

ACTION: The Board approved the *Social Problems* Budget and Circulation report and the Sales, Marketing, and Circulation report.

ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Editor of *Social Problems*.

ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Accessibility Committee.

ACTION: The Board voted to recognize the non-winner finalists with a certificate and a letter to relevant officials at the author's institution.

ACTION: The Board approved the report of the C. Wright Mills Award Committee.

ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Elections Committee.

ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Erwin O. Smigel Committee.

ACTION: The Board approved that 2014-2015 Joseph B. Gittler Award Committee should be tasked with revisiting the call for applications.

ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Lee Founders Award Committee.

ACTION: The Board empowered the Lee Scholar Support Fund Committee to revise the application form to include questions about the applicants' other sources of funding and the amounts.

ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Lee Scholar Support Fund Committee.

ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Lee Student Support Fund Committee, including the recommendations therein.

ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Membership and Outreach Committee.

ACTION: The Board approved additions to the Operations Manual Section VIII. B. 3. Contract and Agreements for Editors, as follows:

- Add after the second sentence: "This is acceptable as long as those expenditures are not in any way transferred to the Society – either by being covered with funds from the approved budget or by being added later as expenditures to the approved budget."
- Add at the end: "While the Society understands that a final accounting may reveal over and under expenditures, total SSSP expenditures should not exceed the Publisher's contracted amount allocated for editorial office expenses. Hence, if there is uncertainty in a submitted budget, it should be sufficiently below the contracted amount so as to prevent additional expenditures. The support offered by the host institution must be sufficient to assure that the Journal will be published at a high level of quality, which means host institution support must be a part of the submitted budget."

ACTION: The Board approved that the Administrative Office generate information relevant to future Board discussion of the allocation of sessions for Special Problems Divisions.

ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Permanent Organization and Strategic Planning Committee.

ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Scholarship Committee.

ITEM #5 – REPORT FROM THE OUTGOING EDITOR OF *SOCIAL PROBLEMS*

No report was given.

ITEM #6 – PRESENTATION BY THE EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Nancy Jurik described the actions of the Editorial and Publications Committee. In particular, Nancy recognized Becky Pettit for her excellent service as editor of *Social Problems*, and presented her with bound volumes of the issues of *Social Problems* that appeared under her stewardship.

ITEM #7 – REPORT FROM THE INCOMING CO-EDITORS OF *SOCIAL PROBLEMS*

Incoming *Social Problems* co-editor Pamela Quiroz expressed gratitude to out-going editor Becky Pettit. The co-editors assembled an advisory board with 70 members, which represents diversity in all aspects. During the first month, 31 submissions have arrived, but currently there are two submissions per day. Working with the new publishing house, Oxford University Press, is going well, and the transition is going well. All abstracts will be in the online version, and they will also appear in Spanish language. In addition, the co-editors are working with OUP to include vlogs, blog posts, and podcasts from authors. Operations are within budget.

ITEM #8 – REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Héctor L. Delgado, Executive Officer, started with an expression of gratitude for the opportunity to serve the Society, and in particular to support provided by the Administrative Office. The EO is excited about the new publishing for the journal. The EO expressed thanks to President Santiago and her program committee for an excellent meeting and program. The awards banquet and ceremony format is being discussed by the Board, with particular attention toward accessibility, in an economic sense. A membership survey will go out sometime in the fall, which will help to understand the needs and concerns of the membership. The EO sent a letter to the

President of the University of Southern Maine, regarding proposed cuts in humanities and social science faculty.

ITEM #9 – REPORT FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AND MEETING MANAGER

Michele Koontz, Administrative Officer & Meeting Manager reported that there are as of now a total of 806 participants to this year's conference. Among these, 52% are professional, 46% are student/unemployed/emeritus, and 2% exempt registrants. This is the second-highest attendance of all-time since 1985, when numbers were first recorded. In all, 159 sessions are scheduled. Michele expressed gratitude for the teamwork of the staff in the administrative office and executive officer. The Society has worked hard on accessibility, and this year was able to provide requested wheelchair accessible facilities and rooms, gender-neutral restroom, a comfort room, and a QR code to refer folks directly to accessibility resources. There will be an awards reception followed by the banquet. There will be an annual survey for the meeting, which will go out at the end of August.

ITEM #10 – REVIEW OF BY-LAWS CHANGES AND ANY PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER CHANGE

Héctor L. Delgado, Executive Officer, reported that no By-Laws changes were approved in 2014. While By-Laws changes were presented regarding the student members of the Board of Directors and the Membership and Outreach Committee, it was decided that the student board representatives take this proposal to the meeting of the graduate student members for their input. Both proposals will be discussed at future Board meetings.

ITEM #11 – REPORT FROM THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Vice President Luis A. Fernandez presented this year's resolutions.

2014 APPROVED RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions were solicited via several calls sent out to the membership by the SSSP office as well as by emails sent to the Chairs of the 22 Divisions by the SSSP Vice President, Luis Fernandez. This year, a total of two potential resolutions were submitted, including the expression of gratitude.

The resolutions were provided both online prior to the meeting and in hardcopy format at registration at the annual meeting for the membership to review prior to the annual business meeting.

In an annual meeting of the Council of Division Chairs, the proposed resolutions were reviewed. Member Mark Sherry of the University of Toledo spoke to the key relevance of Resolution 1, and its relation to the social justice aspect of the SSSP's mission. This resolution was reviewed and revised and voted on at the annual business meeting of the Society, held on Saturday, August 16, 2014. By a vote of the membership present, both resolutions were approved.

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1. *“Motion Regarding the Death of Connor Sparrowhawk While in Institutional Care”
Submitted by Mark Sherry, University of Toledo.*
 2. *“Expression of Gratitude”*
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Resolution 1: Motion Regarding the Death of Connor Sparrowhawk While in Institutional Care Submitted by Mark Sherry, University of Toledo.

Whereas Connor Sparrowhawk was an 18 year old English disabled man who drowned in the bath at Slade House in Oxfordshire, England, a National Health Service Assessment and Treatment unit on July 4th 2013;

Whereas he was having many seizures around that time, but was left in the bathtub alone and died;

Whereas Connor's death was initially, incorrectly, presented to the family as death by “natural causes”;

Whereas an independent report¹ about his death came to the following conclusions:

1. That Connor's death was preventable.
2. That there were significant failings in his care and treatment.
3. That the failure of staff to respond to and appropriately risk assess Connor's epilepsy led to a series of poor decisions around his care.
4. That the level of observations in place at bath time was unsafe and failed to safeguard Connor.
5. That if a safe observation process had been put in place and Connor had been appropriately supervised in the bath, he would not have died on 4 July 2013.
6. That the STATT (Short Term Assessment and Treatment Team) unit lacked effective clinical leadership.
7. That there had been no comprehensive care plan in place for the management of Connor's epilepsy and his epilepsy was not considered as part of Connor's risk assessment, in breach of NICE epilepsy guidance.

Whereas Connor's preventable death was a tragedy which has gained the attention of the disability community internationally, because disabled people are so often given inadequate and even life-threatening care.

Be it resolved that we express our sorrow and rage at the preventable death of Connor Sparrowhawk;

¹ See this link for discussion of report and as reference for points 1-7 below:
<http://www.southernhealth.nhs.uk/news/report-into-death-sparrowhawk/>.

Be it resolved that we express our solidarity with his family, and with others internationally who are pushing for accountability in this case;

Be it resolved that we demand changes in the disability system more broadly, so that others are not subject to inadequate care and preventable death;

Be it resolved that we recommit ourselves to ensuring that all disabled people live in safety, with dignity and respect.

Be it resolved that SSSP send a letter about this issue to the *Justice For LB Campaign*² and to Connor's mother Sara Ryan, supporting the introduction of a Private Members' Bill in the British Parliament, (which advocates have informally called "the LB Bill"), that will put the choices of disabled people and their families at the heart of the decision-making process. The letter should also indicate SSSP's approval of wide distribution of the letter to policy makers, and among the disability community.

Be it resolved that the SSSP letter support the *Justice for LB Campaign* as they seek the policy changes in the following structural areas:

- Policies that lead to the warehousing of disabled people
- Institutions which don't provide appropriate care,
- Inadequate management of seizures in many health and disability institutions,
- The need for different responses regarding the death of inpatients,
- The need to overturn policies that make the family of the deceased pay for their own legal expenses when investigations and inquests occur into preventable deaths,
- The need to meaningfully involve the family in the inquest process for the purpose of transparency,
- The need for improved professional accountability, such as referral of staff to their relevant regulatory bodies where preventable deaths have occurred,
- The need for national mortality review systems for deaths in institutional care,
- The need for investigations and consequences in circumstances where a preventable death is wrongly presented to the family as death by "natural causes".

Be it further resolved that SSSP add a special session at our next conference in honor of Connor Sparrowhawk. The session will ensure that the issue continues to be discussed, with scholars examining the social problem further.

² They can be contacted at <http://107daysofaction.wordpress.com>.

Resolution 2: Expression of Gratitude

Our sincere appreciation is expressed to all of the officers, committee chairs, and members who have made this program possible and whose efforts maintain the vitality of the SSSP. First, we thank President Anna Maria Santiago for her outstanding leadership in developing the 64th Annual Meeting and its theme: *Fifty Years Later: From a War on Poverty to a War on the Poor*. We also thank this year's Program Committee Co-Chairs Kelly L. Patterson and Robert M. Silverman and committee members Benigno E. Aguirre, Kathleen M. Blee, Filomena M. Critelli, Marlese Durr, Jennifer Shea, and Gregory D. Squires; and Local Arrangements Committee Chair Jennifer Shea and committee members Rebecca Wepsic Ancheta, J. Todd Ormsbee, and Geetan Viridi. We thank the staff of the San Francisco Marriott Marquis for fine accommodations, and we particularly want to recognize the efforts made by Nicole Espinosa, Senior Event Manager, and Kenzie Langston, Coordinator-Group Reservations.

The Society wishes to express its gratitude to Past President R.A. Dello Buono for his years of leadership; Vice-President Luis A. Fernandez for managing the resolutions process; Glenn W. Muschert for his service as Secretary; and Susan M. Carlson for her service as Treasurer. The Society also thanks Marlese Durr, President-Elect; Nancy J. Mezey, Vice-President Elect; Board of Directors: Antwan Jones, Phoebe Morgan, Raymond J. Michalowski, John G. Dale, Heather Dalmage, outgoing members Stephani Williams, Cheryl A. Boudreaux, Sarah Hendricks (outgoing) and Margaret R. Austin Smith, student representatives of the Board; Shannon M. Monnat, Chairperson of the Council of the Special Problems Divisions; and Becky Pettit, outgoing Editor of *Social Problems*; Paul D. Steele, outgoing Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee Chair and committee members Claire M. Renzetti, Tracy L. Dietz, and Susan M. Carlson; Nancy C. Jurik, Editorial and Publications Committee Chair and committee members John F. Galliher, Mary C. Bernstein, Paul C. Luken, David Fasenfest, Nancy Naples, Paul D. Steele, Ted Chiricos, and Becky Pettit; and the University of Tennessee and the Department of Sociology for hosting the SSSP Administrative Office. A special thanks to President Anna Maria Santiago for her financial contributions to program activities and to the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University, Oxford University Press, and the University of California Press for their financial contributions.

We are extremely pleased to announce that the Board of Directors has selected Dr. Pamela Anne Quiroz and Dr. Nilda M. Flores-Gonzalez of the University of Illinois-Chicago as the 2014-2017 Editors of *Social Problems*. We are as excited to have Pam and Nilda as our new editors, as they are to take on this critical responsibility for the SSSP. As we welcome them, we want to thank our current editor, Dr. Becky Pettit, and the *Social Problems* editorial staff for their hard work over the past three years. In addition to selecting Pam and Nilda as our new editors, the Board also selected Oxford University Press as the Society's new publisher from January 1, 2015–December 31, 2019. As one of the oldest and most respected publishers in the world, OUP is especially well positioned to give the journal the increased international exposure that the Society has desired for some time. As we begin our new relationship with OUP, we want to thank the University of California Press for serving as our publisher and to wish them well.

The Society wishes to thank Executive Officer Héctor L. Delgado, Administrative Officer & Meeting Manager Michele Smith Koontz, Information Technology Specialist Sharon Shumaker, Administrative Assistant Marisa Stone, Graduate Research Associate & Webmaster Lisa East, and the chairpersons and co-chairpersons of the 22 Special Problems Divisions for continuing to make the organization run and do all that it does year in and year out. We especially want to thank Lisa for her exceptional service over the past three years.

ITEM #12 – REPORT FROM THE TREASURER ON THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE SOCIETY

Treasurer Susan Carlson presented on the Society's financial condition. Susan expressed gratitude to the Society for the opportunity to serve, and for the support of the Executive Officer, Administrative Office, and the cooperation of the Board, and the members of the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee. The annual audit of the Society's finances indicates that the overall financial health of the Society is exceptionally good. In 2013, the Society had a \$113K budget surplus, \$58K due to socially responsible mutual fund investments, and \$31K profit from the 2013 meetings in New York City. For 2014, the BFA predicts a slight budget deficit, not considering gains from Society investments. The Society received a clean bill of health for its financial affairs and procedures.

ITEM #13 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was proposed.

ITEM #14 – INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW PRESIDENT AND PASSING OF THE GAVEL

President Anna Maria Santiago announced the 2014-2015 President, Marlese Durr.

ITEM #15 – NEW PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES THE SITE, DATE, AND THEME OF THE 2015 MEETING

Vice President Nancy Mezey announced that the 2015 Annual Meeting will take place August 21-23, in Chicago, IL. The conference theme selected by President Marlese Durr will be "Removing the Mask, Lifting the Veil: Race, Class, and Gender in the 21st Century." Nancy clarified the meaning and intention of the conference theme.

ITEM #16 – ADJOURNMENT OF THE BUSINESS MEETING

The business meeting was adjourned by Vice President Nancy Mezey.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Glenn W. Muschert, SSSP Secretary