

**2015 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2015
4:15PM – 5:25PM**

ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Marlese Durr

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 2014 business meeting.

2 Resolutions were passed at the 2014 business meeting, as follows:

RESOLUTION 1: Resolution Regarding the Death of Connor Sparrowhawk While in Institutional Care

RESOLUTION 2: Expression of Gratitude

ITEM #4 – REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY SUMMARIZING 2015 BOARD ACTIONS

Secretary Glenn W. Muschert presented the action items from the 2015 Board meetings, as follows:

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

ACTION: The Board approved the report from Oxford University Press.

ACTION: Proposed changes to the Operations Manual were approved, as follows:

“The Ad Hoc Committee to solicit and review applications for publisher will include the following: The Executive Officer, Chair of the Editorial and Publications Committee, the current Editor of *Social Problems*, the Chair of the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee, the Treasurer, and one at-large member of the Editorial and Publications Committee. This ad hoc committee will review all bids, provide frequent updates to the E&P Committee, select finalists, and make a recommendation to the E&P Committee as a whole. The E&P Committee will vote on the recommendation of a new publisher and then forward their recommendation to the Board of Directors. (The E&P Committee should also be included in any interviews with publisher finalists conducted at the annual society meetings.)

ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Editorial and Publications Committee.

ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Incoming Co-Editors of *Social Problems*.

ACTION: The Board approved the revised 2014-2015 list of Advisory Editors for *Social Problems*.

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

ACTION: The Board approved the amended nominations list for the 2015 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 2014-2015 Nominations Committee: Antwan Jones, Tamara Leech, 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 2015 budget as proposed.

ACTION: The Board acknowledged the Resolutions passed by the membership at the Business Meeting.

ACTION: The Board approved that the Vice President-Elect be added as a member of the Committee on Social Action.

ACTION: The Board empowered the Committee on Social Action to review its mandate, and to return to the Board next year.

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

ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Thomas C. Hood Social Action Award Committee.

ACTION: The Board appointed Lisa East as the Society Listserv Moderator for the 2014-2016 term.

ACTION: The Board approved that the Listserv Moderator will serve a two-year term.

ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Listserv Moderator.

ACTION: The Board voted to disband the Information Technology Options Committee.

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

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

ACTION: The Board empowered the Revenue Generating Committee to explore the possibility of endowing the Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Scholarship.

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

ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Transnational Initiative Committee Chair, and the recommendation to request \$5K from the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee.

ACTION: The Board approved that moving forward, the Chairperson of the Council of Special Problems Divisions report will be considered as the first substantive item of the Sunday Board meeting.

ACTION: The Board approved renaming "Special Problem Divisions" to "Divisions."

ACTION: The Board approved the addition to the conference registration, that members can donate varying funds toward a ticket to future banquets/awards ceremonies.

ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Chairperson of the Council of Special Problems Divisions.

ACTION: The Board reaffirmed that the Society's Annual Meeting Fee Waiver Exemption Policy with the following modifications.

1. Move and revise the last sentence from Exemption category e. to the beginning of the listing: "All exemption requests must be submitted by May 15 (new date approved by the BOD). Exemptions from paying registration fees will be considered for:"
2. The BOD did not change the current budget allocation for up to 20 exemptions per year. Exemptions beyond this amount must be requested for and approved by the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee.

ACTION: The Board approved the combination of the Awards Ceremony with the Division-Sponsored reception, and to eliminate the Banquet.

ACTION: The Board approved the request of *Critical Sociology* for meeting space at the 2015 meetings.

ACTION: The Board approved the request of the Institutional Ethnography Division for meeting space at the 2015 meetings.

ACTION: The Board approved the request from ICASH for meeting space at the 2015 meetings.

ACTION: The Board approved the request of President Marlese Durr to hold a workshop tentatively called "Lifting the Veil: A Workshop for Faculty Diversity Practice for meeting space at the 2015 meetings.

ACTION: The Board approved the minutes of the 2013-14 Board Meetings and 2014 Annual Business Meeting and the 2014-15 Board Meeting.

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

ACTION: THE Board approved the 2015 revised 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 the Program Committee Co-Chairs' report.

ACTION: The Board approved the use of a single, abridged press release.

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 approved the *Social Problems* publisher's report.

ACTION: The Board charged the Editorial and Publications Committee with a mandate to institutionalize the social media aspect of the publication of *Social Problems*.

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

ACTION: In a single vote, the Board approved the committee reports without action items.

- A. REPORT FROM THE C. WRIGHT MILLS AWARD COMMITTEE CHAIR
- B. REPORT FROM THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR
- C. REPORT FROM THE ERWIN O. SMIGEL AWARD COMMITTEE CHAIR
- D. REPORT FROM THE JOSEPH B. GITTLER AWARD COMMITTEE CHAIR
- E. REPORT FROM THE LEE FOUNDERS AWARD COMMITTEE CHAIR
- F. REPORT FROM THE LEE SCHOLAR SUPPORT FUND COMMITTEE CHAIR
- G. REPORT FROM THE THOMAS C. HOOD SOCIAL ACTION AWARD COMMITTEE CHAIR
- H. REPORT FROM THE LISTSERV MODERATOR

ACTION: The Board approved the report on the 2014 Membership Survey.

ACTION: The Board approved that a membership survey would be conducted every five years using comparable questions as used in the past so as to facilitate longitudinal comparison.

ACTION: The Board approved that the Administrative Office send the accessibility guidelines to all program participants one month prior to the annual meeting.

ACTION: The Board approved that the Society website would include a banner advertising the availability of the comfort room at the annual meeting.

ACTION: The Board approved the report from the Accessibility Committee Chair.

ACTION: The Board approved the report from the By-Laws Committee Chair.

ACTION: The Board approved the report from the Lee Student Support Fund Committee Chair.

ACTION: The Board charged the Permanent Organization and Strategic Planning Committee, in conjunction with the Chair of Council of Division Chairs, with submitting a plan for how annual meeting sessions should be organized and allocated.

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

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

Editor Pamela Anne Quiroz reported on the Society's journal. The journal increased in impact factor from 1.3 to 1.72, making it number 15 out of 147 sociology journals. The profile of the journal has been enhanced. In the past year, 434 submissions came in (between 5/28/14 and 5/31/15). Acceptance rate is at 5%. Pamela expressed gratitude to all who contribute to the functioning of the journal.

ITEM #6 – REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Héctor L. Delgado, Executive Officer, started with an expression of appreciation that this has been the second-highest attended annual meeting. The EO expressed thanks to President Durr and her program committee for an excellent meeting and program. Héctor read part of a letter the EO sent to Eric Holder regarding the issue of policing and racial minorities. The transition of *Social Problems* from the University of California Press to Oxford University Press has been seamless. The EO noted that the society's journal has moved to the University of Houston, and he recognized the cooperation of so many parties in making the transition to the new site. The search for a new editor of the journal will begin this year. In December of 2016, the contract with the University of Tennessee, Knoxville expires. In this coming year, the EO will be meeting with UTK regarding renewing the contact. The EO expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve the Society, and in particular to support provided by the Administrative Office.

ITEM #7 – REPORT FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AND MEETING MANAGER

Michele Koontz, Administrative Officer & Meeting Manager, reported that there are as of now a total of 932 participants to this year's conference. This is the second highest attendance in the history of the Society. Among these, 50% are professional, 48% are student/unemployed/emeritus, and 2% are exempt registrants. This is also the fifth meeting in a row for which the Society has realized a profit. Michele expressed gratitude for the teamwork of the staff in the Administrative Office and Executive Officer. There were six requests for accessibility services. The Society has worked hard on accessibility, and this year was able to provide requested wheelchair accessible meeting space and guest rooms, a gender-neutral restroom, a comfort zone room, and a QR code to refer folks directly to accessibility resources. Following the presidential address, there will be an awards ceremony, followed by the Division-sponsored reception. The AO noted that the Society was able to negotiate numerous discounts and concessions from the hotel. The SSSP partnered with the American Sociological Association for four tour excursions in the city. The AO expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve the Society.

ITEM #8 – REPORT FROM THE TREASURER ON THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE SOCIETY

Treasurer Susan Carlson expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve the Society these past years and in particular to those with whom she has worked closely. The Society realized an increase in net assets of over \$145,000. The Society is in excellent financial health, and due to good stewardship of the AO and EO. The Treasurer predicted that the Society would experience at least a \$56,000 budget surplus in 2015. The Society continues to have investments in socially responsible instruments, and in ways which foster community development. Due to the excellent financial position of the Society, the Treasurer recommended increasing the number of Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Scholarships awarded to two, and increasing the stipend from \$12K to \$15K. Increasing the funding for the Thomas C. Hood Social Action Award from \$1K to \$5K and increasing the Lee Student Support Fund budget from \$11K to \$15K.

ITEM #9 – REVIEW OF BY-LAWS CHANGES AND ANY PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER CHANGE

Héctor L. Delgado, Executive Officer, reported that two By-Laws changes were raised this year, although thus far neither has been voted upon. The first is a clarification of the meaning of "bi-yearly" in the by-laws and operations manual. The second regards the possibility to increase the Board quorum from fifty percent to two-thirds. Both items will be discussed at future Board meetings.

ITEM #10 – REPORT FROM THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Vice President Nancy Mezey presented this year's resolutions.

2015 APPROVED RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions were solicited via several calls sent out to the membership by the Administrative Office as well as by emails sent to the Chairs of the 22 Divisions by the SSSP Vice President, Nancy Mezey. 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.

Resolutions were compiled by Nancy J. Mezey, SSSP Vice-President.

1. "Call for SSSP to stand in solidarity with colleagues who have suffered extreme attacks from known White supremacist and other hate groups seeking to silence the voices of activist scholars as members of civil society and campus communities."

Submitted by Jay Borchert and Lori Sexton, Chair and Vice-Chair Law and Society Division.

2. "Expression of Gratitude"

ACTION: BY A VOTE OF THE MEMBERSHIP PRESENT, BOTH RESOLUTIONS WERE APPROVED.

RESOLUTION 1: Call for SSSP to stand in solidarity with colleagues who have suffered extreme attacks from known White supremacist and other hate groups seeking to silence the voices of activist scholars as members of civil society and campus communities.

Submitted by Jay Borchert and Lori Sexton, Chair and Vice-Chair Law and Society Division.

Whereas 2015 has seen a relentless string of attacks upon the value of activist scholars to civil society and the campus community; and

Whereas these attacks have been perpetrated against scholars of color, LGBT scholars, women, and scholars with marginalized identities, such as the extreme examples of Saida Grundy and Zandria Robinson; and

Whereas this opposition to the inherent value of activist scholars has come from mainstream sources such as CNN, Fox News; and

Whereas further opposition and threat has come from fringe and hate groups such as the National Youth Front; and

Whereas the Southern Poverty Law Center recognizes the National Youth Front as a White supremacist organization and a hate group; and

Whereas such attacks place our colleagues at immediate risk by threatening safety and security, to include the ability to earn a living; and

Whereas these are public and directed attacks upon faculty members and credentialed scholars within academic institutions; and

Whereas attacks of this manner are an affront to academic researchers and scholars in their service to society; and

Whereas a unified, supportive response to counter this trend has been sorely lacking from our professional organizations and universities alike; and

Whereas the Society for the Study of Social Problems stands in firm solidarity with our colleagues who have experienced and who are now experiencing these broad-based assaults; and

Whereas the Society for the Study of Social Problems views these attacks as attempts to limit the scope of our research, practice, teaching, civic and campus engagement; and

Whereas the value of activist scholars can be seen in the expanding landscape of rights and citizenship for people of color, LGBT citizens, citizens with disabilities, and women; and

Whereas academia requires a diversity of perspectives and voices to include women, scholars of color, LGBT scholars, disabled scholars, and those with marginal identities;

Be it resolved that the Executive Officer of the Society for the Study of Social Problems will pen a letter to the editor of *The New York Times*, with duplicates sent to the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Chicago Tribune*, *The Washington Post*, *The Boston Globe*, and the *San Francisco Chronicle*, declaring our solidarity with scholars in the U.S. and abroad who are attacked by hate groups; and

Be it resolved that the Executive Officer of the Society for the Study of Social Problems will pen a letter to the university presidents and department chairs at the institutions of Saida Grundy and Zandria Robinson, declaring our solidarity with scholars who have been attacked by hate groups; and

Be it resolved that the Society for the Study of Social Problems will communicate our support and solidarity to known targets of the recent attacks of Saida Grundy and Zandria Robinson; and

Be it is resolved that the Society for the Study of Social Problems reiterates its steadfast support for activist scholarship in service to the discipline and society.

CITATIONS

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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 Marlese Durr for her outstanding leadership in developing the 65th Annual Meeting and its theme: *Removing the Mask, Lifting the Veil: Race, Class, and Gender in the 21st Century*. We also thank this year's Program Committee Co-Chairs David G. Embrick and Bandana Purkayastha and committee members David L. Brunsmas, Mary G. Hovsepian, Nancy J. Mezey, Opolot Okia, Rogelio Saenz, and France Winddance Twine; and Local Arrangements Committee Chair Nancy J. Michaels and committee members Kasey Henricks and Julie F. Hilvers. We thank the staff of the Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel for fine accommodations, and we particularly want to recognize the efforts made by Kim Enderle, Senior Conference Services Manager.

The Society wishes to express its gratitude to Past President Anna Maria Santiago for her years of leadership; Vice-President Nancy J. Mezey for managing the resolutions process; Glenn W. Muschert for his service as Secretary; and Susan M. Carlson for her service as Treasurer. We especially want to thank Susan for her extraordinary service over the years. She has served the Society faithfully as Treasurer from 2003-2005 and from 2009-2014. From 2005-2008, she served as the Society's Investment Advisor. She will return to this position for the 2015-2018 term.

The Society also thanks David A. Smith, President-Elect; Ronnie J. Steinberg, Vice-President Elect; Board of Directors: John G. Dale, Heather Dalmage, Cheryl A. Boudreaux, Keith M. Kilty, outgoing members Antwan Jones, Phoebe Morgan, Raymond J. Michalowski, student representatives of the Board Margaret R. Austin Smith (outgoing) and Kathryn M. Nowotny; Shannon M. Monnat, Chairperson of the Council of the Divisions (outgoing); Pamela Anne Quiroz, Co-Editor of *Social Problems* and Nilda M. Flores-González, (outgoing) Co-Editor of *Social Problems*; Claire M. Renzetti, outgoing Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee Chair and committee members Tracy L. Dietz, Stephani Williams, and Susan M. Carlson; Mary C. Bernstein, outgoing Editorial and Publications Committee Chair and committee members Paul C. Luken, David Fasenfest, Nancy Naples, Corey Dolgon, Gregory D. Squires, Claire M. Renzetti, Becky Pettit, Pamela Anne Quiroz, and Nilda M. Flores-González; and the University of Tennessee and the Department of Sociology for hosting the SSSP Administrative Office. A special thanks to Executive Vice President for

Planning of Wright State University and the Sage journal *Critical Sociology* for their financial contributions to program activities and to Oxford University Press for its financial contribution to the conference bags.

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 Douglas Oeser, and the chairpersons and co-chairpersons of the 22 Divisions for continuing to make the organization run and do all that it does year in and year out.

ITEM #11 – MEMORIAL TRIBUTE OF PAST SSSP PRESIDENT ALBERT K. COHEN (SSSP PRESIDENT 1971-1972)

Davita Glasberg delivered a memorial tribute to Albert K. Cohen.

ITEM #12 – MEMORIAL TRIBUTE OF PAST SSSP PRESIDENT JOANN L. MILLER (SSSP PRESIDENT 2009-2010)

Robert Perrucci delivered a memorial tribute to JoAnn L. Miller.

ITEM #13 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was proposed.

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

President Marlese Durr introduced the 2015-2016 SSSP President, David A. Smith.

ITEM #15 – NEW PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES THE SITE, DATE, AND THEME OF THE 2016 MEETING

President David A. Smith announced that the 2016 Annual Meeting will take place August 19-21 in Seattle, Washington. The conference theme selected by President David A. Smith will be “Globalizing Social Problems.” David clarified the meaning and intention of the conference theme.

ITEM #16 – ADJOURNMENT OF THE BUSINESS MEETING

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President David A. Smith.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Glenn W. Muschert, SSSP Secretary