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To: SSSP Board of Directors
From: Val Leiter, Chair, By-laws Committee
Date: July 21, 2015
Re: Proposed By-Laws Amendments

There are two proposed amendments to the By-Laws this year, both addressing the continued eligibility of elected student representatives once they have completed their graduate degrees. The essential issue is whether individuals who have been elected as students, in student positions, may continue to serve in those positions once they are no longer students. Here are the proposed amendments:

ARTICLE V, SECTION 1. Composition of Board

In order to be a student representative on the Board, the individual must have student status, and must notify the Administrative Office if s/he is no longer a student as soon as her/his status changes. The Board will then appoint a replacement according to Article V, Section 5 of the by-laws.

ARTICLE VI, SECTION 10. Membership and Outreach Committee

In order to be a student representative on the Membership and Outreach Committee, the individual must have student status, and must notify the Administrative Office if s/he is no longer a student as soon as her/his status changes. The Board will then appoint a replacement according to Article V, Section 5 of the by-laws.

The rationale for these revisions was to tighten up continued eligibility of these positions by requiring Student Representatives on the Board of Directors and the Membership and Outreach Committee to remain students throughout their terms.

Last year, the Board requested that the graduate student representatives of the Board take this issue to the meeting of graduate students. Margaret Austin Smith and Kathryn Nowotny, Student Representatives of the Board, reported back to the Board. The graduate students recommended that student members of the Board and the Membership and Outreach Committees should be allowed to serve out their appointed terms, even if they graduate before the terms expire.

The By-Laws Committee agrees with the graduate students' recommendations and withdraws these proposed amendments to the by-laws.



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To: SSSP Board of Directors
From: Val Leiter, Chair, By-laws Committee
Date: July 23, 2015
Re: Additional Proposed By-Laws Amendments

Two additional questions have come before the By-Laws Committee this year, one regarding the periodicity of the Editorial and Publications Committee's review of the editor(s) of *Social Problems*, and the other regarding the quorum necessary for a vote of the Board of Directors.

1. **ARTICLE VI, SECTION 7. Editorial and Publications Committee:** Bi-yearly needs to be clearly defined. Does it mean twice a year or every two years?

The Editorial and Publications Committee shall consist of six members of the Society elected by the voting membership to three year terms with the terms staggered so that at least two members are elected each year, depending on the number of vacancies. Each year the members of the Committee shall select from among their members who have served at least one-year, a Chairperson-elect to serve as Chairperson the following year each year. In addition to the elected members the chair of the Budget Finance and Audit Committee shall serve as an ex officio member. The Committee shall recommend an editor of *Social Problems* to the Board of Directors. The outgoing editor of *Social Problems* shall serve a three year term on this committee, voting ex officio.

The Committee shall have oversight responsibilities with respect to publication of *Social Problems*. In this capacity, the Committee will solicit quarterly reports from the *Social Problems* editor and offer itself as a resource to him/her in order to ensure the quality and timeliness of his/her respective publication.

The Committee is also charged with providing the Board with bi-yearly evaluations of the editor of *Social Problems*. This evaluation should conclude with a recommendation that the editor be continued in the term of office or replaced in a timely fashion. On the basis of the evaluation, the Committee can recommend reappointment of the editor to a second and final term not to exceed three years.

The Committee will periodically review and publish its criteria for the oversight of the Editorial Office and for the selection of the editor. Final decisions regarding the editorial policies of *Social Problems* shall be made by the Board of Directors or by the membership of the Society in vote or referendum. The Editor remains the final judge over acceptance and rejection of manuscript and over format (within the limits set by the budget). The Committee shall also be responsible for supervising the preparation and the publication arrangements of publications of the Society other than the journal, *Social Problems*, as provided in Article X below.

Val Leiter contacted Mary Bernstein, chair of the Editorial and Publications (E&P) Committee to inquire how often that committee has reviewed the editor of Social Problems in the past. Mary in turn had researched this question and found that there was no institutional memory of such a review having been completed by the E&P Committee. Mary has put this issue on the agenda for her committee's meeting next month in Chicago. The By-laws Committee defers to the E&P Committee to decide how often they will review the Social Problems editor.

2. **ARTICLE V, SECTION 3. Quorum of Board:** Héctor suggested that we should increase the quorum to 2/3 (12 members in our case) instead of 50%.

Nine voting members of the Board of Directors shall be necessary for a quorum; provided however that no action shall be taken by the Board of Directors except upon the affirmative vote of at least nine directors.

The By-Laws Committee has voted unanimously in favor of this amendment to the by-laws and refers it to the Board of Directors for their consideration.