

To: SSSP Board of Directors

From: Nancy Mezey, 2015, Vice President and Chair, Social Action Committee

Re: Final report of the 2015 Social Action Committee

Date: August 22, 2015

Present: Ronnie Steinberg and Nancy Mezey (chair)

We discussed the following original charge indicated in the minutes from the August 21, 2011 (2011-2012) Board meeting:

“The Board created an Ad Hoc Committee on Social Action whose purview will be to explore social action and activism, including identifying actions for responding to social issues of concern to the Society’s membership. The committee would be chaired by the Vice President. The following members will be asked to serve for the 2011-12 term: Kristen Budd, Jenny Heineman, Louis Esparza, Luis Fernandez, and Heather MacIndoe.”

We think that this charge is ambiguous so we seek clarification from the Board. In addition, we are unclear as to how members are currently selected to this ad-hoc committee. And we question whether or not the ad-hoc committee should remain intact.

ACTION ITEMS: (Before voting, please see Resolutions report, 8-22-15)

1. We ask the Board to clarify what is meant by, “explore social action and activism, including identifying actions for responding to social issues of concern to the Society’s membership” in the original charge.
2. Can/should the committee select an issue relevant to the city and state in which the meeting is being held, identify and contact organizations that work on that issue, and organize some form of peaceful action with those organizations (e.g., Seattle climate change). This would require the ability for SSSP to take social action and would require some budget. (Given our non-profit status, is this even possible?)
3. Turn the current ad-hoc Social Action Committee into a permanent committee as follows.
 - a. Form the Social Action Committee (SAC) consisting of the SSSP Vice President as chair, two division chairs, and two general members, where the two general members are selected by the Committee on Committees and the two division chairs are selected by the Council of Division Chairs at the previous year’s meeting.
 - b. Charge the SAC with:

- Proposing social actions to the Board such as letter writing, writing an opinion piece, activity on the ground, etc.
 - Working on clarifying and refining resolutions before resolutions are discussed by the full the Council of Division Chairs.
 - Exploring ways that the Society can be more action oriented by connecting with organizations in local and global communities. .
4. If the Board does not approve Action Item #3, then we recommend creating a new, clear charge or disbanding the ad-hoc committee.