

To: SSSP Board of Directors
From: Val Leiter, Chair, Bylaws Committee
Re: Annual Report of the Bylaws Committee
Date: July 15, 2016

The Board tasked the Bylaws Committee with numerous issues and amendments during last year's annual meeting, spanning multiple policy areas. I would like to thank my fellow committee members, Héctor Delgado and Tracy Dietz for their quick and helpful work on the committee, and Michele Koontz for her excellent and constructive guidance throughout the process. Their good collegueship and responsiveness made the policy changes on pp. 1-9 of this report possible. New bylaw changes that have been proposed prior to the start of the 2016 annual meeting are provided on pp. 10-11.

The following actions were approved by the board in 2016 and in the general election and are now in effect:

ACTION: The Board requested that the By-Laws Committee reconsider the appropriateness of limiting Society service to a single elected position.

Article VIII, SECTION 5. Nomination for More Than One Position

Previous Wording:

Any member nominated for more than one position shall be asked by the Elections Committee Chairperson to select the position in which s/he prefers to serve. If the nominee otherwise qualifies but fails to indicate his or her preference, the Elections Committee Chairperson is required to submit the person's name to be a candidate for only one of the positions. If a member is currently serving in an elected capacity and is elected to another position, s/he must decide between the two positions. Members may not hold more than one elected position.

Amended Wording:

Any member nominated for more than one position **in the Society's general election** shall be asked by the Elections Committee Chairperson to select the position in which s/he prefers to serve. If the nominee otherwise qualifies but fails to indicate his or her preference, the Elections Committee Chairperson is required to submit the person's name to be a candidate for only one of the positions. **A member may hold no more than two elected positions, and no more than one position that is subject to a general election by the entire membership of the Society (e.g., Board of Directors, Committee on Committees, etc.). Members may serve in one position at the division-level (e.g., Division Chair or Division Co-Chair) and one generally elected position in the Society simultaneously.** ~~If a member is currently serving in an elected capacity and is elected to another position, s/he must decide between the two positions. Members may not hold more than one elected position.~~

Rationale for the change:

This proposed amendment would allow members to hold a generally elected position in the Society at the same time that they hold a position at the division-level. The current by-laws were meant to prevent individuals from running for two generally elected positions simultaneously but apparently have prevented individuals who are active in the Society as a whole from running for division-level positions as well. This change would allow members to be active at both levels of the Society simultaneously.

ACTION: The Board requested that the By-Laws Committee reconsider revising Section II.C. dealing with Divisions, to reflect that the Executive Officer initiate efforts to review the viability and/or elimination of Divisions, and to consider changing the minimum number of Division viability from 150 to 50 members.

ARTICLE VI, SECTION 2C. Council of Divisions

Previous Wording:

The Chairperson of the Council of the Divisions may recommend replacing a Division Chair to the Executive Officer and the Administrative Officer if the Division Chairperson fails to fulfill one or more of the following requirements after at least two reminders/warnings: (1) distribute at least one newsletter per year, (2) provide an annual division budget on time, and (3) maintain a current division mission statement on the division's web page. The Executive Officer will discuss the recommendation with the Chairperson of the Council of the Divisions and the Administrative Officer. If they agree to proceed with the recommendation to replace, the Executive Officer will forward the recommendation to the Board of Directors for the final decision, and invite the Division Chairperson to submit to the Board, through the Administrative Office, a challenge to the recommendation if s/he does not agree with the recommendation within two weeks of notification. If the Board decides to replace the Division Chair, an emergency election will be held within one month to elect a replacement chair.

Amended Wording:

~~The Council of the Divisions may recommend to the Executive Officer that a division be discontinued, if the~~ **may initiate efforts to review the viability of any** division that fails to comply with one or more of the following requirements: (1) have at least 450 members for two years running, (2) have a replacement chair elected by the end of the current chair's term of office, (3) organize at least two sessions for the Annual Meeting, (4) be represented at every meeting of the Council of the Divisions, and (5) hold a divisional meeting at the Annual Meeting. **If the Executive Officer finds that a division is no longer viable according to these criteria,** the Executive officer will discuss the recommendation **to eliminate the division** with the Council and invite the division in question to respond to the ~~Council's~~ **Executive Officer's** recommendation. ~~The Council and~~ Executive Officer will then decide whether to forward ~~their~~ his/her recommendation to the Board for the final decision.

Rationale for the change:

The number of members needed for a viable division would be reduced from 150 to 50, to allow small sections that are otherwise quite active (meeting all other criteria for

viability) to avoid the threat of being eliminated due to size alone. Responsibility for recommending the elimination of a division would shift from the Council of Chairs to the Executive Officer because it has proved difficult for the Council of Chairs to take action to eliminate a division, even if the division has long-standing violations of multiple criteria for the viability of a division.

ACTION: The Board approved a By-Laws amendment as follows: 1) Create a position of Chairperson-Elect of the Council of Divisions that would be elected into the role the year before the current Chairperson's final year of service, and that this position would be a non-voting member of the Board of Directors. 2) The SSSP will cover the cost of the 3 night conference hotel stay for the Chairperson-Elect. 3) Change the Operations Manual to indicate that the Chairperson-Elect is appointed as a member of the Nominations Committee in the year that the person serves as Chairperson-Elect.

ARTICLE V, SECTION 1. Composition of Board

Previous Wording:

The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, Vice-President, President-Elect, Vice-President-Elect, Immediate-Past-President, seven executive members to be elected by the Society, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Chairperson of the Council of the Divisions; two Student Board Members; and as an ex officio, non voting member, the editor of *Social Problems*. All members of the Board of Directors shall have been dues paying members of the Society for at least two years preceding their assumption of office except for Student Board Members who shall have been dues-paying members of the Society for at least one year prior to assuming office.

The seven executive members of the Board shall be elected to three-year terms except for the initial Board members who are elected for the terms set forth in the Articles of Incorporation. The terms shall be staggered so that no more than three new members are elected each year. Executive members who have been elected by the Society to the Board shall not be eligible for re-election until three years have elapsed since their last term in office. Student Board Members shall be elected for two-year terms on a staggered basis so that one member is elected each year.

Amended Wording:

The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, Vice-President, President-Elect, Vice-President-Elect, Immediate-Past-President, seven executive members to be elected by the Society, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Chairperson of the Council of the Divisions; two Student Board Members; and as ~~an~~ ex officio, non-voting members, the editor of *Social Problems* **and the Chairperson-elect of the Council of the Divisions**. All members of the Board of Directors shall have been dues paying members of the Society for at least two years preceding their assumption of office except for Student Board Members who shall have been dues-paying members of the Society for at least one year prior to assuming office.

The seven executive members of the Board shall be elected to three-year terms except for the initial Board members who are elected for the terms set forth in the Articles of Incorporation. The terms shall be staggered so that no more than three new members are elected each year. Executive members who have been elected by the Society to the Board shall not be eligible for re-election until three years have elapsed since their last term in office. Student Board Members shall be elected for two-year terms on a staggered basis so that one member is elected each year.

Rationale for the change:

The position of Chairperson of the Council of the Divisions is a challenging one, requiring significant institutional knowledge about the workings of the Society. A new position of Chairperson-elect of the Council of the Divisions would be created. The Chairperson-elect would attend Board meetings during the year that they were Chairperson-elect, but would not be a voting member of the Board until assuming the Chairperson position the following year.

ARTICLE VI, SECTION 2. Council of Divisions

Previous Wording:

The Council of the Divisions shall consist of the chairpersons of the Divisions and the Chairperson of the Council, who shall be nominated and elected in the manner provided herein. The Council shall constitute a means for facilitating communication and cooperation among the Divisions; it shall provide a forum for consideration of matters of interest to the Divisions generally, and it may make recommendations, relative to such matters, to the Board of Directors. As provided in Article VI, Section 11, the Chairperson of the Divisions and four members appointed by the Board of Directors shall serve on the Nominations Committee.

Amended Wording:

The Council of the Divisions shall consist of the chairpersons of the Divisions, the Chairperson of the Council, **the Chairperson-elect of the Council**, who shall be nominated and elected in the manner provided herein. The Council shall constitute a means for facilitating communication and cooperation among the Divisions; it shall provide a forum for consideration of matters of interest to the Divisions generally, and it may make recommendations, relative to such matters, to the Board of Directors. As provided in Article VI, Section 11, the Chairperson of the Divisions, **the Chairperson-elect of the Council**, and four members appointed by the Board of Directors shall serve on the Nominations Committee.

Rationale for the change:

The position of Chairperson of the Council of the Divisions is a challenging one, requiring significant institutional knowledge about the workings of the Society. This proposed amendment would create a Chairperson-elect position help prepare future Chairpersons more thoroughly, allowing them a year to be mentored into that role.

ARTICLE VI, SECTION 11A. Nominations Committee

Previous Wording:

The Nominations Committee for each year following the annual meeting is established at the current annual meeting. The committee shall consist of the Chairperson of the Council of the Divisions and four members appointed by the Board of Directors. The Chairperson of the Council of the Divisions will serve as the Chair of the Nominations Committee and will be the primary point of contact with the Board of Directors.

Amended Wording:

The Nominations Committee for each year following the annual meeting is established at the current annual meeting. The committee shall consist of the Chairperson of the Council of the Divisions, **the Chairperson-elect of the Council**, and four members appointed by the Board of Directors. The Chairperson of the Council of the Divisions will serve as the Chair of the Nominations Committee and will be the primary point of contact with the Board of Directors.

Rationale for the change:

The Chairperson-elect of the Council of Divisions would be a member of the nominations committee, to prepare them for their responsibilities leading the nominations and election processes the following year, when they are Chairperson.

ARTICLE X, SECTION 2. Editor of *Social Problems*

ACTION: The Board referred the issue of evaluation of the editor of Social Problems and the term of the editor for further elaboration and specifications of the criteria that would be used for the evaluation, as well as clarify how the by-laws would be changed with respect to the possible reappointment of the editor of Social Problems back to the Editorial Committee. (The proposed wording was provided by the Editorial and Publications Committee to the Board and was approved by the Board.)

Previous Wording:

The Editor shall be recommended by the Editorial and Publications Committee and appointed by the Board of Directors. They shall normally serve for a term of three years. They may be reappointed for only one three-year term. The outgoing Editorial and Publications Committee shall make recommendations to the outgoing Board of Directors and the Board of Directors shall appoint the Editor who will assume office at the next Annual Meeting. The Editor shall be designated at least six months prior to the expiration of the term of his or her predecessor, and shall serve as Editor-Elect until such time as s/he assumes office as Editor.

The Editor shall be a non-voting ex-officio member of the Board of Directors and of the Editorial and Publications Committee and shall be ineligible for election to either. The Editor shall submit an annual report to the Board of Directors, to the Editorial and

Publications Committee, and to the membership at the annual business meeting of the Society. Terms of office shall end at the adjournment of the annual business meeting. At the conclusion of an editor's term, he/she will continue to serve on the Editorial and Publications Committee as a voting ex officio member for a three year term.

Amended Wording:

The Editor shall be recommended by the Editorial and Publications Committee and appointed by the Board of Directors. **S/he** shall normally serve for a term of three years. **With the recommendation of the Editorial and Publications Committee and the approval of the Board of Directors, s/he may be reappointed for an additional term not to exceed three years.** The outgoing Editorial and Publications Committee shall make recommendations to the outgoing Board of Directors and the Board of Directors shall appoint the Editor who will assume office at the next Annual Meeting. The Editor shall be designated at least six months prior to the expiration of the term of his or her predecessor, and shall serve as Editor-Elect until such time as s/he assumes office as Editor.

The Editor shall be a non-voting ex-officio member of the Board of Directors and of the Editorial and Publications Committee and shall be ineligible for election to either. The Editor shall submit an annual report to the Board of Directors, to the Editorial and Publications Committee, and to the membership at the annual business meeting of the Society. Terms of office shall end at the adjournment of the annual business meeting. At the conclusion of an editor's term, he/she will continue to serve on the Editorial and Publications Committee as a voting ex officio member for a three year term.

Rationale for the change:

The Editorial and Publications Committee requested that the by-laws be changed to allow the Editor of *Social Problems* to serve a second three-year term, in the event that the Editor, Editorial and Publications Committee and the Board of Directors all approve a second term. This change would allow for the possibility of increased stability and consistency in the editorship of the journal.

ARTICLE VI, SECTION 7. Editorial and Publications Committee

Previous Wording:

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.

Amended Wording:

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.

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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.

Rationale for the change:

The by-laws were ambiguous regarding the frequency with which the Editorial and Publications Committee should evaluate the Editor of *Social Problems*. The term “bi-yearly” suggested that such a review should occur twice a year. The Editorial and Publications Committee has asked that the by-law wording be changed to reflect their preference for an annual review.

ARTICLE VI, SECTION 25. Arlene Kaplan Daniels Paper Award Committee

ACTION: The Board approved the creation of the Arlene Kaplan Daniels Paper Award, as was clarified during the meeting, including the first award committee (five members) as follows, Marlese Durr (chair), Keith Kilty, Shannon Monnat, Kathryn Nowotny, and Ronnie Steinberg.

The Arlene Kaplan Daniels Paper Award Committee shall consist of a Chairperson, a Chairperson-elect and not more than four members. The Chairperson-elect and other members shall be nominated by the President-Elect in consultation with the Committee on Committees and appointed by the Board of Directors. They shall serve during the President-Elect’s term as President. The Chairperson-elect shall serve as a member of the committee during the year prior to becoming the Chairperson.

Following criteria specified by the Board of Directors, the Committee shall have the responsibility of identifying the best paper on Women and Social Justice which addresses contemporary issues of women’s justice locally, nationally, and globally; brings a fresh perspective to women’s inclusion in global society and advances new theoretical directions discussing women and social justice; is theoretically informed and possesses and empirical orientation. Monies for this fund shall come from contributions from members, allocations by the Board of Directors and other sources.

Rationale for the change:

Members of the Society wish to honor Arlene Kaplan Daniels by creating a new annual award in her name that acknowledges contemporary scholarship on women and social justice.

ARTICLE VI, SECTION 26. Doris Wilkinson Faculty Leadership Award Committee

ACTION: The Board approved the creation of the Doris Wilkinson Faculty Leadership Award, as was clarified during the meeting, including the first award

committee (three members) as follows, Claire Renzetti (chair), Ray Michalowski, and Barbara Katz Rothman.

The Doris Wilkinson Faculty Leadership Award Committee shall consist of a Chairperson, a Chairperson-elect and not more than two committee members. The Chairperson-elect and other members shall be nominated by the President-Elect in consultation with the Committee on Committees and appointed by the Board of Directors. They shall serve during the President-Elect's term as President. The Chairperson-elect shall serve as a member of the committee during the year prior to becoming the Chairperson.

Following criteria specified by the Board of Directors, the committee has the responsibility of identifying an outstanding faculty member who has exercised an extensive leadership role within the SSSP and other professional societies and within the larger community. The nominees must address social issues of contemporary public importance; bring a deepened public understanding to these issues; advance social understanding of leadership for change within the larger society; and propose courses of action to effect that change. Monies for this fund shall come from contributions from members, allocations by the Board of Directors and other sources.

Rationale for the change:

Members of the Society wish to honor Doris Wilkinson by creating a new annual leadership award in her name that would be given to an outstanding faculty member who has provided significant leadership on issues of contemporary public importance.

The following bylaws amendments are proposed by the Executive Officer for Board's consideration at this time:

ARTICLE VI, SECTION 9. Elections Committee

Current Wording:

The President in consultation with the Committee on Committees shall nominate a Chairperson of the Elections Committee. In consultation with the Chairperson, the President shall nominate three or more members who reside in the same geographic area as the Chairperson to serve as committee members. The Chairperson and the committee members shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. The Elections Committee itself, as a committee, shall make no nominations. It shall be guided in its actions solely by the nominations it receives from the Nominations Committee and petitions it receives from the membership. Its duties shall be to contact the nominees, supervise the conduct of elections and of referendums on policy and legislation, and to certify the results thereof. (See Article VIII, section 5 for detailed description of duties and activity.) The ways in which such elections and referendums are initiated and held are outlined below in Article VIII.

Proposed Wording:

The President in consultation with the Committee on Committees shall nominate a Chairperson of the Elections Committee. In consultation with the Chairperson, the President shall nominate three or more members ~~who reside in the same geographic area as the Chairperson~~ to serve as committee members. The Chairperson and the committee members shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. The Elections Committee itself, as a committee, shall make no nominations. It shall be guided in its actions solely by the nominations it receives from the Nominations Committee and petitions it receives from the membership. Its duties shall be to contact the nominees, supervise the conduct of elections and of referendums on policy and legislation, and to certify the results thereof. (See Article VIII, section 5 for detailed description of duties and activity.) The ways in which such elections and referendums are initiated and held are outlined below in Article VIII.

Rationale for the change:

Since all voting is conducted online and we no longer mail election ballots, it is no longer necessary that committee members reside in the same geographic area as the Chairperson.

_____ Approve

_____ Disapprove

_____ Abstain

ARTICLE VI, SECTION 27. Committee on Social Action

Proposed Wording:

The Committee on Social Action shall consist of the Vice President as Chairperson, two Division Chairs selected by the Council of Division Chairpersons at the previous year's meeting, and two members in consultation with the Committee on Committees and appointed by the Board of Directors.

Following criteria specified by the Board of Directors, the Committee shall have the responsibility of proposing social actions to the Board such as writing letters and opinion pieces; clarifying and refining resolutions before the resolutions are discussed by the Council of Division Chairs; and exploring ways in which the Society can be more action oriented by connecting with organizations locally, nationally, and globally.

Rationale for the proposed wording:

At the 2015 Board of Directors Meeting, the Board voted to turn the ad hoc committee into a permanent committee.

_____ Approve

_____ Disapprove

_____ Abstain