

**Date:** August 19, 2016

**To:** Michele Koontz, SSSP Administrative Officer, and SSSP Board of Directors

**From:** Bhoomi K. Thakore, Chairperson of the SSSP Council of the Divisions

**Re:** SSSP 2015-2016 Council of the Divisions Annual Report

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Below please find a summary of activities of the SSSP Division Chairs during 2015-2016. The report has been updated after the Council of Divisions' first and second meetings to reflect the thoughts and concerns of the elected Division Chairs/Co-Chairs.

## **1. Appreciation and Thanks**

First, I would like the opportunity to thank Michele Koontz for all her help, advice, and support during my first year as Chairperson of the Council of Divisions, ultimately making my life easier, as well as Shannon Monnat, outgoing Chairperson, who shared her advice and documents with me. I would also like to thank Héctor Delgado, Douglas Oeser, Sharon Shumaker, and Marisa Stone for their assistance during the year.

## **2. Division Fulfillment of Responsibilities**

### **a. Overview**

During 2015-2016, I worked with Michele and Héctor regarding the Chair of the Family Division's failure in completing many of the position's required tasks. After numerous attempts to reach and work with the Chair, we followed the protocol for this situation as outlined in the SSSP By-Laws. **The Board approved to remove the Chair of the Family Division. Two nominees have been identified to run in an emergency election to open in late August/early September 2016.** In the meantime, I will serve as the point-person for the Division and its required activities (e.g. chairing the Division's business meeting, and creating sponsored and co-sponsored sessions for the 2017 annual meeting).

This year, the Council of the Divisions identified 2 (ongoing or incoming) Division Chairs to serve on the SSSP 2016-2017 Committee on Social Action: **Noreen Sugrue (Labor Studies) and Kristen Budd (Crime and Juvenile Delinquency).**

### **b. Representation at 2015 Division Chairs' Meetings**

At the 2015 annual meeting, 4 Divisions did not attend all 3 of the required Council of Divisions' meetings:

- Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities: Did not attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> council meeting
- Society and Mental Health: Did not attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> council meeting

- Poverty, Class, and Inequality: Did not attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> council meeting
- Family: Did not attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> council meeting

Three of these Divisions were not represented at the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, at which the Council discusses submitted resolutions. At this year's Friday morning meeting, Division Chairs were reminded of the importance of this meeting, and encouraged to have their Division represented at forthcoming meetings in order to ensure input from all Divisions on these important issues.

Two of the divisions were not represented at the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, at which the Division Chairs discuss programming for the following year's meeting. The issues of one of these Divisions has already been identified in this report, and the other Division had co-sponsored and thematic program sessions for this year's conference despite their absence at the programming meeting. Again, the benefit of attending this meeting, for hearing from the incoming Program Chairs and their vision of the conference, and for identifying co-sponsored sessions, was emphasized to the Division Chairs at this year's meetings.

#### **c. Budget Submission**

All Division submitted budgets for 2016-2016, except for the Family Division (previously discussed).

#### **d. Mission Statement Updates**

All of the Divisions have reviewed or updated their mission statements in 2015-2016, except for two: Institutional Ethnography (2013) and Labor Studies (2014). At the Friday morning meeting, Divisions were encouraged to update their mission statements, and add references where relevant, for the purposes of potential recruitment.

#### **e. Division Elections**

The following 10 Divisions held elections in 2015-2016, to be served by new Division Chairs/Co-Chairs/Vice-Chairs as of this meeting:

- Disability
- Drinking and Drugs
- Environment and Technology
- Health, Health Policy, and Health Services
- Law and Society
- Racial and Ethnic Minorities
- Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities
- Social Problems Theory
- Teaching Social Problems
- Youth, Aging, and the Life Course

#### **f. Social Media Presence**

All but 5 of the Divisions have a social media presence (the Divisions that do not are Disability, Educational Problems, Global, Institutional Ethnography, and Society and Mental Health). Suggestions for creating and maintaining social networking sites were discussed at our Friday morning meeting.

#### **g. Newsletters**

All of the Division distributed at least 1 newsletter in 2015-2016, with the exception of 2 that did not distribute any (Drinking and Drugs, and Family). At our meeting, I emphasized the usefulness of distributing at least 2 newsletters, ideally in the fall/winter (to maintain momentum after the meeting) and spring (sometime after the preliminary program is released, to share session and other meeting information). Currently, many Divisions are producing excellent newsletter documents, and strategies for such were briefly addressed at our Friday morning meeting.

#### **h. Division Membership Totals**

Information regarding the change over time in Division membership is included at the end of this report (Table 1). **Currently, 2 Divisions are at or below the 50-member minimum (Disabilities and Sport, Leisure, and the Body).** Both Divisions will continue to be monitored regarding membership numbers and long-term viability.

### **3. Concerns of the Divisions**

Below are the concerns discussed by the Council of the Divisions at our Friday morning meeting:

#### **a. Division memberships**

Some Divisions expressed concern about the variation in Division memberships over the years. This was addressed alongside the free membership numbers – graduate students receive two free memberships, and regular members receive one free membership. **Division Chairs discussed the possibility of increasing the number of free memberships, of graduate students in particular, for the potential to increase Division memberships.** Relatedly, strategies for increasing membership numbers were discussed, including using newsletters and promoting attendance at Division business meetings.

#### **b. Divisions' Analytical Data**

Division Chairs requested additional information on their members (e.g. professional status, dual/multiple membership). This was seen as potentially useful for recruitment, membership retention, and creating sessions or workshops that could be of interest across Divisions. Douglas Oeser and Sharon Shumaker have been informed and will work on gathering this information to distribute to each Division.

### **c. Division business meetings**

Division Chairs discussed issues related to Division business meetings, including their scheduling conflict with other Division business meetings, other SSSP sessions, and in rooms where multiple business meetings are being held. The issues of the latter item include crowding at small tables and difficulty in hearing others. Some Division Chairs also felt that the meeting time (1:40) was too much time and difficult to fill. Division Chairs were reminded that they could use one of their sole-sponsored sessions for creative business meeting formats (e.g. half-session devoted to a special speaker, half-session devoted to business meeting). **I have already discussed with Michele Koontz the feasible option of scheduling fewer business meetings in the same space for future conferences.**

Table 1. SSSP Division Membership Tallies 2011-2016

Division	2011**	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	% Change 2015-2016	% Change 2012-2016
Racial & Ethnic Minorities	428	291	305	330	352	376	6.8	29.2
Poverty, Class, & Inequality	507	313	290	327	287	286	-0.3	-8.6
Conflict, Social Action, & Change	344	214	237	215	218	226	3.7	5.6
Crime & Juvenile Delinquency	273	183	206	214	179	196	9.5	7.1
Health, Health Policy, & Health Services	281	204	221	181	196	191	-2.6	-6.4
Global	230	138	138	143	149	188	26.2	36.2
Sexual Behavior, Politics, & Communities	250	204	194	179	177	172	-2.8	-15.7
Law & Society	214	155	147	142	129	153	18.6	-1.3
Community Research & Development	257	171	174	158	163	152	-6.7	-11.1
Teaching Social Problems	267	150	139	125	116	133	14.7	-11.3
Social Problems Theory	308	192	165	148	138	126	-8.7	-34.4
Environment & Technology	127	103	115	101	102	115	12.7	11.7
Society and Mental Health	164	118	128	113	110	111	0.9	-5.9
Sociology & Social Welfare	184	100	95	105	111	111	0.0	11.0
Educational Problems	157	114	120	119	133	106	-20.3	-7.0
Family	188	129	110	107	118	101	-14.4	-21.7
Institutional Ethnography	189	134	138	113	104	98	-5.8	-26.9
Labor Studies	153	114	122	107	113	95	-15.9	-16.7
Drinking & Drugs	138	99	107	111	87	89	2.3	-10.1
Youth, Aging, & the Life Course	159	96	82	82	81	83	2.5	-13.5
<b>Disabilities</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>-31.5</b>	<b>-18.0</b>
<b>Sport, Leisure &amp; the Body</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>-6.7</b>	<b>-14.3</b>

\*\*Prior to 2012: Each member received three FREE division memberships. Additional divisions were \$2 each  
Sorted in order of 2016 membership

Divisions at the border of minimum membership marked in **bold**.