

POSPC Report to the Board of Directors
July 15, 2016
From Luis Fernandez

The SSSP Executive Officer presented his report to the committee, describing the status of the organization. He stated that SSSP is gaining international representation via *Social Problems*, both in the publication and the editorial board. The year also had a few challenges, including having the editor of *Social Problems* move to a new institution in Houston, Texas. However, the changes were met and the journal remains in good standing. The scheduled discussion of the SSSP Project Director was held for the site visit.

The POSPC conducted a lengthy and engaged discussion regarding division titles, membership, and the number of sessions at the annual meeting. Currently several divisions do not have the requisite number of members outlined in the by-laws. However, POSPC declined a proposal to combine divisions with low membership. Instead, the POSPC proposed that the divisions consider combining and renaming themselves, which would allow for a more democratic process. It was also proposed that the number of sessions at the annual meeting (for each division) be proportional to the division's membership the previous year. However, after much discussion, the proposal was not approved. While other approaches were suggested, debated, and analyzed, the committee concluded that no changes should be made at this time. However, the POSPC noted that there is a perennial issue that arises every few years involving proposals to reduce the number of sessions in the annual program, while keeping the ability of members to innovate in their research and the type of divisions that the organization should keep. There is likely no perfect solution to this problem, and it was suggested that perhaps the solution we have now is a working compromise. Currently, SSSP is using the division model to reach a democratic balance between having too many sessions and allowing for bottom-up growth of the organization. The POSPC also discussed the idea of moving to a more innovative way to feature new, cutting edge work. However, in the end the committee agreed unanimously that the current method was both democratic and allowed change to occur from the grassroots upward. For this reason, no changes are recommended at this time.

The POSPC then discussed revisions to the Operations Manual. The BFA proposed changes for the editorial office of *Social Problems*. After a lengthy discussion, POSPC unanimously approved the following additions to Section VII.B.3 of the Operations Manual:

To be add after the second sentence: "This is acceptable as long as those expenditures are not in any way transferred to the Society – either by being covered with funds from the approved budget or by being added later as expenditures to the approved budget."

To be add at the end: “While the Society understands that a final accounting may reveal over and under expenditures, total SSSP expenditures should not exceed the Publisher’s contracted amount allocated for editorial office expenses. Hence, if there is uncertainty in a submitted budget, it should be sufficiently below the contracted amount so as to prevent additional expenditures. The support offered by the host institution must be sufficient to assure that the Journal will be published at a high level of quality, which means host institution support must be a part of the submitted budget.”

The meeting adjourned and members rushed to their next meeting.