

2016-2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 2017
11:45AM – 4:45PM

ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by President Donileen R. Loseke

ITEM #2 – INTRODUCTIONS

Members Present:

Donileen R. Loseke, President
Luis A. Fernandez, President-Elect
David A. Smith, Past President
Valerie Leiter, Vice-President
David G. Embrick, Vice-President-Elect
Glenn W. Muschert, Secretary
Patrick Donnelly, Treasurer
Cheryl A. Boudreaux, Board Member
Saher Selod, Board Member
Elroi J. Windsor, Board Member
Claire M. Renzetti, Board Member
Louis Edgar Esparza, Board Member
Keith M. Kilty, Board Member
Sarah Jane Brubaker, Board Member
Sarah St. John, Board Member, Student Representative
Pamela Anne Quiroz, Editor of *Social Problems*
Bhoomi K. Thakore, Chairperson, Council of the Divisions
Héctor L. Delgado, Executive Officer
Michele Koontz, Administrative Officer and Meeting Manager

ITEM #3 – ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

There were two amendments.

1. Item #6A – Report from the Chair of the Committee on Social Media - Kasey Henricks - will be rescheduled to a later date.
2. Item #15D – Clarification of the composition of the Ad Hoc Publisher Search Committee for *Social Problems* will be added to the agenda.

Agenda adopted as amended.

ITEM #4 – MEET WITH *SOCIAL PROBLEMS* EDITOR APPLICANTS

Héctor L. Delgado presented information about the search for a new editor for *Social Problems*.

PART A: The Board met with proposed future editors of *Social Problems*, Annulla Linders and Earl Wright, II (University of Cincinnati).

ITEM #5 – REPORT FROM OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, PUBLISHER OF *SOCIAL PROBLEMS*

Laura Bannon, Senior Publisher, Social Science Journals; and Brittany Hobson, Marketing Coordinator presented the report from Oxford University Press (OUP). We are 30 months into publishing the journal with OUP. Circulation from 2016 and 2017 YTD information indicate that full-rate institutional subscribers are tending to migrate into consortia agreements. Our circulation has increased via

consortia access, with a slight decline in full-rate institutional subscriptions. Print circulation is declining. The attrition rate for subscriptions is declining. The North American market for the journal is 30%, which indicates that the international reach of the journal is strong. Impact Factor for the journal rebounded, although this is to be taken with a grain of salt, especially as articles in the journal tend to have a long lifespan. HTML format downloads are increasing, which leads to a more interactive media experience for the reader. OUP continues to market the journal and its content, especially via email alert systems and social media. OUP establishes goals and metrics on usage, profile, and citation.

ACTION: The Board approved the *Social Problems* publisher's report.

ITEM #6 – REPORT FROM THE EDITOR OF *SOCIAL PROBLEMS*

Editor Pamela Anne Quiroz reported on the state of *Social Problems*. Over one year ago, the journal transitioned to the University of Houston, and while the transition was not seamless, things are now running well. The editor presented the list of members for Advisory Board 2017-2018. In the previous year, the breadth of submissions in terms of topics has increased. Time of articles in review has been comparable to that in previous editorial years. The editor recognized Kasey Henricks for his contribution to the social media aspects of the publication of *Social Problems*. Although there is a little disappointment that OUP has only included social media on their site since July 2017.

ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Editor of *Social Problems*.

Part A: Report from the Chair of the Committee on Social Media – Kasey Henricks.
This was tabled, and will be revisited at the Friday, August 11th Board Meeting.

ITEM #7 – REVIEW OF THE MINUTES

Secretary Glenn Muschert presented the minutes of the 2015-16 Board Meetings, the 2016 Annual Business Meeting, and the 2016-17 Board Meeting.

ACTION: The Board approved the minutes of the 2015-16 Board Meetings, the 2016 Annual Business Meeting, and the 2016-17 Board Meeting.

ITEM #8 – PRESENTATION OF THE 2017 GENERAL ELECTION REPORT

Héctor L. Delgado presenting the results of the 2017 General Election:
President-Elect (2017-2018); President (2018-2019) Nancy J. Mezey
Vice-President-Elect (2017-2018); Vice-President (2018-2019) William Cabin
Secretary (2017-2018) Glenn W. Muschert
Treasurer (2017-2018) Patrick Donnelly
Board of Directors (2017-2019) Maralee Mayberry and Fernando I. Rivera
Board of Directors, Student Representative (2017-2019) Maria D. Duenas
Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee (2017-2020) Heather E. Dillaway
Committee on Committees (2017-2020) Arturo Baiocchi and Rachel L. Rayburn
Editorial and Publications Committee (2017-2020) Loretta E. Bass and Valerie Leiter
Membership and Outreach Committee (2017-2020) Lynn H. Green and Christina D. Weber
Membership and Outreach Committee, Student Representative (2017-2020) Alexander L. Dzurick
6 By-Laws Amendments: Approved

Part A: Membership and Outreach Committee Position, 2017-2020.

ACTION: The Board approved that John Foster would replace Lynn Green on the Membership and Outreach Committee for the 2017-2020 term.

ITEM #9 – MONEY MATTERS

Treasurer Patrick Donnelly reported on the financial condition of the Society. The Society finds itself in a good position at present, noting that 2016 was a solid year, especially revenue category related to the 2016 annual meeting in Seattle, which resulted in an approximately 8% increase. The Society continues to function effectively from a financial standpoint.

Part A: LBMC Communications Letter. The Society received a clean audit, and there were no unusual findings.

Part B: 2016 Audit Report. LBMC representatives provided information regarding the 501(c)3 tax status, with the possible election 501(h) tax status.

ACTION: The Board approved the Treasurer's Report on the Financial Condition of the SSSP and the 2016 Annual Audit Report.

PART C: 2017 Amended Budget

Stephani Williams, Chair of the Budget, Finance, and Audit (BFA) Committee, presented the 2017 amended budget. The Board discussed the issue that institutional support for editorships of *Social Problems* seems to be decreasing, and there may be a need for us to watch future trends. The BFA Committee pointed out that there may be too many new awards, which lack funding, and that this model is not sustainable.

ACTION: The Board approved the 2017 revised budget.

PART D: 2017 June Balance Sheet

PART E: 2017 June Income Statement

Stephani Williams reported that the 2017 annual meetings are likely to generate positive revenue, as the highest attended meeting in Society history. The BFA Committee predicts a budget surplus, and reports that the Society is in good financial condition.

ACTION: The Board approved the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee's report.

ITEM #10 – REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Héctor L. Delgado presented the report of the Executive Officer (EO). A number of important issues were handled during the previous year:

- The EO recommends that the tax status category of the Society be changed to 501(h). The advantage of such a change would protect the Society from arbitrary attacks regarding the Society's social justice work.
- The EO thanked many people who contribute, including the Board for its availability and service, and those responsible for this year's program.
- The EO reiterates that he enjoys working with Michele and the other members of the Administrative Office (AO) staff. The Society benefits greatly from the service of the AO staff.
- The EO commented on this past year's search for a new editor for *Social Problems*.

- The EO commented on the possible future need to increase staffing in the Administrative Office, as the Society has grown.
- As detailed in the EO's report, the Administrative Office sent various letters of concern regarding social justice issues.
- The EO discussed the Society's membership in the AAAS. Two representatives from the Society (Héctor L. Delgado and John Dale) attended two AAAS meetings.
- The EO complemented the work of the President, Vice-President, and Program Committee for their service to the Society, reflected in the high quality of this year's program. This meeting is predicted to be a success.
- The EO discussed the possibility of setting up a mechanism for rapid responses to pressing needs, if needed in cases where consulting the Board would be too slow.

ACTION: The Board approved that the Society on an on-going annual basis join the Science and Human Rights Coalition of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

ACTION: The Board approved that the Society would elect the 501(h) tax status.

ACTION: The Board charged the Executive Officer, the Chair of the Committee on Social Action, and the Chair of the By-Laws Committee with drafting a proposal for handling matters needing an immediate response.

ACTION: The Board approved the Executive Officer's report.

Part A: Report from the UTK Project Director. EO Héctor L. Delgado presented, on behalf of Jon Shefner, the University of Tennessee annual report to the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee. The Department of Sociology is requesting more departmental compensation to cover the Graduate Research Associate's increased tuition costs.

ACTION: The Board approved the UTK Project Director's report.

ITEM #11 – REPORT FROM THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHAIR

Amir B. Marvasti presented the Program Committee Chair's report.

- The Committee noted the assistance of the AO in the process.
- There has been enthusiasm for the theme of this year's conference, resulting in a good number of sessions. The Committee Chair reported on the various highlights among the dynamic sessions and events in this year's meetings.
- The issue of author meets critics sessions which are submitted directly to the Program Committee was presented.
- There were a number of requests regarding the providing presentation technologies for virtual conference participation. Discussion ensued regarding possibilities that may exist.

ACTION: The Board invited the Program Committee Chair and Co-Chair to submit a report on challenges and best practices regarding the selection of author-meets-critics sessions selected by future Program Committees.

ACTION: The Board approved the Program Committee Chair's report.

ITEM #12 – REPORT FROM THE LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE CHAIR

ACTION: The Board approved the Local Arrangements Committee Chair’s report.

ITEM #13 – REPORT FROM THE MEETING MANAGER

Michele Koontz, Meeting Manager, reported on various issues.

- Attendance at the Montreal annual meeting is the highest ever, with c. 1,118 registered participants. On-site registration will add to this number.
- The Association of Black Sociologists is also holding their conference in the same hotel, which is a nice synergy.
- The Society provides a child care matching service, although there have been some complaints. There is a suggestion that the Society should provide or subsidize child care. The Board discussed this issue.
- Catering: The Society will spend c. \$35,000 on food and beverage at this year’s meeting.
- The program is available via a mobile app. This year is the third time the Society has used a mobile app.
- In addition, the Meeting Manager presented the following reports.
 - Current Annual Meeting Registrants and Membership by State/Country
 - Meeting Attendance, 1985-2016
 - Report from The Scholar’s Choice
- The Meeting Manager recommended that the Society would only provide conference bags to those requesting them on the meeting registration form. In addition, registrants will only receive printed programs if requested.

ACTION: The Board approved that all bags provided at annual meetings be sourced from fair trade or union sources.

ACTION: The Board approved that conference bags and printed programs will only go to those who request them on their conference registration forms.

ACTION: The Board approved placing a statement on the annual conference registration form as follows, “In order to cut costs, and reduce environmental impact, you are encouraged to forego bags and printed programs.”

ACTION: The Board empowered the Administrative Office to investigate options for child care at future SSSP annual conferences, and to report back to the Board in Philadelphia.

ACTION: The Board approved the Meeting Manager’s report.

ITEM #14 – UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM 2016

There was no unfinished business from 2016.

ITEM #15 – NEW BUSINESS

PART A: Discussion of the proliferation of awards given by the Society

ACTION: The Board moved the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee to include Héctor L. Delgado (as Chair), David A. Smith, Joel Best, and additional committee members identified by Héctor, to investigate best practices regarding the management of awards given by the Society.

PART B: Creation of a New SSSP Award for Media Narratives about Social Problems

Given that the Society is now examining the issue of adding awards, the Board tabled this item until the 2018 Board Meeting.

PART C: Formalization of Relationship between the SSSP and the ASA Theory Section: Lewis A. Coser Award for Theoretical Agenda-Setting

Donileen R. Loseke presented on this issue.

ACTION: The Board approved that each year the Division Chair of the SSSP Social Problems Theory Division will appoint a division member to serve on the ASA Sociological Theory Section Lewis A. Coser Award for Theoretical Agenda-Setting.

PART D: Clarification of the composition of the Ad Hoc Publisher Search Committee for *Social Problems*

ACTION: The Board approved that the Executive Officer serve as Chair (without a vote) of the future Ad Hoc Publisher Search Committee for *Social Problems*.

ITEM #16 – ADJOURNMENT OF THE 2016-2017 BOARD

There being no further time, the meeting was adjourned by President Donileen R. Loseke.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Glenn W. Muschert, SSSP Secretary