

To: SSSP Board of Directors and Executive Officer  
From: Claire Renzetti, Chair, 2016-17 Elections Committee  
Re: 2017 Elections Committee Report  
Date: June 27, 2017

1. 2017 Elections Committee: Claire Renzetti (Chair), Joseph Calvert (Member), Tony Love (Member), Mairead Easton Moloney (Member), and Courtney Thomas (Member)
2. The 2017 approved nominations list was as follows (one position unless otherwise noted): For President-Elect; for Vice-President Elect; for Board of Directors (2 positions); for Student Representative to the Board of Directors; for Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee; for Committee on Committees (2 positions); for Editorial and Publications Committee (2 positions); for Membership and Outreach Committee (2 positions); for Student Representative to the Membership and Outreach Committee.
3. The Process: SSSP Administrative Officer and Meeting Manager Michele Koontz identified nominees who were listed for more than one position and sent those names along with the full list and description of the election committee process to Claire Renzetti. For those nominees who had been nominated for more than one position, the nominated individual was contacted about the higher ranking position first to verify if they would be willing to serve. All nominees were initially contacted by email. The message consisted of the following (with a few slight variations):

Dear [nominee]:

It is my pleasure as Chair of the SSSP Elections Committee to write to inform you that you have been nominated to run for the office of [insert office]. If elected, you would serve from [insert term dates]. You may wish to consult the SSSP By-Laws and Operations Manual to review the duties of [insert the office]:

<http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/29/By-Laws/>  
<http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/30/Operations Manual/>

The Elections Committee must fill the election slate by mid-October. Consequently, I ask that you respond to this email, indicating your willingness to stand for election to this office, no later than **September 23, 2016**. Of course, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Congratulations on your nomination! I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Claire

The subject heading for the emails indicated that a reply was necessary and that the email was time sensitive. When I did not receive a timely response, I followed up with a second email. If I still did not receive a response, I then followed up with a phone call. I was in regular contact with the committee members during this process in case additional help was needed to contact nominees. None was actually needed and the process was quick and efficient. I also informed those who were willing to run, but were no longer members in good standing of SSSP, that they must renew their membership before being placed on the ballot.

4. Participation in the Election Process: Electronic ballots were sent to the 1,880 SSSP members eligible to vote in the election, and 428 members voted, a participation rate of about 22.8%. Although this is less than a quarter of the membership eligible to vote, it is a more than 3% increase over election participation the previous year. Three reminders to vote in the election were sent to eligible members on February 25<sup>th</sup>, March 7<sup>th</sup>, and March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

5. Election Results: The results of the 2017 election were as follows:

President-Elect 2017-18, President 2018-19: Nancy Meezey  
Vice President-Elect 2017-18, Vice President 2018-19: William Cabin  
Secretary 2017-18: Glenn Muschert  
Treasurer 2017-18: Patrick Donnelly  
Board of Directors 2017-20: Maralee Mayberry & Fernando I. Rivera  
Board of Directors Student Representative 2017-19: Maria Duenas  
Budget, Finance & Audit Committee 2017-20: Heather E. Dillaway  
Committee on Committees 2017-20: Arturo Baiocchi & Rachel E. Rayburn  
Editorial & Publications Committee 2017-20: Loretta E. Bass & Valerie Leiter  
Membership & Outreach Committee 2017-20: Lynn H. Green & Christina D. Weber  
Membership & Outreach Committee Student Representative 2017-20: Alexander L. Dzurick

6. Michele Koontz, Administrative Officer and Meeting Manager, sent personalized notification letters to all candidates via email on March 17, 2017. The results were posted on the SSSP website on March 29, 2017.

7. Recommendations of the Committee:

- a. The Committee recommends that membership on the Elections Committee be reduced from five members to two or three members. Since all nominees are contacted by email and voting takes place electronically, the process is quite streamlined; there is really no need for such a large number of members. However, should the committee be tasked with additional responsibilities (for example, see our next recommendation) besides simply notifying nominees of their nomination and securing their willingness to stand for election, a five-member committee may be beneficial.
- b. The Committee was dismayed by the low voter participation rate in the general election. Although participation this year increased by more than 3% over the previous year, participation in the 2017 election still represented less than a quarter of eligible voters. The Committee recommends that the 2018 Elections Committee be assigned the responsibility of developing strategies for encouraging or incentivizing greater participation by the membership in the general election.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire M. Renzetti, 2017 Elections Committee Chair