

Date: August 11, 2017

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 2016-2017 Council of the Divisions Annual Report

Below please find a summary of activities of the SSSP Division Chairs during 2016-2017. The report has been updated after the Council of Divisions' first and second meetings to reflect the discussions at those meetings, and thoughts and concerns of the elected Division Chairs.

1. Appreciation and Thanks

First, I would like the opportunity to thank Michele Koontz for all her help, advice, and support to me as Chairperson of the Council of Divisions. I would also like to thank Héctor Delgado and the Administrative Office staff for their assistance during the year.

2. Council of Division Chairs Summary of Activities

a. Overview

On July 3, 2017, the Chair of the Teaching Social Problems Division resigned due to health issues. **Two candidates have been identified to run in an emergency election to open by September 2017.** In the meantime, I will serve as the point-person for the Division and its required activities (e.g. submitting sponsored and co-sponsored sessions for the 2018 annual meeting).

The Council of the Divisions identified 2 (ongoing or incoming) Division Chairs to serve on the SSSP 2017-2018 Committee on Social Action: **Giovanna Follo** (Sport, Leisure, and the Body) and **Omari Jackson** (Racial and Ethnic Minorities).

The Council of the Divisions elected a Chairperson-Elect of the Council of Divisions (2017-2018), who will take over as 2018-2021 Chairperson: **Kristen Budd**.

b. Completion of Division Tasks

At the 2016 annual meeting, 2 Divisions did not attend all 3 of the required Council of Divisions' meetings: Conflict, Social Action, and Change (attended 2 of 3 meetings) and Poverty, Class, and Inequality (attended 2 of 3 meetings). Overall, this is improved participation from last year. Division Chairs were reminded of the importance of attending all three meetings, not only for the purpose of having Division input, but also as a required task as outlined in the Division Chair bylaws.

All Divisions submitted budgets for 2017-2018, and have updated their Mission Statements in 2015 or 2016.

All but 4 Divisions have a social media presence (those Divisions that do not are Disability, Educational Problems, Global, and Society and Mental Health). The recommendation for creating and maintaining Division social networking sites was discussed at our Friday morning meeting.

c. Division Elections

The following 15 Divisions held elections in 2016-2017, to be served by new Division Chairs/Co-Chairs/Associate Chairs/Vice-Chairs:

- Community Research and Development
- Conflict, Social Action, and Change
- Crime and Juvenile Delinquency
- Disability
- Educational Problems
- Global
- Health, Health Policy, and Health Services
- Institutional Ethnography
- Labor Studies
- Law and Society
- Poverty, Class, and Inequality
- Racial and Ethnic Minorities
- Society and Mental Health
- Sociology and Social Welfare
- Sport, Leisure, and the Body

The biggest challenge with this year's Division Chair Election process was that many Divisions held their elections late in the year. This led primarily to challenges in recruiting candidates to run for office. The Administrative Office sent out multiple emails to this effect, and involved me to reach out directly when Divisions were late for their elections. Even though the Administrative Office reminds Division Chairs that no Division business occurs between June 15-August 15 (in preparation for the annual meeting), at least 3 Divisions held their elections during this time. At our Friday morning meeting, I stressed the importance of adhering to these deadlines.

d. Newsletters

All of the Division distributed at least 1 newsletter in 2015-2016, with the exception of 6 that did not distribute any (Conflict, Social Action, and Change; Educational Problems; Health, Health Policy, and Health Services; Law and Society; Sociology and Social Welfare; Teaching Social Problems).

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).

It is important to note that some Divisions are communicating "unofficially" with their Divisions via email. For example, a number of Divisions sent emails to their members earlier this week in advance of the meeting. However, these activities are not through the Administrative Office and are thus not being counted.

Finally, Division Chairs were reminded at the Friday morning meeting to solicit the most updated membership lists from the Administrative Office when disseminating information

and soliciting information for Division newsletters. Division Chairs may request additional demographic information from the Administrative Office to be included in these lists.

e. Division Membership Totals

Information regarding the change over time in Division membership is included at the end of this report (Table 1). The highest percentage growth between 2016-2017 occurred for Institutional Ethnography (50%); Disabilities (38%); and Sport, Leisure, and the Body (36%). The highest percentage decrease between 2016-2017 occurred for Sociology and Social Welfare (-19%); Global (-11%); and Crime and Juvenile Delinquency (-7%).

Currently, there are no Divisions below the 50-member minimum. This is reassuring that no Divisions will be subject to elimination, and shows the dedication of the Chairs of small Divisions in recruiting and keeping their members.

3. Concerns of the Divisions

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

- **Recognition of Division Chair service** – As Division Chairs do a great deal of service work, it was noted that a letter of recognition would be appreciated for activity reports and promotion and tenure packets, distributed to Division Chairs by the Chair of Division Chairs, Executive Officer and/or Administrative Office.
- **Increasing amount of Division budgets** – Division Chairs have noted that Division budget increases have not been considered by some time by the Board of Directors, and wanted to put this issue on the radar.
- **Gender-neutral bathrooms signage being torn down** – There have been reports by members that the gender-neutral signage is being removed from those designated bathrooms during the annual meeting, and wanted to request a way to either regulate the signage or request hotel staff (or whomever is in charge of this signage) to check it on a regular basis.
- **Challenges for members with disabilities** – Division Chairs have noticed that some members are dealing with accessibility issues at the conference hotels.
- **Using the same terminology for Chairs across Divisions** – Many SSSP Divisions have different types of organizational structures (e.g. Co-Chairs, Vice-Chairs, Associate Chairs), and there have been some early discussions about the advantages and disadvantages of streamlining the leadership structure across Divisions.
- **Advertisement of SSSP Division/ASA Section co-sponsored reception** – The SSSP Division on Drinking and Drugs regularly co-sponsors their reception offsite with the ASA Section on Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco. There have been some concerns about the best location to advertise this reception in the meeting program, without taking away from SSSP receptions and events. The Council of Division Chairs agreed that it would make the most sense to move this announcement to the section of the program on Division receptions.

Table 1. SSSP Division Membership Tallies 2012-2017

Division	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017*	% Change 2016- 2017	% Change 2012- 2017
Community Research & Development	171	174	158	163	152	172	13.2	0.6
Conflict, Social Action, & Change	214	237	215	218	226	235	4.0	9.8
Crime & Juvenile Delinquency	183	206	214	179	196	181	-7.7	-1.1
Disabilities	61	70	59	73	50	69	38.0	13.1
Drinking & Drugs	99	107	111	87	89	105	18.0	6.1
Educational Problems	114	120	119	133	106	125	17.9	9.6
Environment & Technology	103	115	101	102	115	111	-3.5	7.8
Family	129	110	107	118	101	108	6.9	-16.3
Global	138	138	143	149	188	168	-10.6	21.7
Health, Health Policy, & Health Services	204	221	181	196	191	207	8.4	1.5
Institutional Ethnography	134	138	113	104	98	147	50.0	9.7
Labor Studies	114	122	107	113	95	103	8.4	-9.6
Law & Society	155	147	142	129	153	156	2.0	0.6
Poverty, Class, & Inequality	313	290	327	287	286	309	8.0	-1.3
Racial & Ethnic Minorities	291	305	330	352	376	375	-0.3	28.9
Sexual Behavior, Politics, & Communities	204	194	179	177	172	170	-1.2	-16.7
Social Problems Theory	192	165	148	138	126	150	19.0	-21.9
Society and Mental Health	118	128	113	110	111	102	-8.1	-13.6
Sociology & Social Welfare	100	95	105	111	111	90	-18.9	-10.0
Sport, Leisure & the Body	49	51	46	45	42	57	35.7	16.3
Teaching Social Problems	150	139	125	116	133	130	-2.3	-13.3
Youth, Aging, & the Life Course	96	82	82	81	83	86	3.6	-10.4

NOTE: Prior to 2012: Each member received three FREE division memberships. Additional divisions were \$2 each

*Membership tallies as of 07/31/2017