

**Date:** August 10, 2018

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

**From:** Bhoomi K. Thakore, outgoing Chair of the SSSP Nominations Committee and Kristen M. Budd, Chair of the SSSP Nominations Committee

**Re:** SSSP 2017-2018 Nominations Committee Annual Report

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First, we would like to thank my fellow committee members for their service this year: Omari Jackson, David Lane, and Stephani Williams. Thanks also to Michele Koontz and the Administrative Office staff for their help in compiling documents and answering questions.

The Nominations Committee is responsible for identifying the slate of candidates that, once approved by the Board of Directors, will be forwarded to the Elections Committee, who then contact each candidate to confirm interest in running for election. The Committee was able to compile their list, which hopefully will be sufficient for the Election Committee's process. However, we experienced a major challenge with finding enough nominees this year.

**Decreasing number of nominees** – In 2018, 34 individuals self-nominated or were nominated for various SSSP elected positions, down from 53 in 2017. The Administrative Office sent multiple email reminders to the SSSP membership, and I sent an email to Division Chairs to send to their membership (which only a few did). After the Nominations period, the Nominations Committee struggled to the very end with finding individuals to fill the minimum number of seats required for the ballot. It continues to be important for SSSP Board Members and other Division leaders to nominate individuals for these necessary positions.

**Feedback on the new Nominations form** – At the 2017 meeting, the Board approved changes to the online Nominations form to include space for describing relevant experience for each of the nominated positions, and required yes/no questions to confirm 1) the description of relevant experience, 2) current SSSP membership, and 3) self-nomination or nominated person's awareness of nomination. This has somewhat improved the process by providing more useful information useful to the Committee's ranking process. However, there are still some challenges with the form. Because of the format of the form, individuals may still complete and submit the nomination form without including relevant experience, and/or saying 'no' to any of the required questions. To highlight the implications, 5 of the 34 individuals were debated or not considered for the ballot because of missing information. We will continue to work with the Administrative Office on the logistics of the form, and include language in the e-mail reminders about completing the required requested information.

**Final Remarks** – Of all the tasks, this is by far the most challenging, particularly for the Chair of the Committee (who is also the Chair of the Council of Divisions). It is our perspective that the Elections Committee would be best suited for this task, so that processes of both Nominations and Elections are centralized.

**ACTION ITEM** – We move that SSSP Board of Directors eliminate the Nominations Committee, move the duties of Nominations to the Elections Committee, and change the Election Committee's name to the "Nominations and Elections Committee."

