

Date: August 10, 2018

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

From: Bhoomi K. Thakore, outgoing Chairperson of the SSSP Council of Divisions and Kristen M. Budd, Chairperson of the Council of Divisions

Re: SSSP 2017-2018 Council of the Divisions Annual Report

Below please find a summary of activities of the SSSP Division Chairs during 2017-2018. 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

As this is my last year serving as Chairperson of the Council of Divisions, I would like the opportunity to thank Michele Koontz for all her help, advice, and support. It has been a true pleasure working with her directly over these last 3 years. I would also like to thank Héctor Delgado and the Administrative Office staff for all of their assistance during the year.

2. Council of Division Chairs Summary of Activities

a. Overview

In 2017-2018, 9 Division held elections for Division Chairs (Disability, Drinking and Drugs; Environment and Technology; Family; Health, Health Policy, and Health Services; Law and Society; Racial and Ethnic Minorities; Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities; Social Problems Theory; Youth, Aging & the Life Course).

Three applications for Division Sponsored Projects were submitted and approved by the BFA and SSSP Board: 1) Disability Division (Thematic Session, *To be Neither Seen nor Heard: Abolishing Carceral Logics*, \$1,000), 2) Labor Studies Division (*In Search of One Big Union: Folksongs and the US Labor Movement*, singing lecture by Corey Dolgon, \$2,000), 3) Racial and Ethnic Minorities; Educational Problems; and Poverty, Class, and Inequality Divisions (Film screening of *Voices of Baltimore: Life Under Segregation*, \$2,000).

Two Divisions sponsored Division-Sponsored Workshops: Community Research and Development (Community Based Participatory Action Research) and Social Problems Theory (Writing and Publishing).

The Council of the Divisions identified 2 (ongoing or incoming) Division Chairs to serve on the SSSP 2018-2019 Committee on Social Action: **Felicia Arriaga** (Law and Society) and **Perri Leviss** (Youth, Aging and the Life Course).

b. Completion of Division Tasks

At the 2017 annual meeting, 2 Divisions did not attend all 3 of the required Council of Divisions' meetings: Family (attended 1 of 3 meetings) and Poverty, Class, and Inequality (attended 1 of 3 meetings). All Divisions submitted budgets for 2017-2018, and have updated their Mission Statements in 2016 or 2017. All but 2 Divisions have a social media presence (those Divisions that do not are Educational Problems and Global). The recommendation for creating and maintaining Division social networking sites was discussed at our Friday morning meeting.

Two Divisions did not distribute any newsletters in 2017-2018 (Conflict, Social Action, and Change; Law and Society). 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), and reminded Division Chairs that they can use their funds to provide a stipend to newsletter editors.

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.

c. 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 2017-2018 occurred for Sociology and Social Welfare (10.8%), Racial and Ethnic Minorities (10.4%), and Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities (7.6%). The highest percentage decrease between 2017-2018 occurred for Labor Studies (17.9%), Sport, Leisure, & the Body (42.9%), and Institutional Ethnography (59.2%). Strategies for improving member rates were discussed in our Friday morning Council meeting.

3. Concerns of the Divisions

For the second year, Division Chairs requested an increase in Division budgets. These additional funds can be used for things such as purchasing plaques for award winners, and contributing more funds to the Division-Sponsored reception.

Division Chairs also discussed an interest in inviting community partners to attend the annual meetings, but to improve the current system from requiring community partners to submit applications to the SSSP President for exemption, and expanding the assistance provided to cover travel-related costs.

Division Chairs also discussed the format of their newsletters, which are currently submitted and distributed as both PDF and TXT computer files (the latter for accessibility

reasons). It was discussed that there are some formatting inconsistencies when saving a file in both formats. This discussion included questions about whether TXT was the best format for accessibility.

4. **ACTION ITEMS**

We move that the SSSP Board of Directors task the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee to evaluate the feasibility of increasing the Division budgets from \$500 to \$600 each.

We move the SSSP Board of Directors task the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee to evaluate the feasibility of creating an Award for community activists (comparable to the Lee Scholar and Lee Student Support Funds) for funds used toward travel and other accommodations.

We move that the SSSP Board of Directors task the Accessibility Committee to evaluate the membership need in having newsletters distributed in both PDF and TXT formats for accessibility, and to look into the best options and formats for newsletter accessibility.

Table 1. SSSP Division Membership Tallies 2012-2018

Division	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018*	% Change 2017- 2018
Sociology & Social Welfare	100	95	105	111	111	90	102	10.8
Racial & Ethnic Minorities	291	305	330	352	376	375	414	10.4
Sexual Behavior, Politics, & Communities	204	194	179	177	172	170	183	7.6
Crime & Juvenile Delinquency	183	206	214	179	196	181	188	3.6
Society and Mental Health	118	128	113	110	111	102	105	2.7
Educational Problems	114	120	119	133	106	125	127	1.9
Disabilities	61	70	59	73	50	69	69	0.0
Drinking & Drugs	99	107	111	87	89	105	103	-2.2
Environment & Technology	103	115	101	102	115	111	102	-7.8
Global	138	138	143	149	188	168	153	-8.0
Law & Society	155	147	142	129	153	156	143	-8.5
Social Problems Theory	192	165	148	138	126	150	139	-8.7
Conflict, Social Action, & Change	214	237	215	218	226	235	213	-9.7
Community Research & Development	171	174	158	163	152	172	157	-9.9
Poverty, Class, & Inequality	313	290	327	287	286	309	280	-10.1
Family	129	110	107	118	101	108	96	-11.9
Youth, Aging, & the Life Course	96	82	82	81	83	86	75	-13.3
Teaching Social Problems	150	139	125	116	133	130	112	-13.5
Health, Health Policy, & Health Services	204	221	181	196	191	207	179	-14.7
Labor Studies	114	122	107	113	95	103	86	-17.9
Sport, Leisure & the Body	49	51	46	45	42	57	39	-42.9
Institutional Ethnography	134	138	113	104	98	147	89	-59.2

*Membership tallies as of 07/31/2018