To: SSSP Board of Directors  
From: Val Leiter, Chair, Bylaws Committee  
Re: Annual Report of the Bylaws Committee  
Date: July 11, 2018

The Bylaws Committee considered four proposed bylaw changes over the past year, all of which were taken on at the request of the board.

I would like to thank my fellow committee members, Héctor Delgado and Tracy Dietz for their quick and helpful work on the committee, and Michele Koontz for her excellent and constructive guidance over the past year. Their good collegueship and responsiveness made this work possible.

The following actions were approved by the board in 2017-2018 and in the general election and are now in effect:

**ARTICLE I, SECTION 2. Earnings, Activities and Dissolution Provisions**

**Previous Wording:**

In accomplishing the foregoing purposes, the corporation shall be governed by the following requirements:

First, no part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, directors, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the above purposes. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting, to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

Second, upon the dissolution of the Corporation, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all assets of the corporation exclusively for the purposes of the corporation in such a manner; or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, education, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of
any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Board of Directors shall
determine. Any of such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the court of
general jurisdiction of the country in which the principal office of the corporation is
then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations,
as said Court shall determine which are organized and operated exclusively for such
purposes.

**Current, Approved Wording:**

In accomplishing the foregoing purposes, the corporation shall be governed by the
following requirements:

First, no part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of or be
distributable to its members, directors, officers, or other private persons, except that
the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable
compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in
furtherance of the above purposes.

The Society is registered as a 501(h) organization, and as so, is subject to caps on
expenditures on lobbying activity, according to the Internal Revenue Service’s
regulations, as specified in section 4911. The annual lobbying expenditure is based
on the size of the organization, and may not exceed $1,000,000, as indicated in the
table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the amount of exempt purpose expenditures is:</th>
<th>Lobbying nontaxable amount is:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≤ $500,000</td>
<td>20% of the exempt purpose expenditures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; $500,000 but ≤ $1,000,000</td>
<td>$100,000 plus 15% of the excess of exempt purpose expenditures over $500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; $1,000,000 but ≤ $1,500,000</td>
<td>$175,000 plus 10% of the excess of exempt purpose expenditures over $1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; $1,500,000 but ≤ $17,000,000</td>
<td>$225,000 plus 5% of the exempt purpose expenditures over $1,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; $17,000,000</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not
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exempt from Federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue
Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal
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section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding
provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).
Second, upon the dissolution of the Corporation, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all assets of the corporation exclusively for the purposes of the corporation in such a manner; or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, education, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Board of Directors shall determine. Any of such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the court of general jurisdiction of the country in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

**Rationale for the revised wording:**
At the 2017 Board of Directors Meeting, the Board voted that the Society would elect the 501(h) tax status. This change in tax status means that the Society would be held to a clearer standard regarding lobbying or other activities meant to influence legislation. Currently, the Society may engage in such activities if they are an “insubstantial” amount of its efforts, but the line between “insubstantial” and “substantial” is subjective and unclear. Adopting the 501(h) tax status means that the Society will be held to a more objective “expenditure test” instead. The Society’s activities are well below the lobbying nontaxable amounts set in federal policy, placing the Society in a better position if questioned about the amount of lobbying effort it expends. Taking the 501(h) election does not change the Society’s status as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit; it just allows the Society to opt out of the vague “substantial activity” test in favor of the objective “expenditure test” regarding lobbying activities.

**ARTICLE VI, SECTION 7. Editorial and Publications Committee**

**Previous Wording:**
The Editorial and Publications Committee shall consist of six members of the Society elected by the voting membership to three year terms with the terms staggered so that at least two members are elected each year, depending on the number of vacancies. Each year the members of the Committee shall select from among their members who have served at least one-year, a Chairperson-elect to serve as Chairperson the following year each year. In addition to the elected members the chair of the Budget, Finance and Audit Committee shall serve as an *ex officio* member. The Committee shall recommend an editor of *Social Problems* to the Board of Directors. The outgoing editor of *Social Problems* shall serve a three-year term on this committee, voting *ex officio*.

The Committee shall have oversight responsibilities with respect to publication of *Social Problems*. In this capacity, the Committee will solicit quarterly reports from
The Social Problems editor and offer itself as a resource to him/her or them in order
to ensure the quality and timeliness of his/her or their respective publication.

The Committee is also charged with providing the Board with yearly evaluations of
the editor of Social Problems. This evaluation should conclude with a
recommendation that the editor be continued in the term of office or replaced in a
timely fashion. On the basis of the evaluation, the Committee can recommend
reappointment of the editor to a second and final term not to exceed three years.

The Committee will periodically review and publish its criteria for the oversight of
the Editorial Office and for the selection of the editor. Final decisions regarding the
editorial policies of Social Problems shall be made by the Board of Directors or by the
membership of the Society in vote or referendum. The Editor remains the final
cover acceptance and rejection of manuscript and over format (within the
limits set by the budget). The Committee shall also be responsible for supervising
the preparation and the publication arrangements of publications of the Society
other than the journal, Social Problems, as provided in Article X below.

Current, Approved Wording:
The Editorial and Publications Committee shall consist of six members of the Society
elected by the voting membership to three year terms with the terms staggered so
that at least two members are elected each year, depending on the number of
vacancies. Members who are nominated for election to the Committee must have
substantial editorial experience. Each year the members of the Committee shall
select from among their members who have served at least one-year, a Chairperson-
elect to serve as Chairperson the following year each year. In addition to the elected
members the chair of the Budget, Finance and Audit Committee shall serve as an ex
officio member. The Committee shall recommend an editor of Social Problems to the
Board of Directors. The outgoing editor of Social Problems shall serve a three-year
term on this committee, voting ex officio.

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judge over acceptance and rejection of manuscript and over format (within the limits set by the budget). The Committee shall also be responsible for supervising the preparation and the publication arrangements of publications of the Society other than the journal, *Social Problems*, as provided in Article X below.

**Rationale for the revised wording:**
At the 2017 Board of Directors Meeting, the Board voted to include the appropriate level of experience necessary to be nominated to serve on this committee. Having highly qualified members with substantial editorial experience is vital to the future of the *Social Problems* journal.

**ARTICLE VI, SECTION 11. Nominations Committee**

**Previous Wording:**
(a) The Nominations Committee for each year following the annual meeting is established at the current annual meeting. The committee shall consist of the Chairperson of the Council of the Divisions, the Chairperson-elect of the Council of the Divisions, and four members appointed by the Board of Directors. The four appointed Committee members will serve two-year terms, with the terms staggered so that at least two members are appointed each year, depending on the number of vacancies. The Chairperson of the Council of the Divisions will serve as the Chair of the Nominations Committee and will be the primary point of contact with the Board of Directors.

(b) Its duty shall be to nominate at least two persons to stand for each elected office and elected committee position for which there will be a vacancy during the following year, except for the offices of Treasurer and Secretary, candidates for which shall be nominated by the Board of Directors, and the Chairperson of the Council of the Divisions. Every third year the Nominations Committee also shall nominate one or more of the Divisions Chairpersons, who are members of the Nominations Committee to stand for a three-year term as Chairperson of the Council of the Divisions.

(c) Each year the Nominations Committee led by the Chairperson of the Council of the Divisions shall begin soliciting names for consideration at the following year’s meetings immediately following the Annual Meeting. In order to be considered for nomination at the meeting the name of the person and a brief biographical sketch including information on scholarship and professional service, including service in SSSP, should be circulated to all members of the Nominations Committee in advance of their meeting at the Annual Meeting. These potential nominees should have been contacted to determine their willingness to run. The Committee shall invite nominations from all members of the Society through the Society’s website, from the Board of Directors, from members of Standing Committees and whatever other sources it deems appropriate.
(d) The Committee has the responsibility of presenting as its report an ordered list of nominees for each vacant position. This report goes to the Elections Committee by no later than two weeks following the Annual Meeting, with a corresponding copy to the Administrative Office of the Society.

**Current, Approved Wording:**

(a) The Nominations Committee for each year following the annual meeting is established at the current annual meeting. The committee shall consist of the Chairperson of the Council of the Divisions, the Chairperson-elect of the Council of the Divisions, and four members appointed by the Board of Directors. The Chairperson of the Council of the Divisions will serve as the Chair of the Nominations Committee and will be the primary point of contact with the Board of Directors.

(b) Its duty shall be to nominate at least two persons to stand for each elected office and elected committee position for which there will be a vacancy during the following year, except for the offices of Treasurer and Secretary, candidates for which shall be nominated by the Board of Directors, and the Chairperson of the Council of the Divisions. Every third year the Nominations Committee also shall nominate one or more of the Divisions Chairpersons, who are members of the Nominations Committee to stand for a three-year term as Chairperson of the Council of the Divisions.

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(d) The Committee has the responsibility of presenting as its report an ordered list of nominees for each vacant position. This report goes to the Elections Committee by no later than two weeks following the Annual Meeting, with a corresponding copy to the Administrative Office of the Society.

**Rationale for the revised wording:**

At the 2017 Board of Directors Meeting, the Board voted to make the Nominations Committee a two-year appointment, with staggered committee composition, with two rotating committee members each year. This composition will help make the Committee be more stable over time.
ARTICLE VI, SECTION 29. Transnational Initiatives Committee

Previous Wording:
SECTION 29. Transnational Initiatives Committee

The Transnational Initiatives Committee shall consist of a Chairperson, a Chairperson-elect and four members, of whom at least two must be international members, each serving three-year staggered terms. In addition to the appointed members the Executive Officer shall serve as an ex officio member.

Initially, the Chairperson and one committee member will serve a one-year term; the Chairperson-elect and one committee member will serve a two-year term; and two committee members will serve a three-year term. Thereafter replacements will be appointed as terms expire. Unexpired terms may be filled by appointment by the Board of Directors. The committee members shall serve three-year staggered terms so that at least two members are appointed each year. The President-Elect shall nominate and the Board of Directors shall appoint a Chairperson-elect from among the committee members who have served on the committee at least one-year prior to his, her or their appointment and who shall serve as Chairperson of the committee during the year that the President-Elect serves as President.

Consistent with criteria stipulated in the by-laws governing all standing committees, the Transnational Initiatives Committee shall be reconstituted each year with a turnover membership of at least one-third, and no member may serve on the same committee of the Society, whether by election or appointment, for more than three consecutive years.

Following criteria specified by the Board of Directors, the Committee shall have the responsibility of identifying issues, promoting collaboration, proposing courses of action, and/or organizing events and activities that enhance the SSSP membership’s understanding of transnational dimensions of social problems, and increase the active participation within the SSSP of scholars, activists, and the association’s members and advocates who work and reside beyond the United States and Canada — and especially those who do so in countries outside the global North. Monies for this fund shall be allocated at the discretion of the Board of Directors in consultation with the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee.

Current, Approved Wording:
The Transnational Initiatives Committee shall consist of a Chairperson, a Chairperson-elect and four members, of whom at least two must be international members, each serving three-year staggered terms. In addition to the appointed members, the Executive Officer shall serve as an ex officio member, and a graduate student will serve as a non-voting member.

Initially, the Chairperson and one committee member will serve a one-year term; the Chairperson-elect and one committee member will serve a two-year term; two
committee members will serve a three-year term; and the graduate student member will serve a one-year term. Thereafter replacements will be appointed as terms expire. Unexpired terms may be filled by appointment by the Board of Directors. The committee members shall serve three-year staggered terms so that at least two members are appointed each year. The President-Elect shall nominate and the Board of Directors shall appoint a Chairperson-elect from among the committee members who have served on the committee at least one-year prior to his, her or their appointment and who shall serve as Chairperson of the committee during the year that the President-Elect serves as President.

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**Rationale for the revised wording:**
At the 2017 Board of Directors Meeting, the Board voted to add a non-voting graduate student member for a one-year term. Graduate student members bring energy and new ideas to the Society’s committees, and gain valuable leadership experience.