

To: SSSP Board of Directors
From: Val Leiter, Chair, Bylaws Committee
Re: Annual Report of the Committee
Date: July 9, 2019

The Bylaws Committee considered two proposed bylaw changes over the past year, all of which were taken on at the request of the board. The Committee on Social Action bylaws amendment changed the composition and terms of the committee to create more stability, and the Harassment Committee amendment made that committee permanent.

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. They are a wonderful group of colleagues who made this work possible.

The following actions were approved by the board in 2018-2019 and in the general election in 2019 and are now in effect:

ARTICLE VI, SECTION 27. Committee on Social Action

Previous Wording:

SECTION 27. Committee on Social Action

The Committee on Social Action shall consist of the Vice-President as Chairperson, two Division Chairs selected by the Council of Division Chairpersons at the previous year's meeting, and two members in consultation with the Committee on Committees and appointed by the Board of Directors.

Following criteria specified by the Board of Directors, the Committee shall have the responsibility of proposing social actions to the Board such as writing letters and opinion pieces; clarifying and refining resolutions before the resolutions are discussed by the Council of Division Chairs; and exploring ways in which the Society can be more action oriented by connecting with organizations locally, nationally, and globally.

Revised Wording:

ARTICLE VI, SECTION 27. Committee on Social Action

The Committee on Social Action shall consist of the Vice-President as Chairperson, **Vice-President-Elect, Past Vice-President**, two Division Chairs selected by the Council of Division Chairpersons at the previous year's meeting, and two members in consultation with the Committee on Committees and appointed by the Board of Directors, **each serving three-year staggered terms. Everyone serving on this committee will serve for three years, but initially two of the remaining four members will serve three years, one will serve two years, and the fourth will serve one year.**

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pieces; clarifying and refining resolutions before the resolutions are discussed by the Council of Division Chairs; and exploring ways in which the Society can be more action oriented by connecting with organizations locally, nationally, and globally.

Rationale for the approved wording:

The Board of Directors voted to make the Committee on Social Action a three-year appointment, with staggered committee composition, with two rotating committee members each year and adding the Vice-President-Elect and Past Vice-President. This composition will help make the Committee be more stable over time.

ARTICLE VI, SECTION 30. Anti-Harassment Committee

Approved Wording:

SECTION 30. Anti-Harassment Committee

The Anti-Harassment Committee shall consist of six members of the Society. Three members will be elected by the voting membership and three members will be appointed by the President, one of whom will be appointed to chair the committee. The Chairperson should have expertise in the area of gender violence or related areas and preferably be a member of the Board of Directors. Each member will serve a three-year term with the terms staggered so that at least two members are elected each year. In addition to the elected and appointed members, the Executive Officer shall serve as an ex officio member. Initially, two committee members will serve a one-year term; two committee members will serve a two-year term; and the Chairperson and a committee member will serve a three-year term. Thereafter replacements will be appointed as terms expire.

Following criteria specified by the Board of Directors, the Committee shall have the responsibility of recommending to the Board mechanisms for reporting violations of the anti-harassment policy; investigating and resolving reported violations of the anti-harassment policy; providing support and assistance to those reporting the violations and making every effort to be fair to all involved parties; the committee may seek external expertise and guidance for these processes. The Board approved that, prior to the establishment of formal policy and procedure for reporting, investigating, and resolving reported violations of the anti-harassment policy, that in response to said accusations, the committee may request that the Board approve actions such as preventing an accused party from participating in or attending the Annual Meeting, serving in elected or appointed Society positions, or revoking membership, until adjudication of reported violations has been resolved. Monies for this committee's work shall be allocated at the discretion of the Board of Directors in consultation with the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee.

Rationale for the approved wording:

The Board of Directors voted to make the Anti-Harassment Committee a permanent committee, in light of growing concerns about sexual harassment in the country and the desire to create a space in the organization and at annual meetings in which members feel safe and respected. The creation of this committee also serves as a strong statement against sexual and other forms of harassment and discrimination.