

July 30, 2019

Report from B. E. Aguirre, the Permanent Organization and Strategic Planning Committee Chair.

POSPC didn't have any tasks last year (see excerpt from the 8/10/18 minutes below.) This note reviews what the committee discussed in Philly in 2018.

Staffing:

At the 2018 annual meeting, the Board approved changes in Administrative Office staffing due to the increased workload from higher numbers of divisions, committees, and awards, in addition to increased demands for services by the membership. In addition to the increased workload, the Permanent Organization and Strategic Planning Committee and the Board expressed concerns over the lack of permanent professional staff necessary for cross-training. Consistent with these changes and concerns, the Board approved a new full-time professional position, an Assistant to the Administrative Officer, for the Administrative Office. The creation of this new position resulted in some changes in the relationship between the SSSP and the Department of Sociology at the University of Tennessee – Knoxville (UTK), as the Society would no longer require a graduate research assistant. Consequently, the Board approved a change in what the Society provides in exchange for the department hosting the SSSP Administrative Office and asked Hector to discuss these proposed changes with the Head of UTK's sociology department.

Beginning in academic year 2019-2020, the Board proposed establishing a SSSP Graduate Assistantship in the Department of Sociology (instead of the SSSP hiring a GRA). The Society would cover the actual cost for a graduate assistant's stipend at the going UTK rate for the level of the graduate assistant (i.e., the same stipend that UTK pays TAs, RAs, or GTAs) for the academic year, plus the cost of an academic year tuition waiver (fall and spring semesters). With this new arrangement a graduate student would be able to engage in research, serve as a teaching assistant, or teach her/his own class, activities that have more potential for marketability than the clerical work now done by the graduate research assistant for the SSSP. This would also eliminate for Michele the time-consuming task of training and mentoring new GRAs as she has done for 15 students over the past 25 years. Also, the Society would continue to pay a stipend to the project director plus fringe benefits. In addition, the Society would provide \$1,000 per year for the department to use as it saw fit. The Head of the department, however, did not agree to this change in the current agreement between the SSSP and UTK. Consequently, we decided to maintain the current arrangement and to revisit the issue later.

Previous business:

ITEM #9 – VERBAL REPORT FROM THE PERMANENT ORGANIZATION AND STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIR

Claire M. Renzetti clarified the activities of the Committee in the past year. One issue for the stability of the Society is that we don't currently have a procedural/operations manual for the functioning of the Administrative Office. The Board suggests that the new full-time position be authorized for the creation and the Administrative Officer be charged with making notes toward the creation of an SSSP procedural manual, if necessary.

ACTION: The Board accepted the verbal report of the Permanent Organization and Strategic Planning Committee Chair.