

2020-2021 SSSP BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

FRIDAY, JULY 23, 2021 11:00AM – 4:00PM (EDT)

VIRTUAL MEETING CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM

ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER

President Corey Dolgon called the meeting to order at 11:03 am.

ITEM #2 – INTRODUCTIONS

Members Present:

Corey Dolgon, President

Noreen Sugrue, President-Elect

Heather M. Dalmage, Past-President

Sarah Jane Brubaker, Vice-President Elect

Glenn W. Muschert, Secretary

Susan Carlson, Treasurer

Yvonne A. Braun, Board Member

Giovanna Follo, Board Member

Shirley A. Jackson, Board Member

Lauren Eastwood, Board Member

Deborah A. Potter, Board Member

Bhoomi Thakore, Board Member

Lydia Hou, Board Member, Student Representative

Melissa Maxey, Board Member, Student Representative

Kristen M. Budd, Chair, Council of the Divisions

Annulla Linders, Editor, *Social Problems*

David J. Luke, Chair, Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee

Trenton M. Haltom, Chair, Committee on Social Media

Mireille Yanow, Senior Publisher, Oxford University Press

Woody Doane, Co-Chair, Program Committee

Steven H. Corey and David G. Embrick, Co-Chairs, Local Arrangement Committee

Rachel Cogburn, IT Specialist

Héctor L. Delgado, Executive Officer

Michele Koontz, Administrative Officer and Meeting Manager

ITEM #3 – ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Agenda adopted with the following changes:

Change #1 - ITEM #14 – UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM 2020–2021; Part B. Discuss the Communications Strategy, Planning, and Implementation Proposal is tabled and moved to the 7/30/21 Board meeting.

Change #2 - ITEM #14 – UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM 2020–2021; Part C. Discuss Letters Coming from the Board of Directors, particularly the “Support of Palestinians and Call for an End to Violence” Letter tabled and moved to the 7/30/21 Board meeting.

ITEM #4.– REVIEW OF THE MINUTES

Part A. Minutes from the 2020 Virtual Annual Meeting Board Meetings and the Annual Business Meeting
Secretary Glenn W. Muschert presented the minutes of the 2020 Board Meetings and the 2020 Business Meeting, offering clarifications as requested.

ITEM #5 – Announcement of the 2021 General Election Results

Executive Officer Héctor L. Delgado reported on the 2021 General Election Results, as follows:

RESULTS OF THE 2021 GENERAL ELECTION

President-Elect (2021-2022); President (2022-2023) Shirley A. Jackson
Vice-President-Elect (2021-2022); Vice-President (2022-2023) Stephani Williams
Secretary (2021-2022) Glenn W. Muschert
Treasurer (2021-2022) Susan M. Carlson
Board of Directors (2021-2024) Kristen M. Budd, Ebonie L. Cunningham Stringer, and David G. Embrick
Board of Directors: Student Representative (2021-2023) Shaontá Allen
Anti-Harassment Committee (2021-2024) Meghna Bhat
Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee (2021-2024) Nancy J. Mezey
Committee on Committees (2021-2024) Loretta Bass and Jean-Pierre Reed
Editorial and Publications Committee (2021-2024) Yvonne A. Braun and Claire Renzetti
Membership and Outreach Committee (2021-2024) Andrea D. Miller and Morena Tartari
Membership and Outreach Committee: Student Representative (2021-2024) Greer Ayanna Hamilton
Proposed By-Laws Amendment: Article VI, Section 31 Approved

ITEM #6 – MONEY MATTERS

Report from the Treasurer and Investment Advisor

Treasurer Susan M. Carlson reported on the financial status of the Society. The year 2020 was better than predicted, and the Society generated a c. \$65,000 surplus due to unrealized (paper) gains on investments. Revenues did not keep pace with expenses, and the Society experienced a c. \$53,000 cash deficit as revenue fell below expenses. For 2021, the Budget, Finance, and Audit (BFA) Committee is projecting a budget shortfall of c. \$78,000, considering a reduction in membership, cancellation of the annual in-person meeting due to COVID-19, the cost of the virtual annual meeting, and a reduction in journal revenue. The Society has sufficient funds in reserve for the 2021 projected deficit. However, the longer-term concern is the membership levels, journal revenue, and the generation of revenues.

ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Treasurer and Investment Advisor.

Part A: LBMC Client Service Communication Letter

Part B: 2020 Audit Report

The results of the audit were clean, with no unusual findings.

ACTION: The Board approved the 2020 Audit Report.

Part C: Report from the Chair of the Budget, Finance, and Audit (BFA) Committee

BFA Committee Chair David J. Luke delivered the report from the BFA, including the follow-up on Items charged by the 2019-2020 Board of Directors.

1. Evaluate the "Pilot Approach B" Suggested by the Accessibility Committee

The BFA Committee agreed with the spirit of providing childcare and other care services for annual meeting attendees. However, given the current financial situation, this initiative is not feasible.

2. Develop Draft Recommendations for How to Manage the Society's Reserve Funds

The BFA Committee is working to generate ideas for managing the Society's reserve funds.

3. Evaluate the Request from the Committee on Social Action to Integrate the Committee's Suggestions into Future Annual Meetings. The BFA Committee cannot recommend the continued hosting of hybrid format meetings, given the deficit generated by multimodal annual meeting formats. The Committee recommends the CSA work with divisions who have access to the division sponsored projects budget to fund initiatives like the one proposed.

PART D. Presentation of the 2021 Amended Budget

David J. Luke presented the 2021 amended budget.

ACTION: The Board approved the 2021 amended budget.

PART E: 2021 June Balance Sheet. David J. Luke discussed the 2021 June Balance sheet to provide the Board with the most up-to-date financial information available.

PART F: 2021 June Income Statement. The BFA Committee predicts a budget shortfall in 2021, which can be absorbed. However, there is a reason for concern regarding whether membership decline will increase over the next few months, as annual meeting registration often drives membership renewals. The BFA Committee will continue to take the financial health of SSSP very seriously. It will be making additional recommendations to the Board about how to keep the stability of the Society intact in these uncertain times.

ACTION: The Board approved the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee's report.

ITEM #7 – REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Héctor L. Delgado presented the report of the Executive Officer (EO). The EO gave a word of gratitude to the Administrative Office and Board, particularly during the challenging time of the pandemic. Several

vital issues came across the EO's desk during the previous year. The most pressing issue concerns the uncertainty of holding an annual in-person meeting in 2022 in Los Angeles. The EO commented on the exemplary stewardship of *Social Problems* by the current editorial team. The journal continues to thrive. There is a need to increase stewardship of the Society, particularly for finding people to serve in committee roles. The EO acknowledged that he would be stepping down from the position, effective following the 2022 annual meeting. The EO reported on the resolutions process, including the new process in its second iteration. The Committee on Social Action reported that one of the resolutions was complicated.

ACTION: The Board approved the Executive Officer's report.

Part A. Report from the UTK Project Director

Update on the conversation with Dr. Stephanie A. Bohon, the Department of Sociology at UTK, and the SSSP Project Director.

ACTION: The Board approved the report of the UTK Project Director.

Part B. Update on the SSSP/UTK Five-Year Contract: 1-1-22 thru 12-31-26

The SSSP is in the process of drafting a new five-year contract with UTK valid from 1-1-22 to 12-31-26.

Part C. Discuss Lack of Nominees for SSSP Offices/Committees

The EO noted the lack of nominees and voluntarism. Given the Society relies on such service, this is a concern. Discussion ensued.

Part D. Discuss the Future of the SSSP

The EO commented on the future of the SSSP, including the direction(s) in which the Society should move. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of continuing regular Zoom Board meetings to discuss this and other significant issues.

ITEM #8 – REPORT FROM THE EDITORS OF *SOCIAL PROBLEMS*, INCLUDING PROPOSED 2021-2022 ADVISORY BOARD

Editor Annulla Linders reported on the status of *Social Problems*, with special recognition to those on staff who play essential roles. The editors started their second term as co-editors (2021-24) with the addition of Derrick Brooms. The journal is in a good state, with a year-on-year increase in submission numbers. The journal published the long-anticipated special issue on contemporary uses of the Sociology of W. E. B. Du Bois, co-edited by Earl Wright II and incoming ASA President Aldon Morris in May 2021. A special issue on the Lives (and Futures) of Black Children and Youth, co-edited by Derrick Brooms and Marcelle Medford, is underway. The editors have accepted a proposal by Victor Ray and Rory Kramer to guest-edit a special issue on the January 6th insurrection and 'racism by omission.' The editorial office maintains its strategies to reduce the time from submission to editorial decision, noting the success.

ACTION: The Board approved the Editors of Social Problems report, including the preliminary slate of 2021-2022 Advisory Editors and Student Advisory Editors for *Social Problems*.

PART A: Report from the Chair of the Committee on Social Media

Chair of the Committee on Social Media, Trenton M. Haltom, presented the Committee on Social Media report. Twitter followers are above 11K.

ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Committee on Social Media.

ITEM #9 – REPORT FROM OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

Mireille Yanow, Senior Publisher, presented the report from Oxford University Press (OUP). The Society is seven years into publishing the journal with OUP. Circulation is in line with trends observed for other journals, and of course, COVID-19 has affected journal performance in general. Online engagement in 2021 YTD is on par with that seen in 2020 and predicted improvement in the months ahead. In 2020, OUP marketing focused on increasing exposure outside the US. The journal's 2020 impact factor jumped to 3.115! The journal is now ranked 31/149, putting it in the top Quartile. The 2020 CiteScore was also released in June 2021 and the *Social Problems* CiteScore stayed steady at 4.1, ranking it 124 out of 1269 journals in Sociology.

ACTION: The Board approved the *Social Problems* publisher's report.

ITEM #10 – REPORT FROM THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

Woody Doane presented the Program Committee Co-Chairs' report, with particular gratitude toward the Program Committee members. The Board noted, with thanks, that the Program Committee prepared a complete and robust program for the virtual meeting. Dr. Doane noted that paper submissions have been down this year, leading to fewer sessions, also reflected in decreased conference registration. The committed raised concern in the report, especially the limit on program appearances. Discussion ensued.

ACTION: The Board approved the Program Committee Co-Chairs' report.

ITEM #11 – REPORT FROM THE LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

Steven H. Corey and David G. Embrick, Committee Co-Chairs, presented the Local Arrangements Committee's report highlights. The local arrangements committee operated differently as the 2021 annual meeting migrated to a virtual format. The challenge was to integrate the local flavor of Chicago into a virtual space. Several prerecorded materials will appear during the conference, and many of these have a local feel. The committee selected the Chi-Nation's Youth Council as the Indigenous Peoples' Social Justice Award winner.

ACTION: The Board approved the Local Arrangements Committee Co-Chairs' report.

ITEM #12 – REPORT FROM THE IT SPECIALIST ON THE VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING (SHOW PATHABLE PLATFORM)

IT Specialist Rachel Cogburn demonstrated the functionality of Pathable, the portal through which conference attendees will access the 2021 virtual annual meeting. Discussion ensued, mainly focusing on gratitude and enthusiasm for the virtual meeting space.

ITEM #13 – REPORT FROM THE MEETING MANAGER

Michele Koontz, Meeting Manager (MM), reported on various issues. The MM recognized Rachel's work in developing a virtual annual meeting. The MM thanks the Board for service this year. - The most significant development, of course, has been the decision to host the 2021 annual meeting in virtual space. Thus far, there are 771 conference registrants, including 49% professional member registrations, 47% student/underemployed/emeritus registrations, and 4% exempted registrants. There are currently 1883 2020+ members and 1471 2021+ members. Numbers appear to be up, as this time last year, there are 1117 2020+ members compared to the current 1471 2021+ members this year. The MM notes that there are multiple accessibility concerns. One detail is that the virtual platform offers captioning.

Part A. Current Annual Meeting Registrants and Membership by State/Country

Part B. Meeting Attendance, 1985-2020

ACTION: For future annual meetings, the Board will require session organizers to submit written descriptions of their sessions.

ACTION: The Board authorized the continuation of Early Bird Registration rates for future annual meetings.

ACTION: The Board approved the Meeting Manager's report.

ITEM #14 – UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM 2020–2021

Part A. Membership Recruitment and Retention Issues

This agenda item will move to the 7/30/21 Board meeting.

Part B. Discuss the Communications Strategy, Planning, and Implementation Proposal

This agenda item is tabled and moved to the 7/30/21 Board meeting.

Part C. Discuss Letters Coming from the Board of Directors, in particular, the "Support of Palestinians and Call for an End to Violence" Letter

This agenda item is tabled and moved to the 7/30/21 Board meeting.

ITEM #15 – ADJOURNMENT OF THE 2020-2021 BOARD

There being no further time, the meeting was adjourned at 3:56 pm by President Corey Dolgon.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Glenn W. Muschert, SSSP Secretary