

2021-2022 SSSP BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2022

12:00PM – 5:00PM (EDT)

VIRTUAL MEETING CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM

ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by President Noreen M. Sugrue at 12:37 pm. The start of the meeting was delayed, while the Board waited for sufficient attendance to have a quorum.

ITEM #2 – INTRODUCTIONS

Members Present:

Noreen M. Sugrue, President

Shirley A. Jackson, President-Elect

Corey Dolgon, Past President

Stephani Williams, Vice President-Elect

Glenn W. Muschert, Secretary

Susan Carlson, Treasurer

Alexis A. Bender, Board Member

Kristen Budd, Board Member

Giovanna Follo, Chairperson, Council of the Divisions

Annulla Linders, Editor, *Social Problems*

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

Mi'Chael N. Wright, Chair, Committee on Social Media

Sarah Levine, Publisher, Oxford University Press

Jackie Krasas, Chair, Program Committee

Carlos Royal, Chair, Local Arrangement Committee

Héctor Delgado, Executive Officer

Michele Koontz, Administrative Officer & Meeting Manager

ITEM #3 – ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Agenda adopted as presented.

ITEM #4 – FINANCES - REPORT FROM THE TREASURER AND INVESTMENT ADVISOR

Treasurer and Investment Adviser Susan M. Carlson reported on the Society's financial status. The year 2021 was better than predicted, and the Society generated a c. \$183,000 surplus due to unrealized (paper) investment gains. Revenues exceeded expenses, holding aside the paper gains on the Society's investment holdings. For 2022, the Budget, Finance, and Audit (BFA) Committee is projecting a budget shortfall anticipating a reduction in membership, low attendance at the 2022 annual meeting due to COVID-19, and a decrease in journal revenue. The Society has sufficient funds in reserve for the 2023 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: 2021 Audit Report

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

ACTION: The Board approved the 2021 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. Key points included the consideration of incentivizing the position of *Social Problems* editor, the need to consider the 6/30/23 contract renewal with Oxford University Press for publication of *Social Problems*, and going forward the Administrative Office does not need to consult the BFA to request approval for promotional membership for early-birds. In addition, the BFA questions the efficacy of the Lee Student Support Fund, as disbursements are relatively low given the number of applications received, and the BFA suggested the creation of a revenue generation committee.

ACTION: The Board charged the Lee Student Support Fund Committee to draft refined criteria for allocating funds for the award, leading to fewer awards that would be more economically impactful.

ACTION: The Board charged the 2022-23 SSSP President with drafting a plan for revenue generation.

The BFA also provided the draft of the Operating Reserve Policy. The minimum Operating Reserve Fund should equal the previous year's operating costs. Above this, the excess should go 75% to building endowments consistent with the long-term priorities of the SSSP, and the remaining 25% would go to one-time, non-recurring expenses that align with SSSP's purposes.

ACTION: The Board charged the incoming Interim Executive Officer and the 2022-23 SSSP President with developing a plan for activity related to the Operating Reserve Policy.

PART D. Presentation of the 2022 Amended Budget

David J. Luke presented the 2022 amended budget.

ACTION: The Board approved the 2022 amended budget.

PART E: 2021 June Balance Sheet

David J. Luke discussed the 2022 June Balance sheet to provide the Board with the most up-to-date financial information.

PART F: 2021 June Income Statement

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

ITEM #5 – MEETING ATTENDANCE ISSUES DUE TO NEW COVID-19 INFORMATION

Noreen M. Sugrue raised the issue that COVID-19 conditions continue to evolve. Discussion ensued.

ACTION: The Board approved the addition to clarify that the term “or outdoor” be added to the SSSP’s masking policy.

The new policy now reads as follows: “Masks must be worn by everyone age 2 years and older, fully covering your nose and mouth, at all times when in the indoor **OR OUTDOOR** SSSP meeting space unless actively eating, drinking, or presenting. For example, if you’re on a panel and not presenting, you must wear a mask. If you’re at a reception and not eating or drinking, or presenting you must wear a mask.”

ITEM #6 – 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 EO commented on the current editorial team’s exemplary stewardship of *Social Problems*. 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 Transnational Initiatives Committee held a successful virtual meeting. The EO acknowledged that he will step down from the position, effective following the annual meeting. The Board affirmed its gratitude for Héctor’s outstanding service to the Society.

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

Part A. Report from the UTK Project Director

The EO commented on the letter from Dr. Stephanie A. Bohon, Professor and Head of the Department of Sociology at UTK, and the SSSP Project Director. In short, this relationship is synergistic and meaningful.

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

Part B. 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.

Part C. Announcement of the 2022 General Election Results

President-Elect (2022-2023); President (2023-2024) Mary Bernstein

Vice-President-Elect (2022-2023); Vice-President (2023-2024) Anthony A. Peguero

Secretary (2022-2023) Glenn W. Muschert

Treasurer (2022-2023) Heather E. Dillaway

Board of Directors (2022-2025) Barbara Katz Rothman and Cameron T. Whitley

Board of Directors: Student Representative (2022-2024) Shiv Issar

Anti-Harassment Committee (2022-2025) Kathryn Nowotny

Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee (2022-2025) Sarah E. Castillo

Committee on Committees (2022-2025) Shantel Gabriel Buggs and Valerie Leiter

Editorial and Publications Committee (2022-2025) Alexis A. Bender and Luis Fernandez

Membership and Outreach Committee (2022-2025) Christina Barmon and Jacqueline M. Zalewski

Membership and Outreach Committee Student Representative (2022-2025) Kenya L. Goods

Proposed By-Laws Amendment: Article IV. Section 2 Approved

Proposed By-Laws Amendment: Article V. Section 1 Approved

Proposed By-Laws Amendment: Article V. Section 6 Approved

Proposed By-Laws Amendment: Article VI. Section 4 Approved

Proposed By-Laws Amendment: Article VI. Section 7 Approved

Proposed By-Laws Amendment: Article VI. Section 32 Approved

Proposed By-Laws Amendment: Article VI. Section 18 Approved

ITEM #7 – REPORT FROM THE EDITORS OF *SOCIAL PROBLEMS*, INCLUDING THE PROPOSED 2022-2023 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 are in the middle of 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 editorial office maintains its strategies to reduce the time from submission to editorial decision, noting the success.

Pending refinement to the list, the Board tabled the approval of the proposed 2022-2023 Advisory Board for *Social Problems*.

ACTION: The Board approved the Editors of *Social Problems* report.

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

Chair of the Committee on Social Media, Mi'Chael N. Wright, presented the Committee on Social Media report. Traffic is very high on social media sites. For example, the Twitter following now tops 14K and YouTube views exceeded 30K.

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

ITEM #8 – REPORT FROM OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

Publisher Sarah Levine, Oxford University Press, presented the report from Oxford University Press (OUP). Many details appear in the report. The main content of the presentation concerned the business model for academic article publication, including how editorial decisions may increasingly affect revenue streams. Since the SSSP relies on revenue generated by the publication of *Social Problems*, this concerns the financial well-being of the Society. In a practical sense, OUP will

continue to monitor these trends to maintain or increase the journal's revenue stream. Recommendations for the SSSP include expanding the geographic range from which authors publish and increasing the number of articles published each year by 5% or 10%, for example. Discussion ensued.

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

ITEM #9 – REPORT FROM THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHAIR

Jackie Krasas presented the Program Committee Chair's report, particularly grateful to President Noreen M. Sugrue and Heather Dalmage, Program Committee member. The Board noted, with thanks, that the Program Committee prepared a complete and robust program for the meeting. Notable was the pandemic effect on conference participation. As of July 7, 2022, there were 349 papers submitted using the online submission process, 18 added by session chairs, for 367 papers total. As reporting, there were 482 registrants and 99 sessions on the program. These numbers are low compared to previous years, and likely reflect the effects of the pandemic. Discussion ensued regarding the tendency for the annual meetings to occur in the most expensive venues in North America, including whether there are any alternatives.

Due to a lack of quorum, the Board rescheduled its vote for approval of the Program Committee Chair's report until the July 27, 2022 meeting.

ITEM #10 – REPORT FROM THE LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Carlos Royal, Committee Chair, presented the Local Arrangements Committee's report highlights. The committee noted the hurdle experienced in selecting the winner of the Indigenous Peoples' Social Justice Award winner.

Due to a lack of quorum, the Board rescheduled its vote for approval of the Local Arrangements Committee Chair's report until the July 27, 2022 meeting.

ITEM #11 – REPORT FROM THE MEETING MANAGER

Michele Koontz, Meeting Manager (MM), reported on various issues. The MM thanks the Board for service this year. There are currently 1949 2021+ members and 1202 2022+ members. Compared to the previous year, membership is down about 18%. A promising sign is a 12% increase in the highest income professional category. This year there will be complimentary hot/cold beverages and snacks in the morning (whole fruit, granola bars, and single-serving yogurts) and afternoon (whole fruit, granola bars, individual bags of pretzels, popcorn, and chips) for meeting attendees. In addition, SSSP will subsidize the cost of wine, beer, and non-alcoholic beverages at two receptions.

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

Part B. Meeting Attendance, 1985-2021

Due to a lack of quorum, the Board rescheduled its vote for approval of the Meeting Manager's report until the July 27, 2022 meeting.

ITEM #12 – UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM 2021–2022

Part A. Membership and Outreach Issues and Guidance

The Board tabled this item until the July 27, 2022 meeting.

ITEM #13 – NEW BUSINESS

Part A. Discuss Search for the Next Executive Officer

Shirley Jackson provided an update on the search. Susan Carlson has graciously agreed to serve as Interim Executive Officer until May 2023. The committee hopes to identify a suitable candidate before that time.

Part B. Discuss Op-Ed Project Workshops for 2023

Noreen M. Sugrue provided an update on the Op-Ed Project. The BFA recommended funding the project for an additional year.

ITEM #14 – ADJOURNMENT OF THE 2021-2022 BOARD

There being a lack of quorum and no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:17 pm by President Noreen M. Sugrue.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Glenn W. Muschert, SSSP Secretary.