

To: SSSP Board of Directors  
From: Val Leiter, Chair, By-Laws Committee  
Re: Annual Report of the Committee  
Date: July 14, 2022

The By-Laws Committee considered five proposed bylaw changes over the past year, which was taken on at the request of the Board of Directors and the Ad Hoc Justice 21 Committee. Three of the bylaws amendments addressed changes to the Justice 21 Committee.

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. I am grateful for their collegueship over the past eight years that I've had this role.

**The following amendments were approved by the board in 2021-2022 and in the general election in 2022 and are now in effect. All changes to existing by-laws are bolded:**

#### **Article IV. Section 2. Qualifications for Holding Society Positions**

**Any individual accepting a nomination, holding an office, or serving on any standing or temporary committee of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, or as an editor or member of the Editorial Board of any periodical publication of the Society, must be a current member of the Society and must be committed to the SSSP's purposes and policies, including a commitment to diversity; the Society's policy on conflicts of interest; and the creation of a safe, welcoming, and supported space for members and staff of the organization and the staff of the venues at which our meetings are held, as outlined in the Society's Anti-harassment Policy.**

#### **Rationale:**

Any individual serving in a leadership position within the Society must be a member of the Society and make a commitment to uphold the central values and policies of the Society. The new wording specifically mentions the anti-harassment policy that the Society adopted recently.

#### **Article VI. Section 4. Names of Standing Committees:**

There are four elected Standing Committees: Budget, Finance and Audit; Committee on Committees; Editorial and Publications; and Membership and Outreach.

There are four types of Standing Committees appointed by the Board of Directors: those concerned with organizational structure (By-Laws; Elections; Nominations; Permanent Organization and Strategic Planning); those concerned with the Annual Meeting (Local Arrangements; Program; Site Selection); those concerned with annual awards (Arlene Kaplan Daniels Paper Award; C. Wright Mills Award; Doris Wilkinson Faculty Leadership Award; Erwin O. Smigel Award; Joseph B. Gittler Award; Kathleen S. Lowney Mentoring Award; Lee Founders Award; Lee Scholar Support Fund; Lee Student Support Fund; Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Fellowship; Thomas C. Hood Social Action Award); and those concerned with specific issues (Accessibility; Committee on Mentorship; Committee on Social Action; **Justice 21**; Transnational Initiatives).

**Rationale:**

The proposed wording adds the Justice 21 Committee to the names of standing committees.

**Article VI. Section 7. Editorial and Publications Committee:**

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 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. 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 Chair of the Justice 21 Committee shall serve a two-year term as a voting, ex officio member.**

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 judge over acceptance and rejection of manuscripts and over format (within the limits set by the budget).

**The Editorial and Publications Committee shall have oversight responsibilities with respect to publication of the *Agenda for Social Justice* book series. In this capacity, the Committee will conduct a bi-yearly evaluation of the Justice 21 Committee's work and offer itself as a resource to them in order to ensure the quality and timeliness of this respective publication. Publish a call for applications and appoint a group to select members of the Justice 21 Committee as needed, at least every other year. The Committee can recommend reappointment of the Justice 21 Committee for a second and final term not to exceed four years. The Committee will periodically review and publish its criteria for the oversight of the Justice 21 Committee, including the selection of its members. Final decisions regarding the editorial policies of the *Agenda for Social Justice* editorial policies are made by the Editorial and Publications Committee. The Chair of the Justice 21 Committee remains the final judge over acceptance and rejection of manuscripts 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:**

The Ad Hoc Justice 21 Committee submitted a proposal to bring the Justice 21 Committee under the purview of the Editorial and Publications Committee, consistent with all other publications by the Society. The Editorial

and Publication Committee voted unanimously to approve an amendment of the SSSP By-laws to bring the Justice 21 Committee under the organizational structure of the Editorial and Publications Committee, starting in 2022.

#### **Article VI. Section 32. Justice 21 Committee**

**The Justice 21 Committee shall consist of six members of the Society selected by the Editorial and Publications Committee. The committee members shall serve four-year terms, with the terms staggered so that at least two members are selected each year, depending on the number of vacancies. The Editorial and Publications Committee can recommend reappointment for a second and final term not to exceed four years. The Justice 21 Committee will choose its chair by vote biennially, from among its membership. The Justice 21 Committee Chair will serve one two-year term, with up to second and final term not to exceed two years.**

**Following criteria specified by the Board of Directors, the Committee shall have the responsibility to edit all *Agenda for Social Justice* publications.**

#### **Rationale:**

The Justice 21 Committee is being changed from an ad hoc committee to a standing committee, as the result of a proposal that the Justice 21 Committee submitted to the Editorial and Publications Committee. That proposal involved bringing the Justice 21 Committee under the organizational structure of the Editorial and Publications Committee, starting in August 2022. That proposal was approved unanimously by the members of the Editorial and Publications Committee and the Board of Directors.

#### **Article VI. Section 18. C. Wright Mills Award Committee:**

The President-Elect shall appoint the Chairperson-elect for the C. Wright Mills Award Committee. On the basis of nominations from the Committee on Committees and in consultation with the Chairperson-elect, the President shall appoint **a committee of** at least five other members of the committee. **In appointing these members, the President, with the assistance of the Chair of the Committee and Administrative Office, will ensure that the committee is diverse, based on, but not limited to, racial-ethnic background, gender and sexual identities, geographic locations, faculty rank, and institutional settings (e.g., academia, practitioners, organizations, etc.).** The Chairperson-elect shall serve as a member of the committee during the year prior to becoming Chairperson. The Committee serves during the term that the individual who appointed them is President.

Following criteria specified by the Board of Directors, the Committee shall select among books submitted by individuals and/or publishers, the book(s) which are the most consistent with C. Wright Mills dedication to the search for a sophisticated understanding of the individual and society. The book(s) considered for the award must have been published in the year prior to receiving the award. The Chairperson shall receive and distribute to the committee the books that meet the minimum criteria established for the award, organize the committee to perform the task of selecting the award-winning book(s), and, if possible to insure that the award is presented to the author(s) of the award winning book(s) at the Annual Meeting or as soon there after as appropriate.

#### **Rationale:**

The additional wording reflects best practices for forming a committee that is diverse and represents all SSSP members.