

Date: August 18, 2023

To: Michele Koontz, SSSP Administrative Officer, and SSSP Board of Directors

From: Giovanna Follo, Chairperson of the Council of Divisions

Re: SSSP 2022-2023 Council of the Divisions Annual Report

Below you will find a summary of the activities of the SSSP Division Chairs during 2022-2023. The report was written after the second Council of Divisions' meetings. The first and second meetings reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the chairs, Executive Officer orientation, discussion on division reorganization, division reorganization survey, and task force on social media.

1. Appreciation and Thanks

I want to give my thanks and appreciation to Michele Koontz, Kelsey Whitaker, Rachel Cogburn, and the rest of the administrative office for their help, support, and overall time this past year. I would also like to thank the Division Chairs for their work in ensuring the viability of their divisions for the benefit of SSSP.

2. Council of Division Chairs Summary of Activities

SSSP has 23 divisions organized around specific topics, interests, or subdisciplines.

In 2022-2023, 19 Divisions held elections for Division Chair, Division Co-Chairs, and/or Vice/Associate Chairs. To note, the Division Chairs had difficulty receiving enough candidates for elections.

There were no Division Sponsored Projects.

There are three Division-Sponsored Workshop scheduled for 2023: Community Research and Development Division sponsored Community-Based Participatory Action Research, Institutional Ethnography sponsored Institutional Ethnography, and Environment & Technology sponsored Professional Development for Early Career Scholars.

Completion of Division Tasks

Council of Division Required Meetings (2022 Annual Meeting):

Seven Divisions did not fulfill the required two meetings at the 2022 Annual Meeting. These seven divisions are: Conflict, Social Action, and Change, Educational Problems, Global, Labor Studies, Poverty, Class, and Inequality, Society and Mental Health, and Teaching Social Problems.

Division Budgets:

Twenty-one divisions have submitted budgets. Society and Mental Health and Community Research and Development did not submit budgets.

Division Mission Statements:

All Divisions have updated their mission statements either in 2022 or 2023. Divisions were reminded that mission statements need to be reviewed every two years.

Social Media:

Eight Divisions are without social media presence: Conflict, Social Action, and Change; Disability; Environment and Technology; Family; Gender; Health, Health Policy, and Health Services; Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities; and Sociology and Social Welfare.

Newsletters:

Divisions are required to distribute at least one newsletter. Four Divisions have not fulfilled their newsletter obligation during 2022-2023. These Divisions are Disability; Drinking and Drugs; Labor Studies, and Society and Mental Health.

Graduate Student Paper Competition/Scholarship Awards:

All Divisions conducted student competition awards in some form. Ten Divisions stated that no paper award was given.

Division Membership Totals

The supplement document indicates Division membership totals. I draw your attention to The Sport, Leisure, and the Body Division. For the last four years, the Division has been under the 50-member threshold. Up to this point, the division's membership is 31.

Appointed Position for Committee on Social Action

The Council of Division Chairperson is responsible for one committee appointment to the Committee on Social Action (2022-2025).

Emily Yen was elected in 2022.

Action Items and /or Concerns of the Divisions

There were several issues that the Council discussed:

1. The council has asked if there is a way to see how many times a division newsletter is downloaded to understand better if the division membership is reading the document.

Action Item #1

We move, with the permission of the Board of Directors, the Council of Chairs ask the administrative office if there is any way to gather this information.

2. Student Paper Award

The council discussed how more students would be attracted to apply for the awards.

Action Item#2

We move, with the permission of the Board of Directors, the Council of Chairs will apply several strategies to encourage students to apply for the student competition awards. This will be the responsibility of the division chairs. Suggestions include:

- Sending reminders directly to SSSP student members
- Include the announcement in print
- Contact previous chairs of the division to understand the trend in applications
- Allow students to submit working papers
- Clarify for international students the submission requirements and perhaps clarify if they need to be “citizens”
- Have mentors mention the awards to their mentees
- Publication – if the paper is under review or accepted for publication during the time it is being considered in the competition, it can still be considered
- Perhaps have two awards, best article and student paper (unpublished)

3. Distribution of the division reorganization survey and the steps to follow.

Action Item #3

We move, with the permission of the Board of Directors, that the survey be distributed at the 2024 Annual Meeting. The survey would be general in nature to allow all membership to answer. This can be accomplished by a QR code at registration or the exit survey. After the 2024 Annual Meeting, the data will be analyzed by the Council of Division Chairs and Chairperson. At the 2025 Annual Meeting, the Division Council will move forward on how to discuss best the future of the status of the current divisions. For those that are not in person, chairs will send an email with the QR code.

4. The social media task force was created.

Action Item #4

We move, with the permission of the Board of Directors, the social media task force will consist of: Rafia Mallick, Michael Johnston, and Ginger Berndt. The task force will set a deadline for a document to be shared in a Google document for review by the Council. After a month, a final document will be established.

5. To understand the financial impact of division restructuring:

Action Item #5

We move, with the permission of the Board of Directors, that the Council of Chairs propose that the Board of Directors provide what constitutes a “balanced budget.” For example how many sessions would be ideal?