

**2023–2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 2024, 4:15 PM – 6:15 PM (EDT)**

**LE CENTRE SHERATON MONTRÉAL HOTEL, MONTRÉAL, QUEBEC, CANADA**

**MEETING CONDUCTED IN-PERSON WITH SELECT ATTENDEES VIA ZOOM**

**ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER**

President Mary Bernstein called the meeting to order at 4:15 pm.

**ITEM #2 – INTRODUCTIONS**

Members Present:

Mary Bernstein, President

Rose M. Brewer, President-Elect

Anthony A. Peguero, Vice President

Glenn W. Muschert, Secretary

Heather E. Dillaway, Treasurer

Meghna Bhat, Board Member \*Z

Kristen M. Budd, Board Member \*Z

David G. Embrick, Board Member

Barbara Katz Rothman, Board Member

Cameron T. Whitley, Board Member \*Z

Shiv Issar, Board Member, Student Representative \*Z

Foroogh Mohammadi, Board Member, Student Representative

Giovanna Follo, *Ex-Officio*, Outgoing Chairperson, Council of the Divisions

Shannon Carter, *Ex-Officio*, Incoming Chairperson, Council of the Divisions

Rachel M. Schmitz, Editor, *Social Problems*

Kelley J. Sittner, Editor, *Social Problems*

Shaonta' E. Allen, Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Fellowship Committee Chair

Krista Brumley, Erwin O. Smigel Award Committee Chair \*Z

Waverly Duck, C. Wright Mills Award Committee Chair

Valerie Leiter, By-Laws Committee Chair

Morena Tartari, Transnational Initiatives Committee Chair

Elroi J. Windsor, Executive Officer

Michele Koontz, Administrative Officer & Meeting Manager

Lauren Eastwood, Parliamentarian

\*Z indicates participant present by Zoom

**ITEM #3 – ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The Board adopted the agenda as presented.

**ITEM #4 – COMMITTEE REPORTS WITHOUT ACTION ITEMS**

Part A. Report from the Anti-Harassment Committee Chair

Part B. Report from the Arlene Kaplan Daniels Paper Award Committee Chair

Part C. Report from the Committee on Social Action Chair

Part D. Report from the Doris Wilkinson Faculty Leadership Award Committee Chair

Part E. Report from the Joseph B. Gittler Award Committee Chair

Part F. Report from the Lee Founders Award Committee Chair

Part G. Report from the Lee Scholar Support Fund Committee Chair

Part H. Report from the Lee Student Support Fund Committee Chair

Part I. Report from the Membership and Outreach Committee Chair

Part J. Report from the Thomas C. Hood Social Action Award Committee Chair

Part K. Report from the Ad Hoc Committee to Draft the Executive Officer Contract Chair

Part L. Report from the Ad Hoc Publisher Search Committee Chair

**ACTION: The Board approved the committee reports without action items in a single vote.**

#### ITEM #5 – REPORT FROM THE RACIAL/ETHNIC MINORITY GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR

Committee Chair Shaonta' E. Allen presented the highlights of the report, focusing on suggestions for improving the process for future years. The committee suggested that the 2025 committee enhance the language/directives around the personal statement component of the application. Further, the committee recommended that the 2025 committee meet prior to evaluating the application materials in Slideroom to decide how they will evaluate potential vs. performance. The committee also recommended that the 2025 committee decide prior to the opening of the application portal whether they would like to adjust the wording around application questions pertaining to financial need/financial support. Finally, given SSSP's commitment to equity, the committee encourages the 2025 committee to consider whether an applicant has received other competitive grants and fellowships when deliberating to ensure an equitable selection process.

**ACTION: The Board charged Shaonta' E. Allen and David Brunsma, the outgoing and the incoming chairs of the Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Fellowship Committee, respectively, with providing wording to incorporate the suggestions into the award criteria.**

**ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Fellowship Committee.**

#### ITEM #6 – REPORT FROM THE ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Board noted that no report was submitted.

#### ITEM #7 – REPORT FROM THE BY-LAWS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Valerie Leiter, Chair of the By-Laws Committee brought forward that the By-laws Committee chose to table one amendment and send it to the Board for its consideration, after much

discussion between members of the By-Laws Committee and the Society's Parliamentarian. That amendment is provided as follows:

Article V. Section 3. Quorum of Board

Nine voting members of the Board of Directors shall be necessary for a quorum; ~~provided however that no action shall be taken by the Board of Directors except upon the affirmative vote of at least nine directors.~~

Rationale: This statement is contrary to Robert's Rules. It is sufficient to define the quorum in the by-laws. The deleted statement implies that all nine members in the quorum must vote for a motion unanimously. Voting will now occur consistent with Robert's Rules.

**ACTION: The Board approved increasing the Board quorum to 12. This change now proceeds to the By-Laws Committee for consideration and approval by the Membership.**

**ACTION: The Board approved the report of the By-Laws Committee.**

#### ITEM #8 – REPORT FROM THE C. WRIGHT MILLS AWARD COMMITTEE CHAIR

Committee Chair Waverly Duck conveyed the highlights of the report, including a detailed accounting of the Committee's activities. The Committee had several suggestions, including expanding the number of committee members, accepting submissions written by SSSP members only, and utilizing PDF copies of submitted books. The Committee is currently governed by the following section of the By-Laws, "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."

**ACTION: The Board approved increasing the Committee size to 11 Members (Chair, Chair-Elect, and nine committee members). This change now proceeds to the By-Laws Committee for consideration and approval by the Membership.**

**ACTION: The Board approved the report of the C. Wright Mills Award Committee.**

#### ITEM #9 – REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON MENTORSHIP CHAIR

The Board noted that no report was submitted.

#### ITEM #10 – REPORT FROM THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Board noted the report submitted by the Elections Committee Chair.

**ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Elections Committee.**

ITEM #11 – REPORT FROM THE ERWIN O. SMIGEL AWARD COMMITTEE CHAIR

Committee Chair Krista Brumley delivered the highlights of the report, including a suggestion to change the language governing the award in the Operations Manual, such that the language will be like the other travel award committees.

**ACTION: Concerning the Erwin O. Smigel Award, the Board approved the following changes to the Operations Manual.**

**“If a qualified applicant notifies the Administrative Officer that he, she, or they are unable to attend the annual meeting before award checks are processed, their award money will be redistributed to the remaining qualified applicants up to the maximum amount allowed. Following the annual meeting, if a qualified applicant returns his, her, or their award money, the unspent funds will be returned to the Society’s general fund and will not be carried over to next year’s budget.”**

**ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Erwin O. Smigel Award Committee.**

ITEM #12 – REPORT FROM THE JUSTICE 21 COMMITTEE CHAIR

Committee member Glenn W. Muschert presented on behalf of Chair Kristen M. Budd the highlights of the report. The J21 committee requested to add a publicity position for the Agenda series, which was approved by the Board. Because this position was envisioned to be staffed by a graduate student, the J21 committee requests the Board approve waiving their student membership fee during their years of service.

**ACTION: The Board approved waiving the student membership fee during the term of service for the Justice 21 publicity position.**

**ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Justice 21 Committee.**

ITEM #13 – REPORT FROM THE KATHLEEN S. LOWNY MENTORING AWARD COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Board noted that no report was submitted.

ITEM #14 – REPORT FROM THE PERMANENT ORGANIZATION AND STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIR

Although the Committee report is not yet finalized, Barbara Katz Rothman presented the highlights of the forthcoming report on behalf of the Committee Chair, Junior R. Hopwood. The Committee suggests the creation of an Ad Hoc Virtual Events Planning Committee. The charge of the Committee involved consideration of the establishment of permanent online options. This was met with mixed reactions from committee members, and the committee felt that this issue should be brought to the wider community not as a proposition but in the form of a survey.

**ACTION: The Board approved the creation of an Ad Hoc Virtual Events Planning Committee. The committee shall comprise Kemi Johnson Pratt (chair), Valerie Leiter, Elroi J. Windsor, a**

**member selected from the Accessibility Committee, and a Student Representative from the Board of Directors.**

The Committee has developed a proposed mission statement and values statement for consideration among the membership in the fall membership survey.

**Mission Statement:** SSSP's mission is to serve researchers, practitioners, and advocates in the pursuit of social justice.

**Values Statements:** Below are values statements derived from analyses of the mission statements of SSSP's 23 Divisions. These values statements reflect the core ideals of SSSP and can help guide us in our operations.

1. SSSP is dedicated to advancing social justice, addressing inequalities, and dismantling oppression.
2. SSSP uses sociology for action to solve social problems and improve the world through advocacy, activism, and active engagement.
3. SSSP prioritizes critical inquiry, reflection, and research to engage in evidence-based scholarship and challenge assumptions.
4. SSSP fosters the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration and the interconnectedness of social problems.
5. SSSP illuminates how social structures perpetuate interlocking social inequalities, highlights how power and privilege are relational, and addresses systemic barriers to social justice.
6. SSSP emphasizes equity, empathy, and respect in improving the quality of life, fostering social relations, and creating a sustainable and more just world for individuals and communities impacted by social problems.
7. SSSP honors our diverse community, where networks and alliances aim to amplify the voices of marginalized people.

**ACTION: The Board approved the verbal report of the Permanent Organization and Strategic Planning Committee.**

#### ITEM #15 – REPORT FROM THE TRANSNATIONAL INITIATIVES COMMITTEE CHAIR

Morena Tartari, Chair of the Transnational Initiatives (TI) Committee, presented the highlights of the report, including several suggestions. The suggestions concerned defining the list of Global South countries qualified for applicants for TI support funds; revising criteria for evaluation of application for TI support funds; actions to ensure inclusive participation of applicants denied funds or travel visas; a request for TIC-sponsored sessions at Annual Meetings; increasing the responsiveness and participation of TIC members. The Board advised, in the event that a committee member becomes non-responsive, the Committee Chair is advised to petition the Board.

**ACTION: The Board approved using the ASA’s list of Global South countries to determine eligibility for qualifying for TI support funds.**

**ACTION: The Board approved adding the following wording to the applications for TI support funds.**

**“What do you need to prioritize in terms of funding (i.e., the flight cost, the hotel cost, etc.)?”**

**“Please provide a short CV and explain how this funding would help you to support your career development.”**

The Committee suggested the creation of a point system that considers each of the responses to the application form. The Board advised the committee to develop such an evaluation system for future Board consideration.

**ACTION: The Board approved virtual participation in the session(s) in which they should present their papers for those who are awarded TI support funds, and who are subsequently unable to attend due to financial constraints or difficulties in attaining travel visas.**

**ACTION: The Board approved the Transnational Initiatives Committee to sponsor and organize two (2) sessions at future Annual Meetings.**

**ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Transnational Initiatives Committee.**

ITEM #16 – REPORT FROM THE AD HOC ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMMITTEE CHAIR

There being no time, the Board referred this item to Unfinished Business from the 2023-2024 Board, to appear on the Agenda for the 8/11/24 Board Meeting.

ITEM #17 – REPORT FROM THE AD HOC KAUFFMAN FOUNDATION PAPER AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Board noted that no report was submitted.

ITEM #18 – REPORT FROM THE AD HOC MEETING FORMAT COMMITTEE FOR THE 2028 ANNUAL MEETING CHAIR

There being no time, the Board referred this item to Unfinished Business from the 2023-2024 Board, to appear on the Agenda for the 8/11/24 Board Meeting.

ITEM # 19 – UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM 2023–2024

There was no unfinished business.

ITEM #20 – NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ITEM #21 – ADJOURNMENT OF THE 2023–2024 BOARD

There being no additional time, President Mary Bernstein adjourned the meeting at 6:24 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Glenn Muschert, SSSP Secretary.