

**TO: SSSP Board of Directors**  
**FROM: Alexis A. Bender, Chair, By-Laws Committee**  
**Re: Annul Report of the Committee**  
**Date: July 14, 2025**

The By-Laws Committee considered seven proposed changes to the by-laws over the past year, which were taken on at the request of the Board of Directors. One of the proposed changes was a proposed amendment that was tabled by the By-Laws Committee in 2024. The requested amendments reflect changes in the nomination process for secretary and treasurer, quorum of the board, the composition of the C. Wright Mills Award Committee, and removing outdated language regarding the election of student board members.

I would like to thank my fellow committee members Tracy Dietz, Javier Trevino, and Elroi Windsor for their quick and helpful work and advisement on the committee. I would also like to thank Michele Koontz for her guidance in my first term in this role. All are superb colleagues who are assets to SSSP.

**The following amendments were approved by the board in 2024-2025 and in the general election in 2025 and are now in effect.**

#### **Article IV. Section 7. Secretary**

The Secretary shall record the transactions of the Society and the Board of Directors, shall work closely with the various committees as herein specified, and shall perform such other duties as the Board may assign. The Secretary shall give due notice of all meetings of the members and the Board of Directors. ~~The Board of Directors shall nominate at least one candidate for Secretary at its Annual Meeting.~~ **Two candidates for Secretary are provided by the Nominations Committee.**

**Rationale:** This amendment is responsive to a proposal by the Nominations Committee to align the nominations process across positions to have elected members nominated by the Nominations Committee and was approved by the Board of Directors.

\_\_\_\_\_ Approve                      \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove                      \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain

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#### **Article IV. Section 8. Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall oversee the funds of the Society, subject to expenditures, at the instruction of the Board of Directors. The Treasurer or the Secretary shall establish a bank account in the name of the Society, withdrawal from which shall be upon the signature of one officer of the Society, who will ordinarily be the Treasurer, or the Executive Officer of the Society, or of the Administrative Officer, excepting that, if withdrawals exceed one thousand dollars, or are for the purpose of payment of salary of salaried employees, they shall require two signatures, of which at least one shall be that of the President or Treasurer of the Society or of the Executive Officer



or of the Administrative Officer, as instructed by the Board. The Treasurer shall also be a member of the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee. ~~The Board of Directors shall nominate at least one candidate for Treasurer at its Annual Meeting.~~ **Two candidates for Treasurer are provided by the Nominations Committee.**

In accordance with the laws and regulations of the state of Tennessee and the state in which the Administrative Office is located the Board of Directors of the Society for the Study of Social Problems may direct the Treasurer to disburse funds to the host institution for the purpose of paying salaries of the Executive Officer, Administrative Officer and Administrative Office staff so long as a contract exists between the host institution and the Society for the Study of Social Problems. In the absence of a contract the provisions for salaries stated above hold.

**Rationale:** This amendment is responsive to a proposal by Nominations Committee to align the nominations process across positions to have elected members nominated by the Nominations Committee and was approved by the Board of Directors.

\_\_\_\_\_ Approve                      \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove                      \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain

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### Article V. Section 3. Quorum of Board

~~Nine~~ **Twelve** 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:** The Board of Directors has approved increasing the quorum requirement from nine to twelve and removing a statement that is contrary to Robert's Rules of Order, Revised. The majority required for passing motions will continue to adhere to Robert's Rules of Order, Revised. It is sufficient to define the quorum in the by-laws. The deleted statement implies that all members in the quorum must vote unanimously for a motion to pass.

\_\_\_\_\_ Approve                      \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove                      \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain

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### Article VI. Section 11. Nominations Committee

- (a) ~~The Nominations Committee for each year following the annual meeting is established at the current annual meeting.~~ The **Nominations** Committee shall consist of the Chairperson of the Council of the Divisions, the Chairperson-elect of the Council of the Divisions, and four **elected** members ~~appointed by the Board of Directors~~. The four **elected** ~~appointed~~ Committee members will serve two-year terms, with the terms staggered so that at least two members are **elected** ~~appointed~~ each year, depending on the number of vacancies. **Elected members are nominated by the Nominations Committee and elected by the membership in the General Election.** The Chairperson of the Council of the Divisions will serve as the Chair of the Nominations Committee and will be the primary point of contact with the Board of Directors.



- (b) Its duty shall be to nominate at least two persons to stand for each elected office and elected committee position for which there will be a vacancy during the following year, except for ~~the offices of Treasurer and Secretary, candidates for which shall be nominated by the Board of Directors, and~~ the Chairperson of the Council of the Divisions. Every third year the Nominations Committee also shall nominate one or more of the Divisions Chairpersons, who are members of the Nominations Committee to stand for a three-year term as Chairperson of the Council of the Divisions.
- (c) Each year the Nominations Committee led by the Chairperson of the Council of the Divisions shall begin soliciting names for consideration at the following year's meetings immediately following the Annual Meeting. In order to be considered for nomination at the meeting the name of the person and a brief biographical sketch including information on scholarship and professional service, including service in SSSP, should be circulated to all members of the Nominations Committee in advance of their meeting ~~at the Annual Meeting~~. These potential nominees should have been contacted to determine their willingness to run. The Committee shall invite nominations from all members of the Society through the Society's website, from the Board of Directors, from members of Standing Committees and whatever other sources it deems appropriate. **The Nominations Committee should use a democratic process to select nominees and consider nominees' race, ethnicity, and gender identity to ensure a diverse slate of candidates.**
- (d) The Committee has the responsibility of presenting as its report an ordered list of nominees for each vacant position. This report goes to the Elections Committee by no later than two weeks following the Annual Meeting, with a corresponding copy to the Administrative Office of the Society.

**Rationale:** These revisions were proposed by the Nominations Committee and were approved by the Board of Directors to achieve a more democratic process in the composition of the Nominations Committee and to promote a diverse slate of candidates representing the nominations process. The deleted text in section (b) removes the exception of Secretary and Treasurer as nominated positions as a result of the proposed change to the nomination process.

\_\_\_\_\_ Approve                      \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove                      \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain

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## 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~~ **nine** other members of the committee. In appointing these members, the President, with the assistance of the Chair of the Committee and the 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:** This amendment was proposed by the C. Wright Mills Award Committee, and approved by the Board of Directors, to increase the committee size to 11 members (Chair, Chair-elect, and nine committee members). Increasing the size of the committee allows for distribution of labor across more people.

\_\_\_\_\_ Approve                      \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove                      \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain

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## **Article VIII. Section 2. Nominations of Student Board Members**

A call for nominations for a Student Board Member shall be published on the Society's website. The names of potential nominees, who have agreed to serve, and their qualifications shall be forwarded to the Chair of the Nominations Committee and shall be processed as described in Article VI, Section 11, c and d. ~~In the first year that Student Board Members are to be elected, four candidates shall be nominated for two positions. The person who receives the largest number of votes shall be elected to a two-year term and the candidate receiving the second largest number of votes shall be elected to a one-year term. Subsequently, One Student Board Member shall be elected each year to serve a two-year term on a staggered basis.~~

**Rationale:** The deleted text is a housekeeping change related to the first election of Student Board Members, which occurred in 1999. The text is no longer applicable to the current nominations process.

\_\_\_\_\_ Approve                      \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove                      \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain

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## **Article VIII. Section 4. Nomination by Petition**

Any person recommended for nomination for any elective office or position (except for ~~the offices of Secretary, Treasurer,~~ the Student Members of the Board of Directors and Chairperson



of the Council of the Divisions) by a petition signed by at least twenty members of the Society in good standing and received by the Chairperson of the Elections Committee at any time until January 15 shall be added to the list of nominees for that office or position. Petitions must be accompanied by a statement from the proposed candidate that they are willing to stand for election, as well as appropriate biographical information.

**Rationale:** The deleted text removes the exception of Secretary and Treasurer as nominated positions as a result of the proposed change to the nomination process.

\_\_\_\_\_ Approve

\_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove

\_\_\_\_\_ Abstain

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