

TO: SSSP Board of Directors
FROM: Alexis A. Bender, Chair, By-Laws Committee
Re: Annul Report of the Committee
Date: July 14, 2026

The By-Laws Committee considered a number of proposed changes to the by-laws over the past year. By-Laws changes were voted on during a special by-laws election in the fall and during the general election in the spring.

Changes included term specifications for Secretary, Treasurer, and Parliamentarian; removing the division newsletter requirement from the Council of Divisions; adding SSSP's mission and values statements; updating timelines to Nominations and Elections Committee's activities; and adding two committees that were missing from a section of the by-laws.

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 continued guidance. All are superb colleagues who are assets to SSSP.

The following amendments were approved by the board in 2025-2026 and in elections in 2025 and 2026 and are now in effect.

Article IV. Section 3. Terms of Office

The President-Elect and Vice-President-Elect shall serve for one year and then shall automatically succeed to the presidency and the vice-presidency for a one-year term. **The terms of Secretary and Treasurer shall be three years, except for the term of Secretary starting in August 2026, which will be for two years to allow for staggered terms. The term of office for the Parliamentarian shall be specified at the time of appointment, but not exceed three years.**

Rationale: This proposed amendment was requested by the Nominations Committee in response to prior changes in how the positions of Secretary and Treasurer are nominated that did not previously specify terms. A three-year term would provide continuity in these important positions and aligns them with the terms for executive Board members. This amendment also adds the term of office for the Parliamentarian already specified in Article IV. Section 9.

_____ Approve _____ Disapprove _____ Abstain

Article IV. Section 9. Parliamentarian

The President shall appoint, with the consent of the Board of Directors, a Parliamentarian to advise the Society on matters of interpretation of the By-Laws and of Robert's Rules of Order,

Revised. ~~The term of office shall be specified at the time of appointment, but not exceed three years.~~

Rationale: With the expansion of Article IV. Section 3. Terms of Office to include the new terms for Secretary and Treasurer, the committee also proposes to move the term of office for the Parliamentarian from Article IV. Section 9 to Article IV. Section 3.

_____ Approve _____ Disapprove _____ Abstain

Article VI: Section 2C. Council of Divisions

(c) The Chairperson of the Council of the Divisions may recommend replacing a Division Chair to the Executive Officer and the Administrative Officer if the Division Chairperson fails to fulfill one ~~or more~~ of the following requirements after at least two reminders/warnings: ~~(1) distribute at least one newsletter per year,~~ (12) provide an annual division budget on time, and (23) maintain a current division mission statement on the division's webpage. The Executive Officer will discuss the recommendation with the Chairperson of the Council of the Divisions and the Administrative Officer. If they agree to proceed with the recommendation to replace, the Executive Officer will forward the recommendation to the Board of Directors for the final decision, and invite the Division Chairperson to submit to the Board, through the Administrative Office, a challenge to the recommendation if s/he or they do not agree with the recommendation within two weeks of notification. If the Board decides to replace the Division Chair, an emergency election will be held within one month to elect a replacement chair.

Rationale: This proposed amendment will remove item 1, adjust language and renumber the subsequent items since division newsletters are optional and no longer required.

_____ Approve _____ Disapprove _____ Abstain

Article VI. Section 13. Local Arrangements Committee

The Local Arrangements Committee shall consist of a Chairperson and at least **one** member residing in the local area where the Annual Meeting is to be held the following year. The President-Elect shall nominate, and the Board of Directors shall appoint the Committee Chairperson. In consultation with the Committee Chairperson, the President-Elect shall nominate, and the Board of Directors shall appoint, the other committee members. The duties of the committee shall be to assist the Program Committee and Administrative Office in preparation for the Annual Meeting of the Society. Specific duties include: **identify a local organization or organizations for the Indigenous Peoples' Social Justice Award and make a recommendation to the Board of Directors; write a Welcome to the City;** ~~assist the Administrative Office in the~~

~~preparation of a guide to the locality of the Meeting; arrange for volunteers to assist in the registration process at the Annual Meeting; provide referrals to local services available; arrange special activities in keeping with the theme of the Annual Meeting.~~

Rationale: This amendment is in response to the Board’s approved revision to the Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) duties, reflecting the removal of the LAC chair stipend in 2026. The revised responsibilities streamline the committee’s scope, eliminating hotel, media, and local promotion duties. The committee will continue to provide program-related Welcome to the City contributions, including suggestions about activities, as well as the selection of a recipient for the Indigenous Peoples’ Social Justice Award.

_____ Approve _____ Disapprove _____ Abstain

Article II. Section 1. ~~Purposes~~ Mission Statement

SSSP's mission is to serve researchers, practitioners, teachers, and advocates in the pursuit of social justice.

Article II. Section 2. ~~Earnings, Activities and Dissolution Provisions~~ Values Statements

- a) SSSP is dedicated to advancing social justice, addressing inequalities, and dismantling oppression.
- b) SSSP uses sociology and related disciplines for action to solve social problems and improve the world through advocacy, activism, and active engagement.
- c) SSSP prioritizes critical inquiry, reflection, and research to engage in evidence-based scholarship and challenge assumptions.
- d) SSSP recognizes the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration and the interconnectedness of social problems.
- e) SSSP illuminates how social structures perpetuate interlocking social inequalities, highlights how power and privilege are relational, and addresses systemic barriers to social justice.
- f) 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.
- g) SSSP honors our diverse community, where networks and alliances aim to amplify the voices of marginalized people.

Article II. Section 3. Purposes

~~This~~**The** Society shall be a non-profit corporation to promote and protect sociological research and teaching on significant problems of social life and, particularly, to encourage the work of young sociologists; to stimulate the application of scientific method and theory to the study of vital social problems; to encourage problem-centered social research; to foster cooperative relations among persons and organizations engaged in the application of scientific sociological findings to the formulation of social policies; to foster higher quality of life, social welfare, and positive social relations in society and the global community and to undertake any activity related thereto or necessary or desirable for the accomplishment of the foregoing purposes.

Article II. Section 4. Earnings, Activities and Dissolution Provisions

In accomplishing the foregoing purposes, the corporation shall be governed by the following requirements:

First, no part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, directors, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the above purposes.

The Society is registered as a 501(h) organization, and as so, is subject to caps on expenditures on lobbying activity, according to the Internal Revenue Service's regulations, as specified in section 4911. The annual lobbying expenditure is based on the size of the organization, and may not exceed \$1,000,000, as indicated in the table below:

If the amount of exempt purpose expenditures is:	Lobbying nontaxable amount is:
≤ \$500,000	20% of the exempt purpose expenditures
> \$500,000 but ≤ \$1,000,000	\$100,000 plus 15% of the excess of exempt purpose expenditures over \$500,000
> \$1,000,000 but ≤ \$1,500,000	\$175,000 plus 10% of the excess of exempt purpose expenditures over \$1,000,000
> \$1,500,000 but ≤ \$17,000,000	\$225,000 plus 5% of the exempt purpose expenditures over \$1,500,000
> \$17,000,000	\$1,000,000

Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from Federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding

provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

Second, upon the dissolution of the Corporation, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all assets of the corporation exclusively for the purposes of the corporation in such a manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, education, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Board of Directors shall determine. Any of such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the court of general jurisdiction of the country in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes

Rationale: The Permanent Organization and Strategic Planning Committee (POSPC) analyzed the mission statements of SSSP's divisions, reflecting what many people consider to be the heart of SSSP and drafted proposed Mission and Values Statements based on these themes, which were included on the 2025 SSSP Membership Survey. The results of the Survey demonstrated strong support for the proposed Statements, with over 85% stating they strongly agreed or agreed with each. The Board of Directors approved the adoption of these statements at the 2025 annual meeting and posted them to the website. The proposed revision incorporates the Mission Statement and Values Statements into the Society's By-Laws and renumbers the current sections in Article II to accommodate the new sections.

_____ Approve

_____ Disapprove

_____ Abstain

Article VI. Section 11. Nominations Committee

- (a) 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. The four elected Committee members will serve two-year terms, with the terms staggered so that at least two members are elected 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 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) **During the Annual Meeting,** ~~Each year~~ the Nominations Committee led by the Chairperson of the Council of the Divisions shall ~~begin soliciting names~~ **nominees** for consideration **in running in the following year's General Election.** ~~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. These potential nominees should have been contacted to determine their willingness to run. The Committee shall **also** 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. **The nomination deadline is September 1. The Nominations Committee Chair will provide an ordered list of nominees for each vacant position to the Administrative Office by October 1 following the Annual Meeting for Board review and approval.**
- (d) ~~The Committee has the responsibility of presenting a as its report an ordered list of nominees for each vacant position. This report and list of nominees 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: This amendment is in response to a Board approved change to move the nominations deadline from June 15 to September 1 to utilize the Annual Meeting to solicit nominations. The current By-laws do not state the deadline as June 15. Therefore, this amendment includes the deadline for clarity while also reflecting the change. This change in process also revised the timeline of the committee report and list of nominees, creating redundancy in subsections (c) and (d), as such this amendment removes subsection (d) from this Section.

_____ Approve _____ Disapprove _____ Abstain

Article VIII. Section 1. Annual Elections

An annual election shall be held to fill any vacancies occurring in the following positions: President-Elect; Vice-President-Elect; Secretary; Treasurer; Executive and Student Members of the Board of Directors; members of Elected Committees (**Anti-Harassment Committee**; Budget,

Finance, and Audit; Committee on Committees; Editorial and Publications; Membership and Outreach; **and Nominations Committee**). These elections may present issues to the membership for resolution or ratification. Terms of office shall be as specified in the appropriate section above. In general office terms are one year except in the case of the following three-year terms: Members of Standing Committees; Executive Members of Board Directors. The Chairperson of the Council of the Divisions shall be elected as set forth in Article VI. Section 2. Student Board Members shall be elected to two-year terms.

Rationale: This amendment adds two committees that were missing from the By-laws.

_____ Approve _____ Disapprove _____ Abstain

Article VIII. Section 3. Nominations Report

No later than **October 31** ~~two (2) weeks~~ after the close of the Annual Meeting, the Secretary, on behalf of the Board of Directors shall report to the Chairperson of the Elections Committee and to the Administrative Office an ordered list of names of nominees for each office or elected position for which there will be a vacancy during the coming year and for which offices or positions the Board and the Nominations Committee, respectively, have the responsibility of designating nominees.

Rationale: This amendment reflects the new nominations deadline and reporting process (Article VI. Section 11. Nominations Committee) and provides a deadline to ensure the elections committee can proceed with their activities on November 1.

_____ Approve _____ Disapprove _____ Abstain

Article VIII. Section 6. Elections Committee Activity

Each person nominated by the Board of Directors or the Nominations Committee or by petition shall be requested by the Elections Committee Chairperson with the assistance of the Administrative Office to indicate his, her or their willingness to serve if elected. Each person nominated to an elected standing committee shall be requested to indicate his, her or their willingness to serve as Chairperson of that Committee, if elected by the members of the Committee.

By ~~October~~ **November** 1 of the year following the Annual Meeting, candidates shall be contacted by the Elections Committee, in order of priority in which nominated, and asked to serve. Candidates may accept or refuse in writing, or orally; the date of response shall be noted in writing.

After being contacted, candidates shall have a two-week grace period to accept or decline candidacy. Candidates who make no decision by the close of this period, and/or who decline to pay dues for the year in which they were nominated, shall be ineligible to run for office.

If there are insufficient candidates for any given position after the priority list is exhausted, the President or the Executive Committee; or Board members, as polled by either the Nominations Committee or Committee on Committee Chairs according to which candidates fall into their jurisdiction shall recommend further candidates. The same procedure shall hold in the event of an unexpected vacancy in any Committee, or the Board of Directors.

Once the slate of candidates has been identified, the Administrative Office will ask candidates to complete an online candidate form which includes biographical information that appears on the ballot under his/her or their name. Candidates will be given two-weeks to complete this task. If a candidate fails to submit this information in a timely manner, his, her or their name will appear on the ballot with the following notation: Candidate did not provide biographical information.

Candidate lists shall be completed by December 15 of the year following nominations, even if there are fewer nominations for given office than otherwise prescribed by the By-Laws. The slate of nominees will be posted on the Society's website by December 15 each year.

Rationale: This amendment reflects the new nominations deadline (Article VI. Section 11. Nominations Committee) and subsequent one-month date change for the Elections Committee to contact nominees.

_____ Approve

_____ Disapprove

_____ Abstain
