

2026 SSSP Student Report

August 9th, 2026

Rafia Mallick (Outgoing Representative)

Natasha Kabir (Current Representative)

Nicolas Juarez (Incoming Representative)

Old Business:

Transition Meeting-2025:

Before the 2025 SSSP Annual Meeting, Rafia Mallick (outgoing representative) and Natasha Kabir (current representative) held a virtual transition meeting to discuss the roles, responsibilities, and expectations of the student representative position. They also met in person on August 9th, 2025, to discuss the student report and action items presented at the last Board of Directors meeting.

In response to the action item in last year's report to strengthen Student-to-Student communication, this year the Student Board of Directors offered year-round virtual programming, including professional development workshops, speaker series, and writing accountability groups.

Ms. Mallick proposed developing a comprehensive transition document outlining the responsibilities of the Student Representative, along with key dates and deliverables. This resource would serve to streamline the handover process and provide clear guidance for future representatives.

To foster a more personal connection with student members, Ms. Mallick also suggested recording a short video message from the Student Representative to be shared on SSSP's platforms. This would help put a face to the name and encourage student involvement.

Ms. Kabir offered several innovative ideas to further strengthen communication and support among student members. She proposed the creation of a mobile application, or a formal GroupMe group, to be used during the Annual Meeting for real-time sharing of event photos, coordinating ridesharing, and addressing accommodation needs.

Additionally, Ms. Kabir recommended holding a formal virtual meeting among board members before the Annual Meeting, noting that the in-person board meeting often has limited time for detailed discussions.

Fall 2025 Student Virtual Events

- Write On! Virtual Writing Marathon
 - Rafia Mallick organized a distraction-free space and focused writing time on November 10, 2025. It also offered a 30-minute Academic Writing Insights session with Dr. Sarah Jane Brubaker.
 - Total Attendance: 7 (5 attendees, 1 panelist, 1 moderator)
- Stage-Ready: A Graduate Student's Guide to Job Talks & Teaching Demos
 - Rafia Mallick moderated the Virtual Panel on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, with three panelists: Dr. Janelle M. Pham, Dr. Luke Russell, and Dr. Brittney Miles.
 - Total Attendance: 16 (12 attendees, 3 panelists, 1 moderator)

Spring 2026 Student Virtual Events

- Virtual Holiday Social
 - Rafia Mallick (SSSP Student Board of Directors), along with the ASA Student Forum Advisory Board (SFAB), organized a holiday social event for students on January 7, 2026. Special thanks and shout-out to Dr. Kenya Massey (student member) for helping organize this event and make it successful.
 - Total Registered: 89, Total attended: 25
- Level Up Your Conference Game: Preparing for SSSP Annual Meeting
 - Rafia Mallick, along with Jennifer Carpenter (Vice-Chair, CJD), organized a webinar to prepare students for the annual meeting on April 22, 2026.
 - Total Attendance: 8 (6 attendees, 2 panelists)
- Write On! Virtual Writing Marathon
 - Rafia Mallick organized a distraction-free space and focused writing time on April 15, 2026.
 - Total Registered: 17, Total Attendance: 6 (5 attendees, 1 moderator)

SSSP Student Page

- In response to the action item in last year's report, Natasha proposed a consolidated page dedicated to student members of SSSP, highlighting upcoming events, opportunities, and relevant announcements. This centralized hub would facilitate easier access to information and potentially enhance student participation and engagement. This led to Helen, Natasha, and Rafia working together to brainstorm and design the page, which will hold all information pertaining to student members. Special shout-out to Helen Wilds, SSSP Graduate Research Assistant & Webmaster, for successfully implementing the page under the membership menu (<https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/pageid/2665/>)

New Business:

Based on feedback from the 2025 Student Member Meeting, as well as ongoing conversations with SSSP student members throughout the year outside of SSSP-provided platforms, the following action items and recommendations have been identified:

1. Establishing a Student Resource & Networking Platform:

Echoing feedback from the 2025 Student Member Meeting and 2026 social events, there is a strong need for a centralized, student-led space where members can network, collaborate, and share resources. Although similar suggestions were made in previous years (2022–2024), this initiative has yet to be implemented.

Action Item:

Based on the renewed interest expressed during the 2025 Student Member Meeting and 2026 Social Events, the current and incoming representatives will collaborate to establish a student networking platform (e.g., via GroupMe, Facebook, Instagram, or Bluesky) following the 2026 SSSP Annual Meeting.

2. Roommate Matching Rideshare for Annual Meeting:

Students have also voiced concern about the financial costs of the annual meetings, especially lodging and transportation. Some students have reached out to one of the student representatives to ask whether they knew anyone they could share a hotel room with or whether SSSP offers roommate-matching options.

Action Item:

Based on the interest and requests, the Student Board of Directors suggests adding a link to the Annual Meeting Page and, if we have a Mobile application, a feature for students to connect with other students to share rooms to cut hotel costs, preferably with offering roommate matching services, as well as rideshare options.

3. Offer Support for Palestine and Palestine-related Actions Across Disciplines

Students have voiced concern about the ongoing repression against researchers and teachers across departments and fields. Furthermore, students have reached out to ask about potential ways that SSSP could collaborate with or support actions taken by researchers who are attempting to advocate for Palestine.

Action Item:

Based on these requests, the Student Board of Directors suggests that the Board make a recommendation to the Committee on Social Action to craft resolutions in support of Palestine with the specific aim of proposing material means of supporting researchers and students across institutions.

Transition Meeting - 2026:

The meeting was held on July 22, 2026. Rafia (outgoing representative), including the current representative Natasha, and Nicolas (incoming representative) were present. Rafia briefed us about the entire year's activities. The action points were mostly discussed and are followed up on below.

Action Item:

- Establishing a dedicated resource hub as well as a networking platform so that anyone can access it, starting from the previous year's presentation and updated parts of the publications. SSSP resource page is not very functional, and it can be improved
- The representation must highlight effective communication with the student members throughout the year and must not be dependent on the social hours of the SSSP Annual meeting. it should be the same pattern of interactive activities, starting from social virtual hours and an active writing workshop during summer and winter break.
- The poster competition for the grad students has been addressed as well
- Document archiving should be one of the priorities as a resource hub for the members dedicated to the students
- Roommate matching should be maintained via an Excel sheet and can be shared via the student listserv
- An introductory video for the student representatives should be promoted while consulting with the admin team
- A separate Excel sheet or app-based communication should be initiated for the ride-sharing