

2025–2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ZOOM MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2026
11:45AM–1:15PM (Eastern Time)

Item 1. Call to Order and Welcome

President Sarah Jane Brubaker called the meeting to order at 11:48 am. The meeting convened over Zoom.

Secretary Felicia Arriaga was delayed. Administrative Officer Michele Koontz recorded the minutes until her arrival at 12:00 pm.

Item 2. Brief Introductions

Attendees, including officers and board members introduced themselves.

Members Present:

Sarah Jane Brubaker, President
David G. Embrick, President-Elect
Clare E. B. Cannon, Vice-President
Kasey Henricks, Vice-President-Elect
Felicia Arriaga, Secretary
Meghna Bhat, Board Member
Anthony A. Peguero, Board Member
Janelle M. Pham, Board Member
Faryal Razzaq, Board Member
Claire M. Renzetti, Board Member
Natasha Israt Kabir, Board Member, Student Representative
Rafia Javaid Mallick , Board Member, Student Representative
Shannon K. Carter, Ex-Officio, Chairperson, Council of Division Chairs
Andrew S. Fullerton, Editor, *Social Problems*
Elroi J. Windsor, Executive Officer
Michele Smith Koontz, Administrative Officer and Meeting Manager

Members Absent:

Rose M. Brewer, Past-President
Heather E. Dillaway, Treasurer
Jerome Krase, Board Member
alithia zamantakis, Board Member

Vote format: (Vote: XX-YY-ZZ) NN, where XX = Yes, YY = No, ZZ = abstain, and NN = no vote.

Item 3. Adopt (Revise) Agenda

No additions were made to the agenda.

ACTION: The Board approved the agenda as presented. Vote (12-0-0).

Item 4. Report from the President

President Sarah Jane Brubaker reported on the following:

A. Virtual Events – Upcoming

Eight submissions were received for the upcoming SSSP Virtual Poster Mini-Conference. The Program Committee will meet to determine the event structure. Program Committee member Atticus M. Wolfe will meet with presenters regarding presentation logistics. An invitation will be sent to SSSP members once the details are finalized.

B. Update on New GTA Position (Virginia Commonwealth University)

President Sarah Jane Brubaker hired Zehra Sahin Ilkorkor as a GTA to assist her with SSSP responsibilities. Zehra is a doctoral student, currently serves on the Program Committee, and will support the President, Executive Officer, and Administrative Office, if needed.

Item 5. Report from the Executive Officer

Executive Officer Elroi J. Windsor reported on the following:

A. Update on ASA's 2028 Annual Meeting City/Location (Dates: August 11-15)

ASA has not announced the city/location for their 2028 Annual Meeting. Elroi contacted ASA Executive Director Heather M. Washington and is awaiting a response.

B. Update on Sociological Initiatives Foundation Grant

SSSP was not awarded the Sociological Initiatives Foundation Grant. Elroi reported that no feedback was provided. They requested that Board members share future grant opportunities with them.

C. Update on Status of the Call for Applications for Next Editorial Team

The application deadline for the position of Editor of *Social Problems* was February 15. The Editorial and Publications Committee is reviewing materials. Elroi reminded the Board that they will be actively involved in the final selection.

D. Report on Status of the UTK Contract (1/1/22–12/31/26)

SSSP is in the final year of its contract with the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Elroi is in discussion with Dr. Stephanie A. Bohon, Head, Department of Sociology and SSSP Project Director, and the Budget, Finance, and Audit (BFA) Committee regarding increased GRA

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costs. Elroi reminded the Board that IT Specialist Rachel Cogburn will step down on July 31, 2026.

E. UTK Contract as Opportunity to Think Strategically about SSSP Operations

The Board discussed possible future operational configurations should the UTK contract not be renewed and SSSP no longer had a university affiliation. The BFA Committee will continue these discussions.

Item 6. Annual Meeting Updates

Executive Officer Elroi J. Windsor and Meeting Manager Michele Koontz shared information.

A. Update on the 2026 Call for Papers Submissions

Michele reported there are currently 441 papers and 614 program participants. Sixty participants have indicated that they will not attend. To date, thirteen new sessions have been granted and eight sessions have been canceled. The Administrative Office is working with session organizers to finalize and submit their sessions and is encouraging them to consider accepting the 18 papers remaining in the repository. Overall, submission numbers represents a 12% increase from last year.

B. Update on the 2026 Annual Meeting

Michele reported that Annual Meeting registration opened on February 17, with five individuals registered to date. She encouraged Board members to register. Membership renewals are also coming in. The 2026 General Election began on February 15, and election communications were used to follow up with lapsed members and encourage them to renew their membership and vote.

C. Discussion and Vote on Future Annual Meeting Surveys

Elroi reported that the responsibility for creating the Annual Meeting survey and compiling the results falls to the Administrative Office. Given the low response rate (18% in 2025—443 attendees registered and 81 responses) and the associated administrative burden, they proposed either shortening or eliminating the survey. This was also discussed in the context of IT Specialist Rachel Cogburn stepping down. Discussion ensued.

ACTION: The Board voted to discontinue the Annual Meeting survey and absorb key questions into the membership survey every five years. Vote (13-0-0).

Item 7. New Business

No new business was presented.

Vote format: (Vote: XX-YY-ZZ) NN, where XX = Yes, YY = No, ZZ = abstain, and NN = no vote.

Item 8. Adjournment of the 2025–2026 Board

President Sarah Jane Brubaker adjourned the meeting at 12:48 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Felicia Arriaga, SSSP Secretary and Michele Koontz, SSSP Administrative Officer and Meeting Manager.

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ADDENDUM #1 – RECORD OF BOARD ACTIONS CONDUCTED VIA EMAIL SINCE THE JANUARY 22, 2026 BOARD MEETING

ACTION: 2/4/26 – The Board approved an annual \$1,200 course release price increase for Executive Officer Elroi J. Windsor, reflecting the increase from \$3,000 to \$3,600 per course release. (Vote: 13-0-0)4

ACTION: 2/13/26 – The Board approved four (4) proposed by-laws amendments with rationale for submission to the membership in the 2026 General Election. (Vote: 15-0-0)2

Proposed By-Laws Amendments Approved

- **Article VI. Section 11. Nominations Committee**
- **Article VIII. Section 1. Annual Elections**
- **Article VIII. Section 3. Nominations Report**
- **Article VIII. Section 6. Elections Committee Activity**

Respectfully submitted by Felicia Arriaga, SSSP Secretary.