2025–2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ZOOM MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026
11:45AM–1:15PM (Eastern Time)

Item 1. Call to Order and Welcome

President Sarah Jane Brubaker called the meeting to order at 11:46 am. The meeting convened over Zoom.

Item 2. Brief Introductions

Attendees, including officers and board members introduced themselves.

Members Present:
Sarah Jane Brubaker, President
David G. Embrick, President-Elect
Rose M. Brewer, Past-President
Clare E. B. Cannon, Vice-President
Kasey Henricks, Vice-President-Elect
Felicia Arriaga, Secretary
Heather E. Dillaway, Treasurer
Meghna Bhat, Board Member
Jerome Krase, 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
Anna Maria Santiago, Chair, Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee

Members Absent:
alithia zamantakis, Board Member

Item 3: Adopt (Revise) Agenda

ACTION: The Board approved the agenda as presented. Vote (14-0-0).

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

Item 4: Report from the President

A. Virtual Events – Previous and Upcoming
President Sarah Jane Brubaker gave a summary of how the first SSSP Virtual Poster Mini-Conference went. Eight posters were presented. Initially 36 individuals registered; however, 3 weren't current members. There were 21 attendees, 9 presenters, and 1 facilitator. All presenters were students.

President Brubaker was pleased with how the event went. It was successful and a good size for a pilot event. President Brubaker is hoping it might become a regular occurrence.

The last virtual event before the Annual Meeting will be a Virtual Town Hall Meeting, although it has not yet been scheduled. President Brubaker discussed having it sometime in July for those who are unable to attend the Annual Meeting. For the in-person Town Hall: An Open Forum—the panel will consist of Elroi, Sarah Jane, and a student Board representative. A similar group is expected for the Virtual Town Hall as well.

Item 5: Report from the Executive Officer

A. Report from the Oxford Executive Summit
Executive Officer Elroi J. Windsor provided a report from the Oxford Executive Summit that takes place every two years for society executives to learn about industry trends and discuss ways to strengthen/build journals, increase contributions, support editorial work, and manage the business side of scholarly publishing.

Elroi shared some of what was covered. Elroi let the Board know that they will follow up with the journal editors, along with Jerry A. Jacobs, Chair of the Editorial & Publications Committee, regarding several issues discussed at the summit. Elroi also indicated that they had discussions with Anna Maria about business-related matters.

The main takeaways included concerns in general about the crocodile effect in accessing articles, the geopolitical climate affecting the industry, including library and higher education budget cuts, and the financial challenges specific to the journal industry.

Item 6: Report from the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee

A. UTK 1-Year Contract Extension – Recommendation
Anna Maria Santiago, Chair of the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee (BFA), provided an update on the ongoing budget conversations. The first update concerned the University of Tennessee Knoxville (UTK) contract and related alternatives. The recommendation was to pursue a one-year contract renewal

rather than a five-year renewal. The Board discussed this recommendation, including potential shifts in workload for the remaining staff members during the transition period.

ACTION: The Board approved extending the UTK contract through December 31, 2027; eliminating the IT Specialist line items effective July 2026; and eliminating the Graduate Research Associate line items effective December 31, 2027. Vote (15-0-0).

B. *Social Problems* Editorial Team Budget – Discussion and Recommendation
The Board continued the financial discussion regarding the state of the *Social Problems* journal. It was noted that the budget proposal submitted for the new editorial team came in slightly lower than the current budget. The Board also discussed potential alternatives, including virtual editorial support offered by Oxford University Press (estimated at $12,000 annually).

ACTION: The Board approved the BFA Committee's recommendation to request a reduction in the proposed Social Problems Editorial Team budget request. Vote: (15-0-0).

C. Potential Cost Savings with Annual Meeting Expenses – Discussion
Executive Officer Elroi J. Windsor and Administrative Officer Michele Koontz also gave some additional ideas for reducing expenses associated with the Annual Meeting, including potential reductions in the AV budget.

D. Potential Restructuring of Executive Officer/Administrative Office Expenses – Discussion
Anna Maria Santiago provided additional information regarding the potential restructuring of the Executive Officer and Administrative Office. She noted that discussions have involved the BFA, stakeholders, and individuals within both offices.

The Board discussed personnel costs and other budget-related expenses, as well as how these factors have contributed to ongoing conversations about restructuring. Additional ideas and alternative organizational models were discussed, including Sociologists for Women in Society, as well as implications for running operations such as benefits, payroll, etc. This discussion concluded with some additional ideas about fundraising committees (past and present).

Item 7: Annual Meeting Updates

A. Update on the 2026 Annual Meeting
Administrative Officer Michele Koontz provided an update on the Annual Meeting. At the time of the Board meeting, 114 individuals were registered, and 103 were program participants. Twenty-five percent had confirmed their participation on the program. Program participants have until May 1 to respond with any changes that are needed.

B. Update on 2028 Annual Meeting Potential Baltimore Locations
   Executive Officer Elroi J. Windsor and Administrative Officer Michele Koontz provided an update on potential locations for the 2028 Annual Meeting. They have met with a representative from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and Coppin State University. One has gotten back to them with additional information.

   Kelsey Whitaker, Assistant to the Administrative Officer, is exploring non-university spaces. Elroi and Michele are planning a virtual site visit for next month and are preparing an RFP detailing what the Society is looking for in terms of space needs. Potential challenges discussed included the timing of the meeting, which may coincide with the start of the academic year, and limited food service options.

Item 8: New Business

Rafia Javaid Mallick, Student Board Representative, provided some ideas for art and sociology-based segments for the upcoming 2027 meeting, including something at registration. Shannon K. Carter, Chairperson, Council of Division Chairs, also brought up the idea of considering more STEAM inclusion and initiatives.

Item 9: Adjournment of the 2025–2026 Board

President Sarah Jane Brubaker adjourned the meeting at 1:13 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Felicia Arriaga, SSSP Secretary.

++++++++++++++++++

ADDENDUM #1 – RECORD OF BOARD ACTIONS CONDUCTED VIA EMAIL SINCE THE MARCH 19, 2026 BOARD MEETING

ACTION 3/26/26 – The Board approved OUP's article processing charge pricing plan for the 2027 calendar year (Vote 11-3-0)3 and subscription pricing plan for the 2027 calendar year (Vote: 14-0-0)3.

Proposed APCs:

	Current	Proposed
SOCPRO List APC	$4,277	$4,448
SSSP Member APC (20% discount)	$3,421	$3,558

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

Proposed Institutional Subscription Prices:

	2026			2027		
	£	$	€	£	$	€
Institutional Subscription - online only	224	424	333	233	441	347

ACTION 3/30/26 – The Board approved the Urban Indigenous Collective as the recipient of the 2026 SSSP Indigenous Peoples' Social Justice Award. (Vote: 15-0-1)1.

ACTION 4/16/26 – The Board approved that Dr. David Brunsma (Virginia Tech) and Dr. David G. Embrick (University of Connecticut) will move forward as finalists for the editorship of Social Problems. (Vote: 15-1-1)0.

Respectfully submitted by Felicia Arriaga, SSSP Secretary.

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