SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS
2025–2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2026
11:30AM–4:30PM (Eastern Time)

WESTIN NEW YORK AT TIMES SQUARE
AMBASSADOR II, 2nd FLOOR
MEETING CONDUCTED IN-PERSON WITH SELECT ATTENDEES VIA ZOOM

1. Call to Order
   President Sarah Jane Brubaker called the meeting to order at 11:45AM.

2. Introductions

Members Present:
Sarah Jane Brubaker, President
David G. Embrick, President-Elect
Rose M. Brewer, Past-President v*
Clare E. B. Cannon, Vice-President v*
Kasey Henricks, Vice-President-Elect v*
Felicia Arriaga, Secretary
Heather E. Dillaway, Treasurer
Meghna Bhat, Board Member v*
Jerome Krase, Board Member
Anthony A. Peguero, Board Member v*
Janelle M. Pham, Board Member
Claire M. Renzetti, Board Member
alithia zamantakis, Board Member v* (arrived at 2:45pm)
Natasha Israt Kabir, Board Member, Student Representative v*
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 Koontz, Administrative Officer and Meeting Manager
Stephanie A. Bohon, SSSP Project Director
David L. Brunsma, Co-Applicant for the *Social Problems* Editorship v*
Nathan Gamache, Publisher, Humanities & Social Sciences, Oxford University Press
Loren Henderson, Incoming Treasurer
Hadi Khoshneviss, Chair, Program Committee
Anna Maria Santiago, Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee Chair
Tracy Vargas, Incoming Secretary
Stephani Williams, Chair-Elect, Permanent Organization and Strategic Planning Committee
Note: "v*" indicates virtual participation

Members Absent:
Faryal Razzaq, Board Member

3. Adopt (Revise) Agenda–**Sarah Jane Brubaker**
ACTION: The Board adopted the agenda as presented. Vote: 15-0-0.

4. **FINANCES**
Report from the Treasurer

- Treasurer Heather E. Dillaway explained that SSSP is still making hard decisions about our financial situation so that we don't need to draw from investments. She noted that $253,526 came from the journal in revenue and that we received a $120,000 signing bonus. She also noted that we've been able to reduce some of the deficit over the years and our investment portfolio looks better than it did in December.

  In the spring of 2025, SSSP hired a new Financial Advisor and they are helping to ensure that our investment strategies and policies are aligned while maximizing long-term investment growth and maintaining sufficient liquidity to cover operating expenses. The Budget, Finance, and Audit (BFA) Committee will bring some proposals to the Board.

  ACTION: The Board approved the Treasurer's Report.
  Vote: 13-0-1

A. LBMC Client Service Communication Letter
   1. **Action Item**: Discussion and Vote on the LBMC Client Service Communication letter
      ACTION: The Board approved the LBMC Client Service Communication Letter.
      Vote: 13-1-1

B. 2025 Audit Report
   1. **Action Item**: Discussion and Vote on the 2025 audit report
      ACTION: The Board approved the 2025 Audit Report.
      Vote: 13-0-2

5. **Report from the Meeting Manager**
Meeting Manager Michele Koontz provided some highlights from her report.

- At the time of the meeting, 477 attendees registered and 50% were students/unemployed/emeritus.
- Regarding membership dues, there's a 9% decline compared to last year.
- Regarding accessibility issues, Michele reported that 42 dietary requests were submitted. There was also a request for closed captioning for 4 events. Michele met with a company that offers virtual live captioning services. While the charge for this type of captioning service was nominal, the required audio-visual equipment, dedicated internet connect, dedicated technician in the meeting room, and associated labor costs were significant ($12,000).
- Michele provided a report on the audio visual contract for the conference including the considerations and costs for the use of unionized labor representatives.
- During contract negotiations, the hotel agreed to 10% discount on the

2024 food and beverage pricing and a 25% service charge. We were not charged sales tax as SSSP is exempt in New York.

A. Action Items

1. **Action Item 1:** To further streamline the awards process and reduce costs, provide electronic certificates to all major award winners and honorable mention recipients.
   - **Vote: 13-0-0**
2. **Action Item 2:** Given the Society's financial challenges and the need to further reduce costs, discontinue the Thursday Meet & Greet Reception until the Society's financial position improves.

   Action Item 2 was amended to read, Given the Society's financial challenges and the need to further reduce costs, discontinue the Thursday Meet & Greet Reception and discontinue the grab and go items at the PM breaks until the Society's financial position improves.
   - **Vote: 13-0-0**
3. **Action Item 3:** Change the date for program participants to register from June 1 to June 15 (consistent with the American Sociological Association).
   - **Discussion:** The additional two weeks would provide program participants with more time to register while reducing the need for multiple follow-up communications.
   - **Vote: 13-0-0**
4. **Action Item 4:** The Administrative Office will send two targeted email reminders to program participants, with one serving as the final reminder and deadline. If no response is received by the deadline, the Administrative Office will proceed accordingly. Session organizers will be asked twice to contact their participants who have not registered, and the Program Chair will send one reminder.
   - **Vote: 13-0-0**
5. **Action Item 5:** If the registration deadline is changed to June 15, the Annual Meeting exemption request deadline will change from May 15 to June 1.
   - **Vote: 15-0-0**

   ACTION: The Board approved the Meeting Manager report.
   Vote: 15-0-0

6. Report from the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee Chair

Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee Chair Anna Maria Santiago presented the report and requested we approve action items in sections. During 2025-2026, the committee met 8 times.

A. I. Annual Meeting Registration Fees

Action Item 1a: The BFA Committee recommends increasing the annual meeting registration fees by 20% for all categories except the student/underemployed/emeritus category.

Note: Previously, the Board of Directors approved an increase in annual meeting registration fees by a minimum of 20% every three

years, starting in 2027.

Vote: 12-0-3

Action Item 1b: The BFA Committee recommends decoupling the student, underemployed and emeritus category for annual meeting registration fees:

Vote: 14-1-0

Action Item 1c: The BFA Committee recommends a 30% increase in the annual meeting registration fees for student and underemployed members.

Vote: 8-7-0

Action Item 1d: The BFA Committee recommends a 40% increase in the annual meeting registration fees for emeritus members.

Vote: 14-1-0

Action Item 1e: The BFA Committee recommends keeping the exempt annual meeting registration fee at $124.00 in 2027.

Vote: 15-0-0

B. II. *Social Problems* Editorial Team Budget and Oxford University Press Publishing Matters

Action Item 2a: The BFA Committee requests that the proposed 2027-2030 *Social Problems* Editorial Team clarify the proposed budget costs in terms of calendar year vs. the budget presented per assistantship.

Vote: 14-0-0, 1 did not vote

Action Item 2b: The BFA Committee recommends that the Board asks applicants to explore how to use the OUP Virtual Editorial Office (VEO) to reduce basic tasks and costs.

Vote: 11-1-2, 1 did not vote

Action Item 2c: The BFA Committee recommends that future editors would be required to use the OUP Virtual Editorial Office (VEO) services provided by the Publisher.

Vote: 8-5-1, 1 did not vote

Action Item 2d: The BFA recommends that the Society's Executive Officer become a non-voting ex-officio member of the Editorial & Publications Committee. The Executive Officer will establish regular meetings with the editors and OUP to establish goals and to develop marketing strategies, outreach, etc. on behalf of the Society.

Vote: 13-0-1, 1 did not vote

C. III. 2028 Annual Meeting (Baltimore)

Action Item 3: The BFA Committee recommends that the Board of Directors strongly consider (friendly amendment change to support) a virtual meeting for 2028 for financial and inclusivity reasons.

Discussion: The Meeting Manager Michele Koontz also provided an update about the efforts to explore a meeting different from a conference hotel. Some of the issues with using a university site are limited food options, gender inclusive bathrooms, and housing accommodation complications. Board members raised questions about the long term strategy and the need to convey to members that a virtual meeting is a trial, not set in stone for future meetings.

Friendly amendment: The BFA Committee recommends that the Board of Directors move ahead with a virtual meeting for 2028 for

financial and inclusivity reasons.

Vote: 10-4-1

D. IV. Society Investment Activities

As the Treasurer report notes these activities are meant to reinvest funds that can be used for operational expenses, create a brokerage account, and align our investments.

Action Item: There was a motion for a combined vote on items 4a, 4b, and 4c.

Action Item 4a: The BFA Committee voted to withdraw $100,000 funds from the three designated Parnassus funds and then reinvest those funds into the Walden account for operational expenses.

Action Item 4b: The BFA Committee recommends that the Board of Directors approve policy to set up a brokerage account in preparation for receiving any charitable stock donations. The brokerage account will be overseen by the Society's Investment Advisor.

Action Item 4c: The BFA Committee recommends that the Board approve the updated investment language for the Society's Operations Manual to align Society policies and procedures with current investment practices.

Vote: 15-0-0

E. V. Proposed By-Laws Amendment regarding BFA Selection of Chair and Chair-Elect

Action Item 5: The Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee shall consist of the Treasurer of the Society and three members of the Society elected by the voting membership to three-year terms, with terms staggered so that at least one member is elected each year, depending on the number of vacancies. Each year the members of the Committee shall select from among their members who have served at least one year, a Chairperson-elect to serve as Chairperson the following year, such that each elected member will serve as Chair of the Committee for at least one year of their term. The Treasurer may not serve as Chairperson-elect.

Vote: 15-0-0

F. VI. Additional Cost Saving Recommendations from the BFA Committee to the Board of Directors

Action Item 6a: Delete Account 5389 (Social Action Award Raffle Expenses)

Action Item 6b: Add Account 5471 (Social Action Award Expenses-Raffle)

There was a motion to combine Action Items 6a and 6b.

Vote: 15-0-0

Action Item 6c: The BFA Committee recommends that the Board of Directors reexamine its policy regarding mailing framed certificates to Annual Meeting Awards Ceremony award winners and honorable mentions.

This item was withdrawn because it was discussed in Item 5.

Action Item 6d: For equity reasons, the BFA Committee requests that the (Board requires the--amendment) Council of Divisions eliminate all paid labor since similar work is performed voluntarily elsewhere in the Society. The BFA Committee further requests that the Council of Divisions create consistency across divisions regarding costs for similar awards.

Vote: 2-12-1

Action Item 6e: The BFA Committee recommends that the Board of Directors

approve a change to the Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Fellowship Award, reducing the number of fellowships from two to one.

Vote: 7-7-0, 1 did not vote

Action Item 6f: The BFA Committee recommends that the Board of Directors approve a reduction in funding for the Lee Student Support Fund from $15,000 to $10,000.

Vote: 9-3-2 abstain

Action Item 6g: The BFA Committee recommends that the Society continues targeted fundraising campaigns to generate new revenue to support Society activities.

Vote: 14-0-0

Action Item 6h: The BFA Committee recommends that the Society freeze the personnel budget line items for the Executive Office and Administrative Office for the 2026 and 2027 budget years.

Vote: 12-1-1

ACTION: The Board approved the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee report. Vote: 14-0-0

G. **2026 Amended Budget**

1. **Action Item**: Discussion and Vote on the 2026 amended budget
   ACTION: The Board approved the 2026 amended budget.
   Vote: 14-0-0, 1 person did not vote

7. **Meet with the Applicants for the *Social Problems* Editorship**

The Board met with David L. Brunsma, Virginia Tech and David G. Embrick, University of Connecticut.

Direction: They described their mission and their desire to represent the work of the membership. Their approach remains focused on coalition building and being membership driven. They mentioned that they have spent considerable time reviewing data and published work and are not interested in gatekeeping. Part of their mission is to break down those barriers and encourage inclusivity. They would also consider other approaches for publicizing the journal and growing submissions.

Virgina Tech has been generous in its support of editorships. The deans recognize the value of knowledge production and a mentoring approach to building the editorial team. This support also demonstrates a commitment to graduate students, helps create a pipeline for the discipline, and represents an investment in the future of scholarly publishing.

8. Report from the Executive Officer

Executive Officer Elroi J. Windsor described their efforts to navigate the financial challenges and also presented some anonymous feedback from those who requested space due to the ASA boycott.

A. **Action Item 1**: The Board of Directors should draft a policy on recording SSSP meetings.
   Proposed Language: Official meetings within the SSSP, either in-person or

virtually, shall not be recorded using audio or video technology, or within software platforms, including the use of automatic meeting transcriptions and AI-generated technologies. With the approval of the President or meeting Chair, exceptions may be granted only for the Secretary or note-taker who may audio-record the meeting to foster accuracy in drafting meeting minutes, such that these recordings are kept on a personal device and deleted upon the approval of the minutes.
Vote: 15-0-0

B. **Action Item 2**: Add the Executive Officer as a non-voting, ex officio member of the Editorial and Publications Committee.
Withdrawn, already approved.

C. **Action Item 3**: Institute quarterly meetings between the Executive Officer, the Editor(s) of the *Social Problems* journal, and the journal publisher.
Vote: 14-0-1

D. **Action Item 4**: Charge the Permanent Organization and Strategic Planning Committee (POSPC) to consolidate committees within the organization.
Vote: 15-0-0
ACTION: The Board approved the Executive Officer report.
VOTE: 13-0-0, 2 did not vote

9. Report from SSSP Project Director
Project Director Stephanie A. Bohon provided a brief report. SSSP has been with the UTK Sociology Department since 1990 and the current contract expires at end of calendar year. There have been some changes at UTK but leadership still seems excited about the partnership. UTK is also navigating tuition and graduate student stipend shifts but Stephanie is willing to work with the Board to figure these things out.
ACTION: The Board approved the SSSP Project Director report.
Vote: 15-0-0

10. Report from the Permanent Organization and Strategic Planning Committee's Site Visit Committee

A. **Action Item**: The Contract Negotiating Committee recommends that we extend the contract with UTK beyond December 31, 2027.
Discussion: If we extend the contract beyond 2027, our contract allows either party to terminate the agreement with 60 days written notice. There was an amendment that reads, the Contract Negotiating Committee recommends that we extend the contract with UTK through December 31, 2028.
Vote: 14-0-1
ACTION: The Board approved the Permanent Organization and Strategic Planning Committee's Site Visit Committee report.
Vote: 15-0-0

11. Report from the Paid Position Restructuring Committee Chair

A. **Action Item 1**: Renew the UTK contract for one year (through December 2027; this has already been approved by the board)
1. Specify in the contract that the GRA position ends Summer 2027
Vote: 13-2-0

B. **Action Item 2**: Extend the Ad Hoc Paid Position Restructuring Committee's term for another year~~with the current committee members~~.
   1. The strike through indicates an amendment to the presented language.
   Vote: 14-0-0

ACTION: The Board approved the Paid Position Restructuring Committee report.
Vote: 14-0-0

12. Report from the Ad Hoc Annual Review Committee of the Executive Officer Chair

A. **Action Item**: Revise or approve suggested additional text for the review process for the Board's consideration:

Current text in Operations Manual: The Annual Review Committee of the Executive Officer is made up of the Vice-President (Chair), Vice-President-Elect, Secretary, Chairperson of the Council of the Divisions, and the Chairperson-Elect of the Council of the Divisions (if applicable). The committee conducts an annual review of the Executive Officer between June 1-July 15 and shares their report with the Executive Officer and the Board of Directors. It is recommended that the committee first consult with the Administrative Officer and the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee Chair or Treasurer for feedback regarding ongoing working relationships and financial stewardship work in preparation for the review.

Future Executive Officer contracts should include a clause that the Executive Officer will receive salary increases consistent with those provided to UTK-based SSSP staff.

Suggested Additional Text: The committee should consider the following goals in conducting their annual review: 1) assess the working relationships among Administrative Office, BFA, and EO; 2) evaluate performance of EO; 3) provide feedback to the EO; 4) gather information on what are the constraints to doing this work and what are some possible solutions; 5) advise the board on how it is going and what needs to be done to improve the functioning of the administrative and executive offices moving forward to benefit the Society.
Vote: 14-1-1
ACTION: The Board approved the Ad Hoc Annual Review Committee of the Executive Officer report.
Vote: 14-0-0

13. Report from Oxford University Press

Nathan Gamache from Oxford University Press provided an overview of the journal including the number of submissions and a general outlook on publishing more broadly. *Social Problems* has an impact factor of 2.5, ranking it #55 out of 222 journals in sociology.
ACTION: The Board approved the report from Oxford University Press.
Vote: 14-0-0

Items 14-16 below were on the agenda but we did not have time to discuss them. They will appear on the 8/9/26 Board Meeting agenda.

14. Report from the Editors of *Social Problems*
    A. Proposed 2026–2027 Advisory Board (including SSSP membership status)
        1. **Action Item**: Discussion and Vote on the proposed 2026-2027 Advisory Board

15. Report from the *Social Problems* Social Media Committee Chair

16. Report from Bristol University Press/Policy Press

17. Report from the Program Committee Chair
    Program Committee Chair Hadi Khoshneviss provided some highlights from his report including the success of the virtual town hall meeting, a graduate student panel, the opening plenary this evening, and a panel on Palestine.
    ACTION: The Board approved the Program Committee report.
    Vote: 14-0-0

    Action Items 17A, 17B, 17C, and 17D will be discussed at the 8/9/26 Board Meeting.

    A. **Action Item 1**: After our work with sociologists boycotting or leaving ASA, we recommend that SSSP comes up with an updated and transparent policy that draws on our recent experience and looks into the future of our organization to assess what our short-term and long-term plans for recruitment of new members and support of our existing members could be. Considering that our purpose is to "promote and protect" critical and social justice-oriented research, teaching, and activism, we can assess how we can further and better highlight our distinguishing features. For instance, our website can make clearer statements, and our social media presence can be enhanced. As a good model, I recommend European Sociological Association's website. A decluttered website and a clear uncompromising statement of purpose can attract those who are looking for a clear stance in a political climate that demands and necessitates decisiveness.
    B. **Action Item 2**: We recommend SSSP to explore how we can expand SSSP's reach to and encourage scholars across disciplines as well as public scholars and activists to join and become active at SSSP. This effort can be pursued and expand through what was suggested in Action Item A, as well as more consistent and targeted communication with sociology departments. Reminding sociology departments how SSSP (1) values and embraces students and junior faculty across disciplines, activists, and practitioners, and (2) prioritizes the integration of as scholarship, service, and activism through collaboration and mentorship can attract a large swath of potential members who are looking for new organizations. Potentially, Membership and Outreach, Committee on Mentorship, and Committee on Social Action can initiate these conversations with colleges and universities.

C. **Action Item 3**: We recommend continuing offering virtual events to make our members more engaged throughout the year and their membership more advantageous and beneficial. Dr. Brubaker's initiative to have our first virtual town hall meeting, for instance, can become an annual event held before our in-person meetings.

D. **Action Item 4**: Perhaps the Permanent Organization and Strategic Planning Committee along with the Program Committee can explore the possibility of working with European and International Sociological Associations to (1) build solidarity that can be crucial in times of crisis, (2) strengthen our organization foothold, (3) increase participation, collaboration, and exchange of ideas. Such collaborations can promote allyship and create a protective shield against political intrusions from outside.

18. Unfinished Business from 2025–2026
There was no time to discuss additional business.

19. New Business
There was no time to discuss new business.

20. Adjournment of the 2025–2026 Board
There being no additional time, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40PM. Sarah Jane invited everyone to the Opening Plenary: Engaging Lifeworlds as Resistance through Organizing, Activism, and Scholarship 5:00pm–6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Felicia Arriaga, SSSP Secretary.