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

2026–2027 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS
SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2026
8:00 AM–12:00 PM (Eastern Time)
WESTIN NEW YORK AT TIMES SQUARE
AMBASSADOR II, 2nd FLOOR

8:27 am: Informal discussion led by the President, David G. Embrick, until a quorum was reached.

ITEM #1: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the President, David G. Embrick, at 9:18 am.

ITEM #2: INTRODUCTIONS

Members Present:
David G. Embrick, President
Rodney D. Coates, President-Elect
Sarah Jane Brubaker, Past-President
Kasey Henricks (v*), Vice-President
Tracy L. Vargas, Secretary
Loren Henderson, Treasurer
Anthony A. Peguero, Board Member (absent)
Janelle M. Pham, Board Member and Ex-Officio, Chairperson-Elect, Council of the Divisions
Claire M. Renzetti, Board Member
Natasha Israt Kabir, Board Member, Student Representative
Nicolas Juarez, Board Member, Student Representative
Shannon K. Carter, Ex-Officio, Chairperson, Council of the Divisions
Kelley J. Sittner, Co-Editor of *Social Problems*
Elroi J. Windsor, Executive Officer
Michele Smith Koontz, Administrative Officer & Meeting Manager
Stephani Williams, Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee Chair
Jessica S. Pearce, Committee on Committees Chair

Members Absent:
Marlese Durr, Board Member
Ranita Ray, Board Member
Faryal Razzaq, Board Member
Yuying Shen, Vice-President-Elect
alithia zamantakis, Board Member

Note "v*" indicates virtual participation.

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

ITEM #3: ADOPT (REVISE) AGENDA

ACTION: The Board adopted the agenda as presented. 12-0-0 PASSES

ITEM #4: REPORT OF THE BUDGET, FINANCE, AND AUDIT COMMITTEE CHAIR
Committee Chair Stephani Williams presented highlights from the proposed 2027 budget, which projects a $161,452 deficit. Because the projected budget requires drawing from investments, the Board discussed fundraising strategies to increase donations.

Suggestions included replacing the general donation banner on the SSSP website with a targeted campaign banner and incorporating testimonials that demonstrate how donations are used and whom they benefit.

ITEM #4A: SWAG
The Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee noted that SSSP has not previously had a formal policy regarding conference merchandise. The committee recommended that if the President chooses to offer merchandise to annual meeting attendees, the President will be responsible for covering any costs that exceed the revenue generated from its sale. SSSP will not cover costs associated with merchandise.

ACTION: The Board unanimously (12-0-0) approved that if the President wants to include swag for conference attendees, the President will be responsible for covering any costs associated with merchandise that exceeds revenue generation. SSSP will not cover costs associated with merchandise.

ITEM #4B: RACIAL/ETHNIC MINORITY GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

ACTION: Motion to vote to change to the Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Fellowship, reducing the number of fellowships from two to one, to be revisited in 3 years (2029). Vote to include this amendment in the proposal. 10-2-0 PASSES

Discussion, then call the question to open the vote on the revised action item (amendment).

ACTION: Vote to approve changing the Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Fellowship, reducing the number of fellowships from two to one, to be revisited in 3 years (2029). 7-3-2 PASSES

ITEM #4C: VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION POLICY FOR TRANSNATIONAL INITIATIVES AWARD RECIPIENTS
The Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee recommended that the Board discontinue the current virtual participation policy until the Society's financial circumstances improve. The current policy allows recipients of Transnational Initiatives support funds who cannot

attend the annual meeting because of financial constraints or visa difficulties to participate virtually in the sessions where they are scheduled to present. The Board discussed the audiovisual and labor costs associated with virtual participation, noting an estimated labor cost of $36,000. Possible alternatives included creating a space in the mobile app to solicit support for audiovisual expenses and having SSSP provide its own audiovisual equipment.

ACTION: Vote to approve discontinuing the current virtual participation policy for Transnational Initiatives Award recipients until the Society's financial circumstances improve. 12-0-0 PASSES

ITEM #4D: PRESENTATION OF THE 2027 PROPOSED BUDGET
Committee Chair Stephani Williams presented the 2027 proposed budget, and the Board discussed it.

ACTION: The Board unanimously approved (12-0-0) the proposed 2027 budget.

ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee. (12-0-0) PASSES

ITEM #5: REPORT FROM THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Student Board Representatives Natasha Israt Kabir and Nicolas Juarez discussed the Student Member Meeting, 2026 Annual Meeting social events, and several initiatives to strengthen student engagement. Four proposed action items were removed from the record because they did not require Board approval or could not proceed within the current timeline.

Student Networking and Travel Support: The current and incoming representatives will establish a student networking platform and coordinate student-only roommate matching and rideshare options. The SSSP Administrative Office will continue to coordinate faculty roommate matching.

Resolution Supporting Palestine: Because it was too late in the annual resolution cycle for the Committee on Social Action to act, students were encouraged to submit a member-initiated resolution or petition supporting researchers and students across institutions. The proposal could then be reviewed by the Board and submitted to the membership for a vote.

Student Resource Hub and Year-Round Engagement: The representatives will explore improvements to the student resource webpage, including archived presentations, updated publications, and other student-focused materials. They also proposed year-round activities, including virtual social hours, writing workshops, the graduate student poster competition, and an introductory video featuring the Student Board Representatives.

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

ACTION: The Board approved the report from the Board of Directors Student Representatives. (11-0-1) PASSES

ITEM #6: REPORT FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COUNCIL OF THE DIVISIONS
Chairperson of the Council of the Divisions Shannon K. Carter presented the Council's report, noting reductions in the number of divisions and implementation of a tiered funding model. Two divisions have fewer than 50 members: Sport, Leisure, and the Body submitted a membership-growth plan, while Drinking and Drugs has not responded to recent communications. The Council plans to propose a task force to develop procedures for divisions with persistently low membership and unresponsive chairs, while also considering revisions to the student paper competition.

ACTION: Vote on relevant sections of the Proposed Changes to the Roles and Responsibilities of Division Chairs. (12-0-0) PASSES

ACTION: The Board approved the Council of Divisions report. Vote count was not recorded.

ITEM #7: APPOINT ONE BOARD MEMBER TO SERVE ON THE COMMITTEE ON MENTORSHIP FOR THE 2026–2028 TERM–MEMBERS OF THE BOARD
President David G. Embrick shared that Anthony A. Peguero will be selected.

ITEM #8: REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES CHAIR
Committee Chair Jessica S. Pearce presented highlights from the committee's report. The report identified nonmembers to illustrate the number of individuals who had not paid dues to become current SSSP members. The committee emphasized that all participants should be encouraged to join/renew as current members.

ACTION: The Board approved the Committee on Committees report. (12-0-0) PASSES

ITEM #9: DISCUSS ANY BUSINESS MEETING REFERRALS OR MOTIONS
The SSSP Business Meeting on Friday, August 7, 2026, did not forward any motions to the Board.

ITEM #10: UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM 2026

ITEM #10A: REVISED ACTION ITEMS FROM THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE
Past President Sarah Jane Brubaker presented a request from the Program Committee informed by recent experiences with sociologists boycotting or leaving the American Sociological Association. The committee recommended that SSSP develop an updated and transparent policy outlining short- and long-term plans for recruiting new members and supporting existing members. The recommendation emphasized more clearly communicating SSSP's commitment to promoting and protecting critical and social

justice-oriented research, teaching, and activism. Suggested strategies included simplifying the SSSP website, featuring a clearer statement of purpose, and strengthening the Society's social media presence. The European Sociological Association's website was identified as a possible model.

ACTION: Vote on (revised) the Membership and Outreach Committee to consider more clearly articulating SSSP's statement of purpose on its website and in social media. The Membership and Outreach Committee will address this and report back to the Board. 12-0-0 PASSES

Second action item was rescinded.

ACTION: Vote continuing to offer virtual events including an annual virtual town hall meeting organized by the Program Committee to make SSSP members more engaged throughout the year and their membership more advantageous and beneficial. 12-0-0 PASSES

ACTION: Friendly amendment to partner with the regional sociological organizations. Task the Transnational Initiatives Committee to explore the possibility of working with European, International, Canadian, Mexican, and other sociological associations and task the Program Committee with exploring collaborations with regional sociological associations to (1) build solidarity that can be crucial in times of crisis, (2) strengthen our organization's foothold, (3) increase participation, collaboration, and exchange of ideas. Such collaborations can promote allyship and create a protective shield against political intrusions from outside. 12-0-0 PASSES

ITEM #10B: REPORT FROM THE *SOCIAL PROBLEMS* SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE CHAIR

ACTION: The Board approved the Social Media Committee report. (12-0-0) PASSES

ITEM #10C: REPORT FROM BRISTOL UNIVERSITY PRESS/POLICY PRESS

ACTION: The Board approved the report from Bristol University/Policy Press. (12-0-0) PASSES

ITEM #10D: ACTION ITEMS FROM THE TRANSNATIONAL INITIATIVES COMMITTEE REPORT

The Board discussed eligibility and payment procedures for Transnational Initiatives travel awards. International wire transfers carry a $50 fee. If a qualified award recipient notifies the Administrative Officer that they are unable to attend the Annual Meeting before award monies are processed, their award money will be redistributed to the remaining qualified applicants. Nonmembers may apply for an award, but recipients are expected to become SSSP members before funds are disbursed.

ACTION: Vote to allow individuals to apply for a travel award without first becoming SSSP members. 0-11-1 DOES NOT PASS

The committee reviewed the International Sociological Association's income-based, tiered membership model and recommended that SSSP consider a similar approach. The ISA model includes four categories based on countries' gross national income, with individuals selecting the appropriate category through an honor system. The committee also discussed offering a separate virtual session at another time during the year to accommodate transnational participation.

ACTION: Amend SSSP membership fee categories to include national income; hence, lowering the bar to participation for international members from the Global South and lower-income nations. 0-12-0 DOES NOT PASS

The Board requests that the committee submit specific price categories. The Board notes that participants from the Global South receive an Annual Meeting exemption. As a possible alternative, the Board suggests that the Transnational Initiatives Committee organize separate virtual presentations through Zoom.

ACTION: Address the financial costs for attending the conference for Global South members (and the requirement for staying at the conference hotel for travel awardees) by providing both a virtual option to present remotely with partial funding and an affordable room-share option at the hotel for all travel award applicants. 0-11-1 DOES NOT PASS

The Board asks the committee to consider creating virtual programming outside the Annual Meeting and reminds the committee that the 2028 Annual Meeting will be held virtually.

ACTION: Include a category for contingent or unemployed faculty to the Transnational Initiatives Fund evaluation sheet. 12-0-0 PASSES

ITEM #11: NEW BUSINESS

ACTION: Vote on establishing monthly "Save the Date" Board Meetings to Reserve Time for Society Business. 12-0-0 PASSES

The Board will continue to meet monthly, with a designated meeting date established for each month rather than using a scheduling poll. Board members who miss two consecutive meetings without communicating an unavoidable reason for their absences may be removed from the Board. Although the bylaws permit proxy voting, Robert's Rules of

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Order do not allow proxy votes when a matter is subject to deliberation. The Board agreed to revisit the issue of proxy voting in the future.

ACTION: Vote on Requests to Offer Workshops in Chicago. They are responsible for all expenses. Each 12-0-0 PASSES

1. "City in a Garden: A Collaborative Field Inquiry into Community, Everyday Life, and Social Change" (Co-sponsors: Institutional Ethnography; Social Problems Theory; Sport, Leisure, and the Body Divisions. Participants pay a fee of $75/$50 to participate.)

2. "Institutional Ethnography Workshop" (Sponsor: Institutional Ethnography Division)

3. "Teaching Social Action Institute" (Sarah Jane Brubaker says this is contingent on raising the funds to cover Scott Myers-Lipton's travel expenses for this 1.5-day event.)

4. "Participatory Workshop on Participatory Action Research and Building Local and Global Movements for Change" (David G. Embrick says this is after the conference. Participants pay a fee of $75/$25 to participate.)

ITEM 12: ADJOURNMENT OF THE 2026-2027 BOARD
ACTION: The Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 12:07 pm. (12-0-0) PASSES

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tracy L. Vargas, SSSP Secretary.