

2014-2015 SSSP BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2015
11:45 AM – 4:45 PM

ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by President Marlese Durr

ITEM #2 – INTRODUCTIONS

Members Present:

Marlese Durr, President
David A. Smith President-Elect
Anna Maria Santiago, Past President
Nancy Mezey, Vice-President
Ronnie Steinberg, Vice-President Elect
Glenn W. Muschert, Secretary
Susan M. Carlson, Treasurer
Cheryl Boudreaux, Board Member
John Dale, Board Member
Heather Dalmage, Board Member
Antwan Jones, Board Member
Keith Kilty, Board Member
Kathryn Nowotny, Board Member, Student Representative
Shannon Monnat, Chair, Council of Division Chairs
Pamela Anne Quiroz, Editor, *Social Problems*
Héctor L. Delgado, Executive Officer
Michele Koontz, Administrative Officer and Meeting Manager

ITEM #3 – ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Agenda adopted as presented.

ITEM #4 – REVIEW OF MINUTES

Secretary Glenn Muschert presented the minutes of the 2013-14 Board Meetings, the 2014 Annual Business Meeting, and the 2014-15 Board Meeting.

ACTION: The Board approved the minutes of the 2013-14 Board Meetings, the 2014 Annual Business Meeting, and the 2014-15 Board Meeting.

ITEM #5 – PRESENTATION OF THE 2015 GENERAL ELECTION

The meeting proceeded with Héctor L. Delgado presenting the results of the 2015 General Election as follows:

President-Elect (2015-2016); President (2016-2017) Donileen R. Loseke
Vice-President Elect (2015-2016); Vice-President (2016-2017) Valerie Leiter
Secretary (2015-2016) Glenn W. Muschert
Treasurer (2015-2016) Patrick Donnelly
Board of Directors (2015-2018) Louis Esparza, Saher Selod, and Elroi J. Windsor
Board of Directors, Student Representative (2015-2017) Kasey Henricks
Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee (2015-2018) Nancy J. Mezey
Committee on Committees (2015-2018) Maralee Mayberry and Deborah A. Potter

Editorial and Publications Committee (2015-2018) Valerie Jenness and Anna Maria Santiago
Membership and Outreach Committee (2015-2018) Rachel Allison and Jean M. Beaman
Membership and Outreach Committee, Student Representative (2015-2018) Janelle M. Pham

ITEM #6 – MONEY MATTERS

Treasurer Susan Carlson reviewed the report from the Treasurer. The Society finds itself in a good position at present, noting a budget surplus of approximately \$56,000. This is due in part to the earnings for Society investments, but also significantly attributable to the stewardship of the administrative office. Most notably, the Society is now making money off its annual meetings, while in many past years the meetings have operated at a deficit. Treasurer Susan Carlson also clarified many of Society's investments are in socially responsible avenues, including some which do not make money for the Society per se, but which do significant good works in needed social arenas.

Part A: LMBC Communications Letter. The Society received a clean bill of health, and there were no unusual findings.

B: 2014 Audit Report. The Society is in good shape regarding its annual audit.

ACTION: The Board approved the report of the annual audit.

Part C: 2015 Amended Budget

Claire Renzetti, Chair of the Budget, Finance, and Audit (BFA) Committee presented the 2015 amended budget. Good news includes that the 2015 annual meetings will generate positive revenue, via a combined strategy of encouraging attendance and cutting costs as feasible. The BFA predicts a budget surplus, and reports that the Society is in good financial condition.

ACTION: THE Board approved the 2015 revised budget.

Part D. 2015 June Balance Sheet. The Board reviewed the changes made by the BFA at the June meeting.

Part E: 2015 June Income Statement.

ACTION: The Board approved the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee's report.

ITEM #7 – REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Héctor L. Delgado presented the report of the Executive Officer (EO). A number of important issues were handled during the previous year:

- The EO thanks the Board for its availability and service.
- The EO reiterates that he enjoys working with Michele and the other members of the Administrative Office (AO) staff. The Society benefits greatly from the service of the AO staff.
- The EO expressed his satisfaction with the transition to Oxford University Press as the new publisher of *Social Problems*. The transition from UC Press to OUP has been seamless. The journal is in good hands, both with regards to the Editor and the Publisher.
- Up-coming search for new editor of *Social Problems*. It seems as if, no sooner has a new editor been identified than the search for a new editor begins. The Board should expect this process to be ramping up.

- The Society's contract with the University of Tennessee will end at the end of 2016, and efforts to re-negotiate will move forward.
- The EO complemented the work of the President, Vice President, and Program Committee for their service to the Society, reflected in the high quality of this year's program. This meeting is predicted to be one of the highest-attended annual meetings for the Society.

ACTION: The Board approved the Executive Officer's report.

Part A: Report from the UTK Project Director. Jon Shefner, University of Tennessee, wrote a letter to the Society indicating that since 2006, UTK has failed to pay the SSSP GRA tuition despite its contractual commitment to do so. The Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee has a meeting scheduled during this year's conference with Jon Shefner.

ACTION: The Board approved the report from the UTK Project Director.

ITEM #8 – REPORT FROM THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

David G. Embrick presented the Program Committee Co-Chairs' report. The committee offered a number of recommendations to the board.

- With regards to space for program participants, the Committee recommended to the Society to expand space in future meetings.
- The Committee recommended that the Board would propose some sort of training or guidelines for future Program Committee Chairs.
- The Committee recommended that there should be some vetting process involving memorial sessions.

ACTION: The Board approved the Program Committee Co-Chairs' report.

ITEM #9 – REPORT FROM THE LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Nancy Michaels, Local Arrangements Chair, presented the report of the Local Arrangements Committee. Issues discussed included the conference materials and meeting promotion. Suggestions offered by the Committee:

- Instead of two versions of the press release, the committee recommended to use an abridged version of the press release only.

ACTION: The Board approved the use of a single, abridged press release.

- Suggest that future local arrangements committee make more connections with local activist groups. Suggestions include connecting with local community organizers, activists, policy makers, scholar activists. Discussion ensued. This discussion was tabled, and will be introduced as new business at the 8/23/15 Board meeting.

ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Local Arrangements Committee Chair.

ITEM #10 – REPORT FROM THE MEETING MANAGER

Michele Koontz, Meeting Manager, reported on various issues.

- Attendance at the Chicago annual meeting is among the highest ever, with c. 916 registered participants. On-site registration will add to this number.
- The Society exceeded its room block.

- The hotel has designated the men's restroom on the Atlantic Ballroom function space as gender-neutral.
- Those requesting an accessible guest room have been accommodated. All additional requests have been accommodated satisfactorily by the hotel and/or the Society.
- During contract negotiations, the EO and AO negotiated for significant concessions and discounts.
- The AO commented on advertising in the program, which resulted in \$2,550 advertising revenue.
- Catering: the Society will spend c. \$45,000 on food and beverage at this year's meeting.
- This year, the program is available via a mobile app. The Society signed a two-year agreement with CrowdCompass. This is the first time the Society has used a mobile app.
- Tours: the Society partnered with ASA in co-sponsoring tours. There are a total of four tours being offered.
- Wright State University, *Critical Sociology*, and Oxford University Press provided underwriting for certain conference-associated costs.
- There will be a SSSP sponsored workshop and conference held on August 24.
- In addition, the Meeting Manager presented the following reports
 - o Current Annual Meeting Registrants and Membership by State/Country
 - o Meeting Attendance, 1985-2014
 - o Report from The Scholar's Choice

ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Meeting Manager.

ITEM #11 – REPORT FROM OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, PUBLISHER OF *SOCIAL PROBLEMS*

Laura Bannon, Senior Editor, Social Science Journals; Allison Ferguson, Assistant Marketing Manager; and Michael Blong, Editorial Assistant presented the Report from Oxford University Press (OUP). We are six months into publishing the first year of the journal with OUP. Circulation has grown significantly via consortia access. With the switch to OUP, the journal's global reach has expanded greatly, in part because OUP has a marketing strategy to expand into developing countries. To date, there have been c. 220,000 full text downloads of *SP* articles. This metric is important, because librarian look at usage when making decisions about subscriptions. Impact factor is also relevant, though it's probably a flawed metric. *SP*'s impact factor is at 1.729, ranking the journal #15 in sociology.

ACTION: The Board approved the *Social Problems* publisher's report.

ITEM #12 – REPORT FROM THE EDITOR OF *SOCIAL PROBLEMS*

Editor Pamela Anne Quiroz reported on the state of *Social Problems*, and in particular recognized the contribution of Nilda Flores-González, who stepped down in May 2015. Another development was that Pamela transitioned to the University of Houston, and the journal also transitioned to a new Managing Editor, Deana Lewis. The editor presented the list of members for Advisory Board 2015-2016. Also to be included in the list is Michelle Janning, who was omitted as an oversight. In the previous year, there were 361 new manuscripts submitted. Time of articles in review has been comparable to that in previous editorial years.

The editor suggested that the Society find a way to institutionalize the social media aspect of the publication of *Social Problems*. Discussion ensued, with the Board strongly encouraging the allocation of resources and the creation of guidelines for this endeavor.

ACTION: The Board charged the Editorial and Publications Committee with a mandate to institutionalize the social media aspect of the publication of *Social Problems*.

ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Editor of *Social Problems*.

ITEM #13 – UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM 2015

There was no unfinished business.

ITEM #14 – NEW BUSINESS

Part A. Creation of Two New SSSP Awards Highlighting Women

1. Doris Wilkinson Faculty Leadership Award
2. Arlene Kaplan Daniels Article Award

ITEM #14 was tabled due to lack of time, and will be addressed at the 8/21/15 Board meeting.

ITEM #15 – ADJOURNMENT OF THE 2014-2015 BOARD

There being no further time, the meeting was adjourned by President Marlese Durr.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Glenn W. Muschert, SSSP Secretary