

**2022-2023 SSSP BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

**MONDAY, JULY 17, 2023**

**11:00AM – 4:00PM (EDT)**

**VIRTUAL MEETING CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM**

**ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER**

President Shirley A. Jackson called the meeting to order at 11:04 am.

**ITEM #2 – INTRODUCTIONS**

**Members Present:**

Shirley A. Jackson, President

Mary Bernstein, President-Elect

Noreen M. Sugrue, Past President

Stephani Williams, Vice President

Anthony A. Peguero, Vice President-Elect

Glenn W. Muschert, Secretary

Heather E. Dillaway, Treasurer

Kristen Budd, Board Member

Lauren Eastwood, Board Member

Tracy Peressini, Board Member

Barbara Katz Rothman, Board Member

Ebonie Cunningham Stringer, Board Member

Cameron Whitley, Board Member

Giovanna Follo, Chairperson, Council of the Divisions

Annulla Linders, Editor, *Social Problems*

Becky Pettit, Chair, Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee

Mi'Chael N. Wright, Chair, Committee on Social Media

Sarah Levine, Publisher, Humanities & Social Sciences, Oxford University Press

Adriana L. Bohm, Chair, Local Arrangement Committee

Elroi J. Windsor, Executive Officer

Michele Koontz, Administrative Officer & Meeting Manager

**ITEM #3 – ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The Board adopted the agenda as presented.

**ITEM #4 – DISCUSS MINUTES AND VIDEO RECORDINGS OF BOARD MEETINGS**

Secretary Glenn W. Muschert raised the topic of recording Board meetings. Discussion ensued. SSSP Board of Directors meetings will not be recorded.

## ITEM #5 – MEET WITH APPLICANTS FOR *SOCIAL PROBLEMS* EDITORSHIP

Part A. The Board met with the team of applicants from Oklahoma State University, Andrew Fullerton, Michael Long, and Rachel Schmitz. The candidates introduced themselves, shared their vision for the journal, and fielded questions from the Board.

## ITEM #6 – FINANCES – REPORT FROM THE TREASURER

Treasurer Heather E. Dillaway reported on the Society's financial status. The year 2022 was not so bad, yet there is a concern that the SSSP has operated at a deficit for several years. For 2023, the Budget, Finance, and Audit (BFA) Committee is projecting a budget shortfall of approximately \$232,000 (this is not yet counting realized and unrealized investment gains or losses for 2023), anticipating a further reduction in membership, low attendance at the 2023 annual meeting, and a decrease in journal revenue. The Society has sufficient funds in reserve; however, the longer-term concern is the membership levels, journal revenue, and the generation of revenues. A significant financial situation is the predicted decline in revenue anticipated if the Society continues to publish *Social Problems* with Oxford University Press. Discussion ensued concerning the Society's socially responsible investments.

**ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Treasurer.**

Part A: LBMC Client Service Communication Letter

Part B: 2022 Audit Report

The results of the audit were clean, with no unusual findings.

**ACTION: The Board approved the 2022 Audit Report.**

Part C: Report from the Chair of the Budget, Finance, and Audit (BFA) Committee

BFA Committee Chair Becky Pettit delivered the report from the BFA. The first point was to acknowledge the outstanding work of the BFA Committee, the Executive Officer, the Administrative Office, and the *Social Problems* editors.

A key concern is the projected \$231,920 deficit for 2023, which is even more concerning considering 2023 will be the third year running in which the SSSP has operated at a deficit. This deficit can continue for a while without forcing the organization into insolvency. The Society already operates leanly, and the clear solution lies in revenue generation. A key focus involves considering alternate publishers for *Social Problems*.

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

PART C. Presentation of the 2023 Amended Budget

Becky Pettit presented the 2023 amended budget.

**ACTION: The Board approved the 2023 amended budget.**

PART D: 2023 June Balance Sheet

Becky Pettit discussed the 2023 June Balance Sheet to provide the Board with the most up-to-date financial information.

PART E: 2023 June Income Statement

Becky Pettit discussed the 2023 June Income Statement to provide up-to-date financial information.

ITEM #6 – REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Elroi J. Windsor presented the report of the Executive Officer (EO). The EO spoke about the transition into the role. The EO gave a word of gratitude to the Administrative Office and many members for their assistance and support. There are some key issues. First, the SSSP must invest in its members by probing how people stay engaged. Second, there is a need to invest in mentorship programs for building and retaining membership. Third, the SSSP can enhance partnerships with organizations whose missions align with ours. Finally, the SSSP may update its branding (logo, website, and promotional materials).

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

Part A. Report from Dr. Stephanie Bohon, SSSP Project Director

The EO commented on the letter from Dr. Stephanie Bohon, Professor and Head of the Department of Sociology at UTK, and the SSSP Project Director.

Part B. Discuss the Future of the SSSP

The EO commented on the future of the SSSP, including the direction(s) in which the Society should move.

Part C. Announcement of the 2023 General Election Results

President-Elect (2023-2024); President (2024-2025) Rose M. Brewer

Vice-President-Elect (2023-2024); Vice-President (2024-2025) David J. Luke

Secretary (2023-2024) Glenn W. Muschert

Treasurer (2023-2024) Heather E. Dillaway

Board of Directors (2023-2026) Meghna Bhat and Jackie Krasas

Board of Directors: Student Representative (2023-2025) Foroogh Mohammadi

Anti-Harassment Committee (2023-2026) Devon R. Goss

Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee (2023-2026) Anna Maria Santiago

Committee on Committees (2023-2026) Brian Gran and Jessica Pearce

Editorial and Publications Committee (2023-2026) Marlese Durr and Linda M. Waldron

Membership and Outreach Committee (2023-2026) Teresa Irene Gonzales and Korey Tillman

Membership and Outreach Committee: Student Representative (2023-2026) Jasmine S. Buenviaje

Proposed By-Laws Amendment: Article VI. Section 1(B) Approved

#### ITEM #8 – REPORT FROM THE EDITORS OF *SOCIAL PROBLEMS*, INCLUDING THE PROPOSED 2023-2024 ADVISORY BOARD

Editor Annulla Linders reported on the status of *Social Problems*, with special recognition to those on staff who play essential roles. The editors are near the end of their second term as co-editors (2021-2024). The journal is in a good state, with strong submission numbers and an effective timeline from submission to editorial decision.

**ACTION: The Board approved the list of the proposed 2023-2024 Advisory Board for *Social Problems*, stipulating that those whose membership has lapsed will be notified to become current members.**

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

PART A: Report from the Chair of the Committee on Social Media

Chair of the Committee on Social Media, Mi'Chael N. Wright, presented the Committee on Social Media report. Traffic is high on social media sites, especially when the team is live tweeting during the annual meetings. For example, Facebook likes exceed 8K, the Twitter following now tops 15K, and YouTube views exceed 31K.

**ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Committee on Social Media.**

#### ITEM #9 – REPORT FROM OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

Publisher Sarah Levine, Oxford University Press, presented the report from Oxford University Press (OUP). The impact factor is holding steady, and citations for *Social Problems* have increased. Many details appear in the report. Discussion ensued.

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

#### ITEM #10 – REPORT FROM THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Program Committee's report appeared in the Board's packet of documents. AO Michele Koontz commented on select items in the report. The report mentioned several concerns, which the Board considered. These included clarification about the spirit of limiting author-meets-critics sessions, a suggestion to allocate sessions to the Transnational Initiative Committee, and a possibility to identify a Program Committee as far as two years in advance.

**ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Program Committee.**

ITEM #11 – REPORT FROM THE LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Adriana L. Bohm, Committee Chair, presented the highlights of the Local Arrangements Committee's report.

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

ITEM #12 – REPORT FROM THE MEETING MANAGER

Michele Koontz, Meeting Manager (MM), reported on various issues. The MM thanks the EO, President, and Program Committee for service this year. For the 2023 annual meeting, there are to-date 114 sessions with 579 registrants. Membership remains a concern. Compared to one year ago, total membership (including last year's members who have not renewed) is down 14%, and current membership for 2023+ is down 10%. There are currently 1079 2023+ members and 599 2022 members (total: 1678).

For this year's annual meeting, there were two requests for accessibility services. We will provide other features like an area of rescue assistance, a comfort zone, a lactation room, and an all-gender restroom. If we contract with the in-house audio-visual provider, we will not be charged for internet in the meeting space. Negotiations are resolving this issue. This year's book exhibit will include the presence of the Scholar's Choice, Bristol University Press, and PM Press. For catering, the MM has secured a discount on food and beverage (F&B) 20% and 35% on coffee and herbal tea by the gallon. The F&B minimum is \$38K plus a 22% taxable service charge and 8% sales tax (total \$50,069). The SSSP will subsidize the cost of wine, beer, and non-alcoholic beverages at two receptions.

Part A. Current Annual Meeting Registrants and Membership by State/Country

Part B. Meeting Attendance, 1985-2022

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

ITEM #13 – UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM 2022–2023

Part A. Discuss Media Presence for Press to Contact our Members

Elroi J. Windsor and Barbara Katz Rothman commented on the need for publicity for the SSSP and its members. This item will appear on the next Board meeting agenda for July 24, 2023.

Part B. Follow-up on Two Action Items from the 7-19-22 Board Meeting

Action Item #1: The Board charged the 2022-23 SSSP President with drafting a plan for revenue generation.

1. Discuss the Composition of the 2023-2024 Ad Hoc Revenue Generating Committee.

President Shirley A. Jackson proposed a committee composed of the following:

1. SSSP Executive Officer
2. Treasurer
3. Chair of the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee (serve as Chair )
4. Chair of the Editorial and Publications Committee
5. Chair of the Membership and Outreach Committee

**ACTION: The Board approved the composition of the Ad Hoc Revenue Generating Committee to include the SSSP Executive Officer, Treasurer, Chair of the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee (BFA), Chair of the Editorial and Publications Committee, and the Chair of the Membership and Outreach Committee. The Chair of the BFA Committee will serve as Chair of the 2023-2024 Ad Hoc Revenue Generating Committee.**

**ACTION: The Board charged the committee to develop a concrete revenue-generating action plan by the end of 2023.**

Action Item #2: The Board charged the incoming Interim Executive Officer and the 2022-23 SSSP President with developing a plan for activity related to the Operating Reserve Policy.

Given the lack of time to discuss this issue, the Board rescheduled this item for discussion at its next meeting on July 24, 2023.

#### ITEM #14 – NEW BUSINESS

##### Part A. Discuss Op-Ed Project Workshops for 2024

After analyzing the uptake and utilization of workshops, Past President Noreen M. Sugrue suggested offering one op-ed writing workshop in the fall and one media outreach session in the spring. Due to a lack of quorum, the Board deferred voting on this suggestion until the next meeting on July 24, 2023.

#### ITEM #15 – ADJOURNMENT OF THE 2022-2023 BOARD

There being no further time and a lack of quorum, President Shirley A. Jackson adjourned the meeting at 4:12 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Glenn W. Muschert, SSSP Secretary.

**ADDENDUM #1 – RECORD OF BOARD ACTIONS CONDUCTED VIA EMAIL SINCE THE APRIL 17, 2023, ZOOM BOARD MEETING.**

**ACTION: 4/26/23** – The Board confirmed that Drs. Andrew Fullerton, Michael Long, Rachel Schmitz, and Kelley Sittner would move forward to become a finalist for the *Social Problems* editorship.

**ACTION: 4/27/23** – The Board approved increases in the 2024 *Social Problems* APCs and for institutional and corporate subscriptions as follows

	Current Price	Proposed Increase	2024 Proposed Price
Article Processing Charge	\$3,730	4%	\$3,879
Article Processing Charge (SSSP Members)	\$2,984	4%	\$3,103
Institutional Online-only Subscription	\$373	5%	\$392
Institutional Print-only Subscription	\$446	7%	\$478
Institutional Print + Online Subscription	\$483	7%	\$517

**ACTION: 5/01/23** – The Board decided that Dr. Louis Edgar Esparza would not move forward to become a finalist for the *Social Problems* editorship.

**ACTION: 5/02/23** – The Board approved the Minutes of the April 17, 2023 Board Meeting.

**ACTION: 5/23/23** – The Board approved hiring Miriam Lopez to prepare drafts of several agreements and for Ms. Ashley Trotter (a Tennessee employment lawyer at Kennerly Montgomery) to review them once drafted. These documents included

1. Revise the Meeting Manager (MM) Agreement to clarify discontinuing paying the Administrative Officer supplemental pay and increasing compensation under the MM Agreement to meet the amount MM would otherwise receive as additional pay.
2. Draft Independent Contractor Agreements for Kelsey Whitaker (Assistant to the Administrative Officer), Rachel Cogburn (IT Specialist), and the LAC Chair.
3. Revise the Operations Manual to include the EO’s duties and SSSP’s responsibilities to the EO. The EO would then sign a letter agreeing to adhere to the rules and conditions set out in the Operations Manual and acknowledging that the University of West Georgia -- not SSSP -- is their employer concerning the work the EO is doing on behalf of SSSP.

**ACTION: 6/09/23** – The Board voted to put the four (4) resolutions for the 2023 annual meeting forward to the membership for further discussion and voting, as follows.

**1. Expression of Gratitude**

Post as Written: 13 votes

Modify: 0 votes

Table: 1 vote

Abstain: 2 votes

Did Not Vote: 1 board member

**2. SSSP to Oppose State Interference with Academic Freedom**

Post as Written: 4 votes

Modify (removed reference of “the leadership”): 9 votes

Table: 1 vote

Abstain: 2 votes

Did Not Vote: 1 board member

**3. SSSP to Support Gender-Affirming Healthcare**

Post as Written: 4 votes

Modify (footnote added: The divisions proposing the resolution will prepare a draft of the statement and provide the list of email addresses for dissemination.): 9 votes

Table: 0 votes

Abstain: 3 votes

Did Not Vote: 1 board member

**4. Guaranteeing and Furthering Socio-Economic Rights**

Post as Written: 4 votes

Modify Verbiage (added footnote: Contact list provided by authors of the resolution.): 9 votes

Table: 1 vote

Abstain: 2 votes

Did Not Vote: 1 board member

**ACTION: 6/30/23 – The Board voted to empower the ad hoc Publisher Search Committee to solicit bids from publishing houses to become publisher of *Social Problems*.**