

Date: August 10, 2024

To: Michele Koontz, SSSP Administrative Officer, and SSSP Board of Directors

From: Giovanna Follo, Chairperson of the Council of Divisions

Re: SSSP 2023-2024 Council of the Divisions Annual Report

Below, you will find a summary of the activities of the SSSP Division Chairs during 2023-2024. The report was written after the second Council of Divisions' meetings.

1. **Appreciation and Thanks**

I want to give my thanks and appreciation to Michele Koontz, Kelsey Whitaker, Rachel Cogburn, and the rest of the administrative office for their help, support, and overall time this past year. I would also like to thank the Division Chairs for their work in ensuring the viability of their divisions for the benefit of SSSP.

2. **Council of Division Chairs Summary of Activities**

SSSP has 23 divisions organized around specific topics, interests, or subdisciplines.

In 2023-2024, 10 Divisions held elections for Division Chair, Division Co-Chairs, and/or Vice/Associate Chairs. To note, the Division Chairs had difficulty receiving enough candidates for elections.

There were no Division Sponsored Projects.

Completion of Division Tasks

Council of Division Required Meetings (2023 Annual Meeting):

Seven Divisions did not fulfill the required two meetings at the 2023 Annual Meeting. These seven divisions are: Disability, Educational Problems, Poverty Class, and Inequality, Society and Mental Health, Sociology and Social Welfare, and Youth, Aging, and the Life Course.

Division Budgets:

Twenty-two divisions have submitted budgets. Labor Studies did not submit budgets.

Division Mission Statements:

All Divisions have updated their mission statements either in 2022 or 2023. Divisions were reminded that mission statements need to be reviewed every two years.

Social Media:

Eight Divisions are without social media presence: Conflict, Social Action, and Change; Disability; Environment and Technology; Family; Gender; Health, Health Policy, and Health Services; Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities; and Sociology and Social Welfare.

Newsletters:

Divisions are required to distribute at least one newsletter. Six Divisions have not fulfilled their newsletter obligation during 2023-2024. These Divisions are Disability; Drinking and Drugs; Labor Studies; Poverty, Class, and Inequality; Social Problems Theory; and Youth, Aging, and the Life Course.

Graduate Student Paper Competition/Scholarship Awards:

All Divisions conducted student competition awards in some form. Six Divisions stated that no paper award was given.

Division Membership Totals

The supplement document indicates Division membership totals. Disability, Sport, Leisure, and the Body, and Youth, Aging, and the Life Course Divisions were under the 50-member threshold.

3. Council Meetings

The first and second meetings reviewed the chairs' roles and responsibilities, the Executive Officer report, revisited two action items from the 2023 Annual Meeting, held elections for the Social Action Committee and discussed division reorganization.

Regarding:

- a. **Action Item #1: The Board empowered the Council of Division Chairs to form a task force that will provide more precise parameters for social media. The Chairperson of the Council of Divisions will create a task force consisting of three Division Chairs to develop the document for review by the Board. The social media task force will consist of: Rafia Javaid Mallick (Chair-Elect, Crime and Juvenile Delinquency Division), Michael O. Johnston (Chair, Sport, Leisure, and the Body Division), and Virginia Kuulei Berndt (Co-Chair, Health, Health Policy, and Health Services Division).**

Only one member of the task force was present. Michael Johnston agreed to contact the other two members to continue the work. Shannon Carter, the incoming Chairperson, will continue working with the task force.

- b. **Action Item #2: The Board empowered the Council of Division Chairs to begin the discussion of rebranding and division consolidation. This discussion will begin with Division Chairs giving questions so a grounded informational foundation can be created. Based on the information collected, the Division Chairs will create a structured questionnaire for their membership to understand the direction they would like to go. At this point, the Division Chairs will begin their deliberations. #3, which the Board amended as follows: The Board approved the incorporation of questions concerning the reorganization of Divisions within the next Membership Survey.**

These discussions began in the first meeting and continued throughout the second meeting.

During the first meeting, the division chairs inquired about the organization's financial status. As a result, I requested Michele Koontz explain the logistics of hotel selection. The division chairs were focused on this aspect and presented several ideas, such as session reduction, the number of sessions proportionate to division size, and a grassroots approach to reaching out to diverse groups and undergraduates.

The second meeting began the hard work of division assessment. The division chairs considered the attractiveness of the division title, the suitability of combining divisions, and the division name connecting to what the division encompasses. The division chairs deliberated which to combine and suggested the final combined division name to indicate which division was restructured. For example, a consensus appeared for Gender and Sexuality (Gender and Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities).

The council listed the following divisions as distinctly SSSP, and would recommend they remain:

Social Problems Theory
Institutional Ethnography
Critical Race and Ethnic Study
Environment and Technology
Global
Crime and Justice
Law and Society
Teaching Social Problems
Poverty, Class, and Inequality
Community Research and Development
Health, Health Policy, and Health Services

The following was recommended to merge:

Gender and Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities to become Gender and Sexuality

The following were being considered:

Labor and Conflict, Social Action, and Change

Family and Youth, Aging, and the Life Course

4. Appointed Position for Committee on Social Action

The Council of Division Chairperson is responsible for one committee appointment to the Committee on Social Action (2024-2027).

Angus Nurse was elected in 2024.

Action Items and /or Concerns of the Divisions

1. The council requested if it was possible to gather information regarding dual division membership.

Action Item #1

We move, with the permission of the Board of Directors, the Council of Chairs ask the administrative office if there is any way to gather information regarding overlap division membership. The Division Chairs believe understanding the membership overlap can better guide how to combine divisions.