

2024–2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ZOOM MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2024, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM (EDT)

VIRTUAL MEETING CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM

ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

President Rose M. Brewer called the meeting to order at 11:03 am.

ITEM #2 – INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rose M. Brewer, President

Sarah Jane Brubaker, President-Elect

Mary Bernstein, Past President

David J. Luke, Vice President

Clare E. B. Cannon, Vice President-Elect

Glenn W. Muschert, Secretary

Heather E. Dillaway, Treasurer

Meghna Bhat, Board Member

Jerome Krase, Board Member

Tamara G.J. Leech, Board Member

Janelle M. Pham, Board Member

Claire M. Renzetti, Board Member

Barbara Katz Rothman, Board Member

Cameron T. Whitley, Board Member

Rafia Javaid Mallick, Board Member, Student Representative

Shannon K. Carter, *Ex-Officio*, Chairperson, Council of Division Chairs

Sarah E. Castillo, Chairperson, Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee

Elroi J. Windsor, Executive Officer

Michele Koontz, Administrative Officer and Meeting Manager

ITEM #3 – ADOPT (REVISE) AGENDA

The Board adopted the revised agenda with revisions.

Adding an Item Under ITEM #9 New Business, as follows:

Sub-Item B. Discuss Large Language Models (LLMs) Licensing Opportunities for *Social Problems*

Noting the name Pattie Thomas under ITEM #5, Sub-Item A. Update on Remaining Committee Appointments - Transnational Initiatives Committee Chair (Pattie Thomas)

ITEM #4 – REPORT FROM THE BUDGET, FINANCE, AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Chair of the Budget, Finance, and Audit (BFA) Committee Sarah E. Castillo described the report's key points. Projected 2025 Budget: The 2025 budget projects a deficit of \$187,341, nearly \$5,000 more than the 2024 deficit. A one-time signing bonus of \$120,000 from Oxford University Press will temporarily reduce the deficit for 2025. Investment Accounts: The Society has liquidated 14% of its investment funds since the pandemic, an 8.45% increase from 2024. The Society redeemed \$270,000 from the Parnassus Equity Fund to cover payables since December 2022. Continued reliance on this mechanism risks depleting financial assets entirely. Membership Dues and Revenue: Membership dues have been increased, and new membership levels have been established. These changes are critical but insufficient

without substantial cost-cutting measures and new revenue streams. UTK Cost of Living Increases for Assistantships: UTK is implementing cost of living increases for graduate assistantships over the next few years. The BFA Committee declined to match UTK's minimum salary levels for 2025. This decision was informed by the realization that implementing the increases would result in the total compensation package for the graduate assistant exceeding the salary package for the Society's IT Specialist, a disparity that raises concerns about equity in workload and compensation between these roles. The BFA Committee emphasizes the need for bold and proactive measures to stabilize the Society's finances. Strategic planning is required to address disparities in compensation and manage rising expenses. The Society must identify new strategies to cut costs, increase revenue, and ensure a sustainable financial future.

Sub-Item A. Discussion and Vote on Action Items

The report contained several action items for Board approval.

- Adjustments to Committee and Division Chair Policies: Extend the policy of not covering meals to include the Council of Division Chairs in addition to Committees with Society funds.

ACTION: The Board approved extending the policy of not covering meals to include the Council of Division Chairs.

- Revisions to Officer Accommodations: As compensation for duties performed, only the President receives a complimentary hotel room for up to four nights during the annual meeting. Other officers are not compensated for their duties. Reduced room rates may be offered to officers, contingent upon SSSP finances and the specifics of the hotel contract in a given year.

ACTION: The Board approved providing the President with a complimentary hotel room during the annual meeting for a maximum of four nights.

ACTION: The Board approved that other SSSP officers may receive subsidized hotel rooms, contingent upon financial circumstances.

- Student Board Member Support: Provide up to \$250 to each student representative on the Board to subsidize their stay at the conference hotel. The action item did not pass.
- Award Limitations: Implement a policy to limit awards to one primary recipient and one honorable mention.

ACTION: The Board approved limiting awards to one primary recipient and one honorable mention for SSSP awards.

- Cost-Effective Award Materials: Replace physical plaques with electronic certificates for the Student Paper Competition winners and the Beth B. Hess Memorial Scholarship winner and honorable mention.

ACTION: The Board approved the replacement of physical plaques with electronic certificates for the Student Paper Competition winners and the Beth B. Hess Memorial Scholarship winner and honorable mention.

ITEM #5 – REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sub-Item A. Update on Remaining Committee Appointments:

- By-Laws Committee Chair (Alexis A. Bender agreed to start in January 2025)

ACTION: The Board approved Alexis A. Bender to serve as By-Laws Committee Chair, starting in January 2025.

- Transnational Initiatives Committee Chair (Pattie Thomas, effective immediately)

ACTION: Effective immediately, the Board approved Pattie Thomas to serve as Transnational Initiatives Committee Chair.

- Transnational Initiatives Committee Member (Leping Wang, effective immediately)

ACTION: Effective immediately, the Board approved Leping Wang to serve as Transnational Initiatives Committee Member.

ITEM #6 – REPORT FROM THE AD HOC MEETING FORMAT COMMITTEE FOR THE 2028 ANNUAL MEETING

Committee Chair Tamara G.J. Leech presented the details of the report. The Board reviewed the report and member feedback to create a feasible plan for the 2028 Annual Meeting. Discussion ensued. The Board requested the committee to revisit and refine some of its recommendations before the next Board meeting. In specific, some Board members requested the Ad Hoc Committee reconsider categories for potential locations, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities or Hispanic Serving Institutions.

Sub-Item A. Discussion and Vote on Action Items

Key Recommendations:

- Meeting Type: Preference for a virtual meeting in 2028 due to financial constraints and equity concerns, despite member preference for in-person meetings. Consider a lower registration fee for the virtual meeting. The Board did not consider this recommendation, and the Board already approved on 9/24/24 that the 2028 Annual Meeting will be in person.
- Meeting Duration and Dates: A two-day meeting on August 11-12, 2028, strategically scheduled around ASA's conference dates.
- Location: The recommended location is Minneapolis, MN, with Detroit, MI, as a secondary option if issues arise.

- Number of Sessions: Each division is entitled to a maximum of four sessions, including at most two solo-sponsored sessions.
- Additional Planning Logistics: Discussion points include post-meeting workshops, the number of board meetings, and prioritization of space for a lactation room, comfort zone, and book exhibit.

ITEM #7 – ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE/REQUEST

Sub-Item A. Update on the 2025 Final Site Visit–Chicago

Due to a lack of time, the Board tabled this sub-item.

Sub-Item B. Update on the 2025 Annual Meeting–Chicago

Due to insufficient time, the Board tabled this sub-item.

1. Discussion and Vote on Annual Meeting Accessibility Statement–2025 Proposed Policy from the Accessibility Committee
Due to a lack of time, the Board tabled this item.

Excerpt from 9/24/24 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Sub-Item B. Update on the 2025 Annual Meetings–Chicago

Sub-Sub-Item 1. Discuss and Vote on the Annual Meeting Accessibility Statement

2025 Proposed Policy Meeting Manager Michele Koontz suggested that the following verbiage could be struck from the existing Accessibility Statement. “All SSSP Annual Meeting attendees will be required to follow any COVID 19-related protocols mandated by local authorities at the time of the meeting. SSSP strongly recommends that attendees receive COVID19 vaccination in advance of participation and use masks while we are together in Montréal. As you navigate the meeting space, please do your best to help protect all of our colleagues. SSSP may choose to enact stricter protocols should they be warranted by public health circumstances closer to the meeting time.” Discussion ensued. The Board tabled this discussion and returned the issue to the Accessibility Committee for further consideration. The Board considered the American Public Health Association’s policy as possible example:

“Take reasonable precautions while at the event to prevent the spread of illness including, for example, staying up to date with recommended vaccinations, wearing a mask, minimizing face touching and frequently washing hands.”

“Do not attend in-person if you are ill or had recent exposure to a communicable illness such as COVID-19.”

Sub-Item C. Request Approval from the Board of Directors to Solicit RFPs from Chicago Hotels for the 2027 Annual Meeting–Chicago

Excerpt from 8/8/24 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Part C. Update on the 2025, 2026, and 2027 Annual Meeting Hotel Contracts

The Board discussed signing a multi-year a contract with the Palmer House a Hilton Hotel for 2027 but decided against this at this time.

ACTION: The Board authorized the Executive Officer and the Meeting Manager to solicit RFPs from hotels for the 2027 Annual Meeting in Chicago.

ITEM #8 – REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Sub-Item A. Update on the Ad Hoc Development Committee
Due to a lack of time, the Board tabled this sub-item.

Sub-Item B. Update on the 2024 Membership Survey
Due to a lack of time, the Board tabled this sub-item.

Sub-Item C. Discussion and Vote on SSSP Executive Office Internships for University of West Georgia Students
Due to insufficient time, the Executive Officer will raise this issue electronically.

Sub-Item D. Discussion and Vote on SSSP Use of X Social Media Platform
Due to a lack of time, the Board tabled this sub-item.

ITEM #9 – NEW BUSINESS

Sub-Item A. Schedule and Request Items for the Next Zoom Board Meeting
President Rose M. Brewer suggested the need for the Board to meet during January. The Administrative Officer will contact the Board and ask them to complete a When2Meet Poll to identify the day/time of the January 2025 Board Meeting.

Sub-Item B. Discuss Large Language Models (LLMs) Licensing Opportunities for *Social Problems*
Executive Officer Elroi J. Windsor discussed the issue of OUP's proposal regarding licensing *Social Problems* content for AI training. The Board recognized this is a complex issue.

ACTION: The Board approved OUP's use of *Social Problems* content in AI training deals.

ITEM #10 – ADJOURNMENT OF THE 2024–2025 BOARD

President Rose M. Brewer adjourned the Board Meeting at 12:38 pm with no time remaining.

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

ADDENDUM #1 – RECORD OF BOARD ACTIONS CONDUCTED VIA EMAIL SINCE THE OCTOBER 23, 2024 BOARD MEETING

ACTION: 11/08/24 – The Board approved the 10/23/24 SSSP Board of Directors Meeting minutes (virtual meeting).

ACTION: 11/14/24 – The Board approved adding an additional criterion to the 2025 Erwin O. Smigel Award. The Board also approved an updated application form.

ACTION: 11/25/24 – The Board approved Dr. Jerome Kruse to finish Dr. Jackie Krasas's term on the Board of Directors.

ACTION 11/25/24 – The Board approved Dr. Rahsaan Mahadeo (Accessibility Committee Chair) and Dr. Forough Mohammadi (Graduate Student Board Representative) to serve on the Ad Hoc Virtual Events Planning Committee for the 2024-2025 term.

ACTION: 12/10/24 – The Board approved proposed changes to the Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Fellowship criteria.