

2023–2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ZOOM MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM (EST)

VIRTUAL MEETING CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM

ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

The meeting was called to order by President Mary Bernstein at 1:13 pm.

ITEM #2 – INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Mary Bernstein, President

Rose M. Brewer, President-Elect

David J. Luke, Vice-President-Elect

Glenn W. Muschert, Secretary

Heather E. Dillaway, Treasurer

Kristen M. Budd, Board Member

Barbara Katz Rothman, Board Member

Forough Mohammadi, Board Member, Student Representative

Shiv Issar, Board Member, Student Representative

Giovanna Follo, *Ex-Officio*, Chairperson, Council of the Divisions

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

Annulla Linders, Editor, *Social Problems*

Elroi J. Windsor, Executive Officer

Michele Koontz, Administrative Officer and Meeting Manager

ITEM #3 – ADOPT (REVISE) AGENDA

The Board adopted the revised agenda, adding a discussion of Budget Line 8020 under Item 7.

ITEM #4 – REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Mary Bernstein briefed the Board on activities to set the program for the 2024 Annual Meeting. The President asked Executive Officer Elroi J. Windsor to write an open letter to the membership explaining the annual meeting registration rate increase and other financial changes approved by the 1/11/24 Board of Directors Meeting.

ITEM #5 – SHARE FINAL VOTE OF THE SSSP STATEMENTS-JANUARY 2024 ELECTION

Administrative Officer Michele Koontz reported on the outcome of the January 2024 statements election.

1. Proposed Statement 1: “Statement in Support of Palestine” – Not Passed
2. Proposed Statement 2: “SSSP Calls for an End to the Violence in the Middle East” – Passed
3. General Item: “SSSP should issue a statement on the violence happening in Palestine and Israel.” – Passed

Sub-Item A. Discuss Next Steps

President Mary Bernstein clarified the statements election’s outcome.

ITEM #6 – ANNUAL MEETING UPDATES

Sub-Item A. Update on the 2024 Annual Meeting

Administrative Officer Michele Koontz clarified efforts to organize the sessions for the 2024 Annual Meeting. The conference hotel has plenty of meeting space and will suit our needs.

Sub-Item B. Update on the 2025 Annual Meeting

Executive Officer Elroi J. Windsor clarified developments concerning the location and hotel for the 2025 Annual Meeting.

Sub-Item C. Update on the 2026 Annual Meeting

Administrative Officer Michele Koontz discussed the recent site visit to New York City with Executive Officer Elroi J. Windsor and HelmsBriscoe representatives Marisa Crame, Chris Crame, and Melanie Crame. They looked at two hotel venues and meeting space for the 2026 Annual Meeting.

Sub-Item D. Future of Annual Meetings

Executive Officer Elroi J. Windsor informed the board that the American Sociological Association (ASA) will begin alternating between virtual and in-person meetings, initially with a one virtual/two in-person pattern. They will have 2028 and 2031 virtual meetings, with a plan to do an evaluation after 2028 to consider whether to increase or decrease the frequency after 2031. The SSSP must decide how to organize and structure the 2028 annual meeting. The Board discussed the formation of an ad hoc committee whose members might include a Past President (as Chair), a member of the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee, a member from a large institution, a member from a small institution, and a Student Board Representative.

ACTION: The Board authorized the creation of an ad hoc committee to generate ideas for potential meeting formats for the 2028 annual meeting. President Mary Bernstein will collaborate with the Executive Officer and Administrative Officer to form the committee and submit the names to the Board for approval.

ITEM #7 – UNFINISHED BUSINESS CARRIED OVER FROM 1/11/24 BOARD MEETING

Executive Officer Elroi J. Windsor clarified that part of the discussion concerning monetary awards vs. hotel incentives remains unresolved from the 1/11/24 Board meeting.

Sub-Item A. Needs to be Discussed

Considering the conversation from the 1/11/24 Board meeting, the Board approved the change in budget line 6010, approving changing a cash award to awarding \$500 toward a stay at the conference hotel. What remains unresolved is that the Board needs to identify a subcommittee to examine all monetary awards for 2025 and beyond.

Sub-Item B. Discussion of budget Line 8020

During the 1/11/24 meeting, the Board approved requiring those who receive travel fund awards from the Society to receive up to \$500 to stay at the conference hotel (Lines 8010, 8025, and 8060) starting in 2024. The Board did not decide on Line 8020 and tabled the discussion of this item at the 1/11/24 Board meeting.

ACTION: The Board identified a subcommittee consisting of Rose M. Brewer, Shirley A. Jackson, David G. Embrick, and Michele Koontz to examine all monetary awards [Arlene Kaplan Daniels Paper Award, C. Wright Mills Award, Doris Wilkinson Faculty Leadership Award, Joseph B. Gittler Award, Lee Founders Award, Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Fellowship (travel stipend only)] and change the reward structure to hotel incentives (or other incentives to attend the meetings) for 2025 and beyond. This mandate includes considering budget line 8020 and recommending a resolution to the Board.

ITEM #8 – UNFINISHED BUSINESS CARRIED OVER FROM 8/20/23 BOARD MEETING

Sub-Item A. SSSP's Prospective Partnerships

Executive Officer Elroi J. Windsor reminded the Board of earlier conversations regarding the SSSP's Prospective Partnerships: How to Invest in Applied Contexts (from 4/17/23 Board Meeting #9 Sub-Item A).

Sub-Item B. Discuss the Future of the SSSP

Executive Officer Elroi J. Windsor reminded the Board of the unfinished conversation regarding the previous effort to Discuss the Future of SSSP (from 7/17/23 Board Meeting #6 Part B).

ITEM #9 – REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Executive Officer Elroi J. Windsor mentioned that the SSSP does not have a mission or values statement, nor does the Society have a strategic plan or other articulated direction. Based on principles of the life cycle of non-profit organizations, it might be in the longer-term best interests of the Society to clarify its direction(s) and identity(ies). Discussion ensued.

ACTION: The Board charged the Permanent Organization and Strategic Planning Committee with developing a plan of action for the SSSP, which would be self-reflective of process and aimed at establishing a clear, concise mission statement for the SSSP, establishing a values statement for the SSSP, and drafting a plan of action for the SSSP for the next 3 to 5 years.

ITEM #10 – NEW BUSINESS

Sub-Item A. Ad Hoc Development Committee

Executive Officer Elroi J. Windsor and Treasurer Heather E. Dillaway commented on creating an Ad Hoc Development Committee to identify potential members skilled/experienced in financial matters.

ACTION: The Board empowered Executive Officer Elroi J. Windsor and Treasurer Heather E. Dillaway to solicit suitable nominations and volunteers from among the membership.

Sub-Item B. Schedule and Request Items for the Next Zoom Board Meeting

President Mary Bernstein clarified that the next Board meeting should happen in March 2024 while encouraging Board members to submit items for the agenda.

The Administrative Officer will contact the Board and ask them to complete a When2Meet Poll to identify the day/time of the March 2024 Board Meeting.

ITEM #11 – ADJOURNMENT OF THE 2023–2024 BOARD

President Mary Bernstein adjourned the Board Meeting at 2:56 pm without remaining agenda items.

The next Board of Directors Zoom meeting is scheduled for March 2024; details are TBD.

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

ADDENDUM #1 – RECORD OF BOARD ACTIONS CONDUCTED VIA EMAIL SINCE THE JANUARY 11, 2024
BOARD MEETING

ACTION: 1/22/24 – The Board approved sending for a member vote a statement adapted from the American Anthropological Association’s statement on the violence in Israel and Palestine.

ACTION: 1/22/24 – The Board approved adding a third option for voting on the issuance of statements: "Prefer Not to Vote."

ACTION: 1/28/24 – The Board approved the minutes from the 1/11/24 Zoom Meeting.