

2024–2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 2024
8:00 AM – 12:00 PM (EDT)
LE CENTRE SHERATON MONTRÉAL HOTEL, MONTRÉAL, QUEBEC, CANADA
MEETING CONDUCTED IN PERSON WITH SELECT ATTENDEES VIA ZOOM

ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER

President Rose M. Brewer called the meeting to order at 8:15 am.

ITEM #2 – INTRODUCTIONS

Members Present:

Rose M. Brewer, President
Sarah Jane Brubaker, President-Elect
Mary Bernstein, Past President
David J. Luke, Vice-President *Z
Clare E. B. Cannon, Vice-President-Elect
Glenn W. Muschert, Secretary
Heather E. Dillaway, Treasurer
Tamara G.J. Leech, Board Member
Janelle M. Pham, Board Member
Claire Renzetti, Board Member *Z
Barbara Katz Rothman, Board Member
Cameron T. Whitley, Board Member
Foroogh Mohammadi, Board Member, Student Representative
Rafia Javaid Mallick, Board Member, Student Representative *Z
Shannon K. Carter, *Ex-Officio*, Chairperson, Council of Division Chairs
Giovanna Follo, *Ex-Officio*, Outgoing Chairperson, Council of Divisions and Outgoing Chair,
Nominations Committee
Marlese Durr, Chair, Editorial and Publications Committee *Z
Sarah E. Castillo, Chair, Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee
Anthony A. Peguero, Past Vice-President and Outgoing Chair, Ad Hoc Annual Review Committee
of the Executive Officer
Noreen M. Sugrue, Chair, Ad Hoc Meeting Format Committee for the 2028 Annual Meeting *Z
Rachel E. Schmitz, Editor, *Social Problems*
Kelley J. Sittner, Editor, *Social Problems*
Elroi J. Windsor, Executive Officer
Michele Koontz, Administrative Officer and Meeting Manager

Note, “*Z” indicates virtual participation.

ITEM #3 – ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Board adopted the agenda with the addition of an item under ITEM #16 - NEW BUSINESS

PART E. Request for refunds for walking tours canceled due to inclement weather conditions.

ITEM #4 – REPORT FROM THE EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Committee Chair Marlese Durr presented the Editorial and Publications (E&P) Committee report, noting with appreciation the many people who contributed to the functioning of the E&P Committee. In the previous year, the committee successfully concluded the search for a new editor for *Social Problems*, and the journal was transferred successfully to the stewardship of the new editorial team. The E&P Committee continues oversight of the Justice 21 Committee. Marlese Durr will serve as E&P Committee Chair for the 2024-2025 term, noting the flow of publications and roster of editorial members.

ACTION: The Board approved migrating the *Social Problems* publication to the electronic format only, starting in 2025.

ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Editorial and Publications Committee.

ITEM #5 – PRESENTATION OF THE 2025 PROPOSED BUDGET BY THE BUDGET, FINANCE, AND AUDIT COMMITTEE CHAIR

Committee Chair Sarah E. Castillo presented the 2025 proposed budget, clarifying relevant changes and essential points and highlighting possible future trends. Revenues continue to be down. The Budget, Finance, and Audit (BFA) Committee has trimmed expenses while preserving the vital functions of the SSSP. The budget is as conservative as feasible. There is little to cut without compromising the core functions of the Society. The SSSP has a projected budget shortfall of c. \$184K for 2025. The budget shortfalls are increasing, which presents a looming existential threat to the Society. The BFA will continue to engage in conversations to move toward balancing the budget. Discussion ensued.

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

PART A. 2025 Proposed Budget

Sarah E. Castillo presented the highlights and details of the 2025 proposed budget.

ACTION: The Board approved the 2025 proposed budget.

PART B. Charts that show SSSP's Total Revenues and Expenses over the past ten years (both with and without the Annual Meeting)

PART C. Vote to Submit the Proposed Membership Dues Changes to an Electronic Ballot of the Total Membership

Treasurer Heather E. Dillaway emphasized that increasing membership dues is financially necessary for the organization.

ACTION: The Board approved sending the membership dues changes to an electronic vote for the SSSP membership.

ITEM #6 – REPORT FROM THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Student Board Representative Foroogh Mohamadi presented the report's highlights. The Student Board Representative has been communicating with SSSP student members. Discussion ensued.

ACTION: The Board approved the report from the Board of Directors Student Representatives.

ITEM #7 – REPORT FROM THE OUTGOING CHAIRPERSON OF THE COUNCIL OF THE DIVISIONS

Outgoing Chairperson of the Council of the Divisions Giovanna Follo delivered the report's highlights.

ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Council of the Divisions.

PART A. Follow-up on Two Action Items from the 8-20-23 Board Meeting

At the 8-20-23 Board meeting, the Board charged the Council of Divisions with two issues: First, the Board empowered the Council of Division Chairs to form a task force that will provide more precise parameters for social media. Michael Johnston has agreed to continue this work in cooperation with Shannon K. Carter.

Action: 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).

Second, the Board empowered the Council of Division Chairs to discuss rebranding and consolidation. This issue involved extensive discussion. The Division Chairs are open to reducing sessions per division. Also, there is a potential to consolidate divisions. The Council listed the following divisions as distinctly SSSP. It 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 Council indicated that the following divisions were recommended to merge: Gender and Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities to become Gender and Sexuality. Also, the following mergers are being considered: Labor Studies and Conflict, Social Action, and Change and Family, and Youth, Aging, and the Life Course. The Division Chairs believe understanding the membership overlap can better guide the combination of divisions.

Action: 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 to create a grounded informational foundation. 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.

ACTION: The Board approved that 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 the potential combination of divisions.

ACTION: The Board approved changing the number of sessions per division to two (2) division-sponsored sessions and up to five (5) co-sponsored sessions starting with the 2025 annual meeting.

ACTION: The Board approved, starting with the 2025 annual meeting, sessions will consist of five (5) papers with a discussant OR six (6) papers without a discussant.

PART B. Summary of Division Activities, 2023–2024

PART C. Concerns of the Division

Incoming Chairperson of the Council of Divisions Shannon K. Carter reported on the concerns heard among the Division Chairs.

ITEM #8 – REPORT FROM THE OUTGOING NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR (INCLUDING NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2025 GENERAL ELECTION)

Outgoing Committee Chair Giovanna Follo presented the report. A conversation ensued regarding several issues: the process for appointing candidates for Secretary and Treasurer and selecting members for service on the Nominations Committee. The Board did not consider the slate of nominees for the 2025 General Election.

ACTION: The Board charged the Nominations Committee with submitting a revised and transparent slate of nominees and a report concerning vetting nominees and sharing details of nominees more openly.

ACTION: The Board tabled the report of the Chair of the Nominations Committee.

ITEM #9 – APPOINT TWO MEMBERS TO SERVE FOR THE 2024-2026 TERM ON THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

At the Board's recommendation, this item was tabled and returned to the committee for revision of the nomination process and reconsideration of the nominees.

ITEM #10 – NOMINATE CANDIDATES FOR SECRETARY AND TREASURER

ACTION: The Board approved Glenn W. Muschert and Heather E. Dillaway as Society Secretary and Treasurer nominees, respectively.

ITEM #11 – APPOINT BOARD MEMBER TO SERVE FOR THE 2024-2026 TERM ON THE COMMITTEE ON MENTORSHIP

ACTION: The Board approved Meghna Bhat's appointment to the Committee on Mentorship for the 2024-2026 term.

ITEM #12 – REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES CHAIR

Administrative Officer (AO) Michele Koontz reported on behalf of Committee Chair Loretta Bass, and presented the report's highlights, focusing on identifying candidates for various appointed positions in the Society. The process this past year went smoothly, with acknowledgment of those who played vital roles in the process.

ACTION: The Board approved the Committee on Committees report.

ITEM #13 – DISCUSS ANY BUSINESS MEETING REFERRALS OR MOTIONS

The SSSP Business Meeting on Friday, August 9, 2024, did not forward any motions to the Board.

ITEM #14 – UPDATE/NEXT STEPS: RESOLUTIONS VOTING (INCLUDING DISPOSITION)

Past Vice President and Past Chair of the Committee on Social Action Anthony A. Peguero presented on this year's resolution process. Two (2) resolutions made it through the process and are now in front of the membership for consideration.

ITEM #15 – UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM 2024

President Rose M. Brewer guided the Board to the following issues.

PART A. Unfinished Business Item from 2023-2024 carried over from the 8/8/24 Board Meeting Identify 1-2 Board Members Selected by the Board - Create an Ad-Hoc "Financial Advisor Selection Criteria and Search Committee"

Treasurer Heather E. Dillaway reminded the Board of the details of this issue, including that the Board previously approved an Ad Hoc Committee to search for a financial advisor for the Society, which included the Treasurer, a member of the BFA, and one or two Board members.

ACTION: The Board approved Cameron T. Whitley and David J. Luke to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee to Search for a Society Financial Advisor.

PART B. Unfinished Business Item from 2023-2024 carried over from the 8/9/24 Board Meeting #16. Report from the Ad Hoc Annual Review Committee of the Executive Officer Committee Chair

Outgoing Committee Chair Anthony A. Peguero presented the results of the Annual Review of the Executive Officer (EO). One issue involves assessing and addressing the potential role conflicts of interests with EO while serving multiple service committees and chairs. Also, there is a disparity between EO's job description and reported taxes.

There could be a potential benefit to making the EO a full-time position. In the future, it is recommended that the Annual Review Committee first consult with the AO and the BFA Chair or Treasurer for feedback regarding ongoing working relationships and financial stewardship work in preparation for the review.

ACTION: The Board approved adding to the EO's job description that the EO cannot simultaneously serve as committee chair and an ex-officio or voting committee member on the same committee. Additionally, the EO should not be responsible for identifying the committee chair.

ACTION: The Board approved adding the Vice-President-Elect position to the Ad Hoc Annual Review Committee to evaluate the EO position's workload and time commitment. The Board identified Vice-President-Elect Clare E. B. Cannon to serve in that position.

ACTION: The Board approved the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Annual Review of the Executive Officer.

PART C. Unfinished Business Item from 2023-2024 carried over from the 8/9/24 Board Meeting #18. Report from the Ad Hoc Meeting Format Committee for the 2028 Annual Meeting Chair

The Board did not have quorum, and so postponed discussion of this item.

ITEM #16 – NEW BUSINESS

PART A. Discuss Special Events to Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of SSSP

President Rose M. Brewer discussed the potential for special events to Commemorate the Society's 75th Anniversary. Discussion ensued.

PART B. Requests from Divisions for a Workshop in Chicago

AO Michele Koontz presented the requests on behalf of the Division Chairs.

Item 1. Community Research and Development Division

ACTION: The Board approved the Community Research and Development Division's request for meeting space at the 2025 Annual Meeting.

Item 2. Institutional Ethnography Division

ACTION: The Board approved the Institutional Ethnography Division's request for meeting space at the 2025 Annual Meeting.

Item 3. Teaching Social Problems Division

ACTION: The Board approved the Teaching Social Problems Division's request for meeting space at the 2025 Annual Meeting.

PART C. Discuss the Webinar Proposal from Coriolis

EO Elroi J. Windsor discussed the proposal from Coriolis. Discussion ensued. Elroi withdrew the proposal.

PART D. Request for Board Approval to Create an SSSP Instagram Account

There was a lack of quorum, so the board postponed the discussion of this item.

PART E. Request for refunds for walking tours canceled due to inclement weather conditions

There was a lack of quorum, so the board postponed the discussion of this item.

ITEM #17 – ADJOURNMENT OF THE 2024-2025 BOARD

There being no additional time and a lack of quorum, President Rose M. Brewer adjourned the meeting at 12:18 pm.

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