

To: Jennifer Horan, President SSSA

From: Ad-Hoc ad hoc Committee to review bylaws

Carlos Huerta, Chair, Political Science

Jori Sechrist, Sociology

Steve Sewell, History

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The Ad-Hoc ad hoc Committee to review bylaws pertaining to membership met over the fall 2024 semester to review the association's bylaws, with attention to sections 5 and 8 that deal with membership concerns and to make recommendations for adjustments to these sections. Specifically, we were asked to address representation on the SSSA Council in relation to affiliate membership size and eligibility to serve as SSSA President.

Council Representation

Issue. Currently, there is equal representation on the SSSA Council. There are 11 officers and 8 affiliate representatives. This leads to overrepresentation on the Council because of the large differences in membership among the affiliates. In addition, there are more officers than affiliate representatives. For example, at the 2024 meeting in New Orleans, Sociology had 200 attendees and International Studies, Economics, Psychology, and Social Work all had attendance in the twenties. Anthropology and Criminal Justice had single digit attendance. Affiliate membership is now measured by attendance at the annual meeting.

Recommendation. The ad hoc committee proposes the following changes to the SSSA Council:

- SSSA Council increase from 8 to 15 affiliate representatives (no changes to the 11 officers)
- Affiliates must have at least 10 members, on a 3-year rolling average of primary affiliate attendance at the annual meeting, to qualify for an affiliate representative on the council.
- To qualify for additional representatives, affiliate representatives are distributed proportionally based on a 3-year rolling average of affiliate attendance at the annual meetings.
- We propose phasing in the proportional representation system over 4 years to give affiliates time to increase their membership.
 - 2025 – Pass bylaws
 - 2026 – incremental increase (additional 2 representatives)
 - 2027 – incremental increase (additional 2 representatives)

- 2028 – incremental increase (additional 2 representatives)
- 2029 – Full implementation of proportional representation (additional 1 representative)
- Affiliates decide who their Council representatives are.
- A model for the incremental increase is provided with the supplemental materials. This model demonstrates small affiliates have an opportunity to gain affiliate representation on council and larger affiliates have an opportunity affiliate representation more proportional to their affiliate size.

VP Election

Issue. Is there a minimum affiliate size for an affiliate to be eligible to nominate a Vice President candidate during their rotation year and open year?

Recommendation. We recommend an affiliate comprise at least 7% of the overall SSSA membership for two consecutive years (as measured by primary affiliation of attendees at meetings) to remain in the rotation for nominating a VP candidate. Should an affiliate not meet the 7% threshold, the VP nomination proceeds to the next affiliate in the rotation. For open years, an affiliate must have a 3 year average of 10 members to be eligible to nominate a VP candidate. Any affiliate that has had two consecutive years of 7% of the overall membership is eligible to be added to rotation behind the open seat.