This report was prepared by Michelle Benson, Chair of the SSIP Section

FULL REPORT

ORGANIZATION

Håvard Hegre (PRIO/Uppsala University) ended his term as chair for the SSIP section in March 2015, and Michelle Benson (University at Buffalo, SUNY) took over. Cameron Theis (University of Iowa) ended his three-year term as councilor, and Jacob Kathman (SSIP program chair in 2014) entered the advisory council. Hanne Fjelde (Uppsala University) has been appointed as section program chair for the 2014 meeting. In addition, SSIP has decided to return to the convention of having the past president (Håvard Hegre) serve as an ex-officio member of the leadership. The SSIP leadership for the 2015–2016 period then is:

- Michelle Benson, chair
- Hanne Fjelde, section program chair
- Susan Allen, councilor (University of Mississippi)
- Ursula Daxecker (University of Amsterdam)
- Jacob Kathman, councilor (University at Buffalo)
- Håvard Hegre, ex-officio

ACTIVITIES

Sponsoring and organizing panels at the annual meeting of the Association: In 2015, SSIP sponsored or co-sponsored 44 panels, roundtables and poster sessions. This year the numbers are identical. The 2016 SSIP program was organized by Hanne Fjelde. SSIP is sponsoring or co-sponsoring 43 panels. In addition, SSIP will be co-sponsoring one poster session with the Foreign Policy Analysis and Political Demography Sections. Attendance at SSIP panels in New Orleans was generally good. We anticipate a strong attendance in Atlanta as well.

Dina Zinnes award: The section received eight nominations for the 2016 Dina Zinnes award for the best graduate student paper presented at a panel or poster session sponsored by the SSIP Section or the Convention Theme. The advisory council selected the paper “Information, Connectivity, and Strategic State Repression” by Anita Gohdes, Harvard University as the winner of the award.

Maintaining and enhancing the SSIP website and listserv: The section chair maintains a listserv which is hosted at Rice University. The listserv is utilized to send information to section members about section business. The ISA website does have the updated officer, chair, and program chair information.
Reception: For the fifth time, SSIP will jointly host a reception at the annual meeting in Toronto with the Foreign Policy and Political Demography sections. This year, the SSIP section was responsible for obtaining sponsorships and organizing the joint reception.

Membership and Finances
Membership in SSIP in 2016 is projected to be 340. Membership for 2015 was 283.

The section finances are under control. As of 30 September 2015, the balance is $2,683.37. Last year at this time, the balance was $3,147.37. Since I have become chair, the only deduction from our balance sheet has been a $400 sponsorship of the ISA West meeting. For the coming year, the annual meeting reception (jointly with FPA and PD) and poster section is the most important expense item.