

Society for Socialist Studies

General Assembly Membership Meeting

June 8, 2020 – by Zoom

11 am Pacific, 12 Mountain, 1 pm Central, 2 pm Eastern, 3 pm Atlantic, 3:30 pm Newfoundland

Draft Minutes

1. Radhika welcomes everyone.
 - a. Situates us in conflicts over anti-racist and de-colonizing struggles.
 - b. Explains need for an authorizing resolution in the context of Covid-19
2. Call to Order and Technical Orientation (Megan Aiken)
 - a. Screen sharing
 - b. Open chat
 - c. Participant vote and chat

3. **Resolution authorizing the meeting** under exceptional circumstances (pandemic):

Be it resolved that this meeting, held June 8, 2020 at 1:00pm Central via Zoom, be affirmed as the annual General Assembly Membership Meeting (GAMM, commonly called the Annual General Meeting or AGM) of the Society of Socialist Studies. This resolution specifically authorizes the following changes for this year only: the change of venue, the delay in giving notice of the General Assembly, and the later call for nominations to open positions on the executive.

Moved: Radhika

Passed unanimously.

4. Approval of the Agenda

Passed.

5. Approval of the Draft General Assembly Minutes, 2019

Friendly amendment: Under motion 03, “other guy” was Ian Liuji Tian. Apologies to Ian for missing his name at the time (Jamie Lawson).

Motion 07 of solidarity to Black Canadian Studies Association: explanatory note on follow-up. This motion was superseded by events in consultation with BCSA and other affected scholars. July 2019 Executive meeting referred future solidarity efforts through our conception of the 2020 conference.

Passed

5. Executive Reports

- i. President (Radhika Desai)

We are experiencing a difficult but hopeful time

Present context: pandemic, anti-black racism, fast-moving context, conference cancellation. Our work becomes more urgent.

Critical and positive capacities arising from the crisis:

The necessity and possibility of new forms of social life: a new, non-punitive normal

Our planned conference opened new directions: racial capitalism, anti-colonization; the possibility of a seamless link to next year's conference, in whatever form it takes.

Initially, the Federation suggested an online conference; this faced hurdles:

- 1) Diffusion of energies, grassroots ties, with a virtual conference
- 2) Access problems online
- 3) After work on face-to-face, could not make the shift

Our journal has opened doors to considering papers arising from conference proposal for publication

More virtual elements in our future

Thanked and named Jamie Magnusson, Steve D'Arcy, and rest of conference team for their work

Socialist Studies/Études socialistes – very proud of our open-access, no-charge journal

Posting articles on website has heightened interest in website and in journal

MMS transition (MMS = the online Congress-based membership software)

Gearing up to use this for membership upgrade; we must address our dwindling membership because of Congress cancellation; Radhika appealed to attending members and to others to recommend membership to friends

Donations, higher membership our goals going forward in encouraging membership recruitment and retention.

New proposed position of membership secretary deserves mention. Recent initiatives marked by the legacy of Bill Carroll's much earlier membership drive

Current numbers in sharp decline

Remit of the new position – retention and diversifying membership; deployment of new electronic tools for this.

In addition, chapters and affiliates amendment intended to stimulate federation-wide interest

Simple form on local affiliates

Representation of students and scholar-activists

Last AGM created two student reps in interim; details on

Archives: materials to York in September; no reply

Thanks to executive.

ii. Treasurer's report and Budget

Thanks to executive

The presentation is in two parts: financial statements and budget

Revised presentation of information:

separating the Congress-related material, to recognize the timing of expenditures and revenues is out of synch with the budget cycle;

organize by purposes of the Society – Congress, journal, other Activities, including possibility of a “Freedom School” to connect to activists, students just before but outside Congress activities

Such a workshop definition still in planning: likely on anti-black racism, settler colonialism, continuing last year's cancelled theme to this year.

See printed report, spreadsheet for numbers on financial report; a slight deficit is forecast.

Questions on financial report:

- 1) Some members sought technical answers to where budget documents were online.
- 2) Remember donations are tax deductible; your tax and job situation will affect the best mix of donation and chosen membership plan.

Frank Cunningham: has some ideas about donations, referral to Megan and Cheryl.

- 3) Sam: budget implications from Congress cancellation

Answer: Very limited impact – no revenues, but no expenses; some items carry over.

Radhika adds: we typically make money on Congress. Usually surplus goes to bursaries. Conference tends to break even

Budget:

No Congress items; next year presents a very different picture

She is presenting a budget for the coming conference as well, though many of the required figures are guesstimates.

Cheryl notes the planned Freedom School for THIS fiscal year could still happen up to April.

Solidarity gifts; administrative costs

Status quo budget, though there is room to grow revenues through donations and membership.

One revenue item unlikely to continue is \$1500 for royalties; this is a backlog payment based on our renewal of our US tax relationship.

Questions on budget:

1) What are the royalties are for?

Sandra Rein (Journal editor) – listing older journal articles through EBSCO and others; decline likely in future relationships.

Frank Cunningham: public lending rights when journals in hardcover.

Errol Sharpe: also lending from library

Motion to accept treasurer’s report and adopt budget

Passes

iii. Programme committee report (Jamie Magnusson)

Conference officially postponed rather than fully cancelled

Elaine Coburn has volunteered to be 2021 conference chair and spoke after Jamie M.

Backdrop to 2020 Conference theme:

Shelby McFee was accused of stealing a laptop at 2019 Congress. A white couple, one of whom was attending, made the accusation.

Hailstorm of communications, wide-ranging scholarly support followed this.

University of Western Ontario has its own history of racism: Phillip Rushton

Natitia Masaki (of Women’s Health in Women’s Hands): thanks Eternity Marquez for speaking about her experience at Western.

White frat boys assaults; shut down of black programmes campus radio; Masaki expulsion for Kwame Toure campus visit request (formerly Stokely Carmichael); graduation ceremony.

Akua Benjamin: “Resistance is in our DNA; we never back down”

Based on Natitia’s letter and other influences, Jamie said wanted to back initiatives at UWO and London; “occupy” it with activist scholars on issues of racial capitalism, settler colonialism

Jamie reviewed highlights of the call for papers and the amazing keynote sections.

Organizing Committee:

Punam Khosla, Beverly Bain, Ian Tian, Claire Polster

Onsight Coordinator: Steve D'Arcy

Grad Student Assistants: Noah Adams, Orhun Gunduz

Thanks to them all, an excellent team.

35-40 sessions were definitely in the works; was still hearing from open session organizers when the conference shut down.

Theme on racial capitalism, anti-blackness; Robyn Maynard; unsettling socialism (place-based socialism); final keynote Nandita Sharma; Puna Khosla; Beverly Bain

Some ideas for a freedom school. Social events planned; large grad presence planned;

Looking really wonderful – we will be proud of it; source of several articles for the journal.

Jamie closed thanking the executive.

Elaine Coburn

She had been happy to hear Jamie L Magnusson would do this; the themes were great.

Envisions continuing the themes; will ask for those involved last year to continue.

Will have some questions to resolve. Will get started in July; will convene existing committee plus some others;

We need to think about what we will do if Congress doesn't happen; it seems unlikely next year, in the absence of a vaccine. How to honour priorities set in this suspended conference?

If we started without Congress – multiple panels over longer time; mentoring black students; practical ways of honouring the theme; how do we keep these themes going?

Overall, she foresees what amounts to a joint programme with Jamie.

Radhika offered thanks to Jamie and Elaine

iv. Journal report (Sandra Rein)

Another busy year: moved to rolling publications rather than volume-by-volume; started in January; four peer-reviewed articles to date

The release strategy has also shifted: all material linked on FB and on Society web page.

Reviewer deficit needs attention

Otherwise can publish in rolling manner more easily; Sean Cain, our person for all manner of formatting and online management, likes this better.

Artwork has also enhanced the journal: a simple change – but visual look better now on the webpage

Sadder point – Mel Watkins passed away; Ken Collier and Frank Cunningham initiated a tribute series.

Last tribute now posted from this, probably during this GAMM: Elaine worked with Mel on his campaigns.

Open to future tributes

Some points about renewal:

- 1) Looking for a co-editor – someone offering; Sandra's term will end in 2022; would like to start working together;
- 2) Renewing reviewer database; don't want to lose momentum.
- 3) Thinking about handling a commentary without peer-review. Budding artists? Cartoons?
- 4) Time to think about renewal of editorial board; looking for new members; more creative to bring into society more directly

Sandra drew attention to an impressive increase in journal article downloads, which is a useful metric of the journal's reach:

| <i>Journal Download Data</i> | May 2019 | May 2020 |
|--|----------|------------------------------------|
| Total PDF downloads (since 2014) | 157,191 | 208,137 (50,946 since May 2019) |
| Average Monthly Downloads | 2620 | 4246 |
| Average PDF Download /article | 464 | 563 |
| Total Articles Published | 20 | 20 |
| Download Total of Articles Published June previous year – May current year | 2456 | 2189 |

Sandra also drew attention to the top ten articles in the history of the journal.

A cautionary note: the journal is housed at University of Alberta, and sharp budgetary cuts are coming. Currently there is no news about the online journal system being in jeopardy, but it is important to stress the university supports most of the technical support.

Questions: Please post the report with the full figures.

v) Membership Committee (Bill Carroll)

This is an informal Outreach committee of the executive.

This year a three-stage membership renewal initiative was interrupted when the pandemic hit during the second stage.

- 1) Encourage renewal in December, dovetailed with conference
- 2) Reach out to recruit through allied groups
- 3) Establishing chapters

Online contexts to support chapters; reading groups e.g., Grundrisse group Jamie M. is organizing

Congress cancellation has meant large-scale membership drops.

Chapters can and should engage beyond academe to include activist groups.

Membership secretary intended to lead these efforts of outreach

Questions: Errol Sharpe – Are membership renewals individualized? This forces decision.

Answer: Online MMS system for tracking membership is straightforward; but that personal touch is missing in the messages.

Question: membership numbers? Answer: about 100 this year.

6. Report from Federation of the Humanities and Social Sciences (Gabriel Miller, President and CEO):

Congress 2020 and 2021: some interest in how to serve smaller associations

Statement by Board for Equity

Leslie Critchlow: Solidarity statement for those killed in police violence

This year's Congress: Miller outlined the development of the Congress theme, complementing Radhika Desai and Jamie Magnusson's accounts. BCSA advocacy; discussions with Western and BCSA to revise Western's existing plans; process over past year; growing collaboration and enthusiasm over the theme. Appreciative of SSS programme chair's work. Dedicated all Federation programming to theme.

Cancellation of Congress was hard for member associations, and for Western. Committed to carrying forward the conversation in 2021 and other forums.

How to learn and respond to what happened at UBC 2019. This will inform our work in the future. Replied to four requests of BCSA. By end of summer 2019, the Federation had responded to all four.

- a) Changing the 2020 theme was hardest: Western had been working on their prior vision for some time; Western had an Indigenous history, located on territory of the local Indigenous community; hence, it took sometime to work out how confronting colonialism could also be part of the conversation.
- b) Looking forward to 2021, University of Alberta also northern relations a theme at Alberta, making space for anti-black and anti-Indigenous racisms and de-colonization complementary.
- c) Investigation – Human Rights Commission of BC former member Lindsay Lister. Suspended the white scholar who made the accusation for three years from Congress.
- d) Based on her recommendations, unconscious bias training, and an improved code of conduct: to include both participants *and their companions* in future. The new Federation code of conduct requires review and consent of participants at registration. Encourages all to look at the requirement

On practical grounds, the 2020 cancellation became both necessary and damaging. The idea of a 2020 online alternative raised equity questions; difficult for Federation – funding through Congress, which works on the basis of cost recovery through fees. Lost about \$1 million, but drew on reserves to make up the difference. It is not an existential threat.

The Federation made 2000 full refunds; patience from members gratefully received: Paying refunds over two months allowed to pay staff. By now all refunds should be out; check credit cards; glitches – contact Congress@ideas-idees.ca

Congress 2021

Working on two tracks for 2021 thematically: 1) the combination of equity, diversity, inclusion, and decolonization taken forward; but also 2) how to discuss these issues in relation to Covid-19; accessibility issues related to a virtual format.

Hope that conversations are possible.

Our goal is to ensure Congress will meet your needs: a rich and valuable experience, regardless of format. But we have our eyes open. Naïve to think that a face-to-face conference is a sure thing.

A variety of contingencies:

- 1) Ideally, vaccine arrives and a face-to-face Congress happens, supplemented by online
- 2) Restricted size and type of conference – social distancing, smaller campus presence, less viable gathering
- 3) In-person conference replaced entirely by online format

Good to hear SSS are planning about this also; he hopes SSS will stick with Congress – collective efforts more affordable. Benefits to smaller members flow from Congress membership.

Exploration of virtual options; webinars of instruction for online.

Appreciation for membership in Federation; Dr Desai an actively engaged member; Miller appreciated attending today.

Questions:

- 1) Jamie M sought confirmation that the anti-black racism theme would continue to 2021.

Answer: The Federation supports taking forward everything special done on this theme for Congress 2020; still some conversations needed with more people;

His own view: calls for papers should encourage resubmissions, esp. on that theme. At the same time, hopes the theme of northern relationships can be stimulated. There are overlaps in these themes. Funding for last year's panels to carry forward on the basis of the same speakers as well.

So yes, space to accommodate the excellent work of 2020.

On the wording, regarding decolonization, etc., some explanation is needed. Congress starts with a university bid. Two years out, further development of a tagline occurs, together with a broader description. The theme announced this January was Northern Relations. When cancellation followed, the Federation promised that those conversations carry forward.

Revisiting the theme hasn't happened yet; **direction will come to Associations within the month on handling this.** By fall, a very solid overall approach should be in place. Further conversations needed.

- 2) David ((Huxtable?)): Congress benefits normally from its “informal programme”; what will be done to address the valuable informal and chance meetings between societies?

Answer: a few societies went ahead online this year; this happened last week (first week of June); the result was an interesting learning experience; anything funded as an open event was maintained among the groups.

That spirit about Congress about interdisciplinarity opening to others is part of anything we do, including the informal contacts. A lot of work needed on this, and new experiences are planned in the coming months.

- 3) Jamie M. asking in ongoing preparations; further discussions with BCSA; what is the process? Huge uprising ongoing; solidarity with Indigenous people

Answer: BCSA meets June 18; envisions bringing people together, led by Black and Indigenous scholars on equity and diversity at Congress.

Under their leadership, membership consultations: a survey, then more substantive consultations with folks interested in participating.

Federation needs knowledge of the community; by September, needs co-ownership and buy-in: membership must be engaged.

Two key components: a group of collaborating scholars; then wider consultations.

- 4) Cheryl Hewitt: SSS is not alone in cross-cutting disciplinary focus – important to maintain that element

Answer: Federation grew in consciousness; but ongoing demonstration of listening important.

- 5) Elaine Coburn: always some scepticism. Resources are required, long-term (notice this the UN decade on African diaspora); diversifying leadership; funding a stated scholarship support for attendance; importance for funding for this; going beyond one chapter in a book. Costly for the federation; increasingly difficult because austerity is coming.

Reply: 2020 that theme very much the focus; heavy investment relative to previous years

Going forward – in honouring the 2020 commitment, the question is how to change Congress and the Federation permanently: where do additional investments go? All black and all Indigenous series has a high price-tag for Congress: where should those dollars go? Could go to speaker fees or could go to student grants (can do both, but getting the balance right).

- 6) Alan Freeman: draw a relationship between these themes in Canada and what Canada does abroad. Canadian liberalism doesn't link to patterns abroad. Canada's involvement in invading Venezuela. Important in academic environment to challenge government actions.

Reply: A fund helps to bring in international speakers.

Alan: Adds that support for Venezuelan free travel would include insisting on visa for travel.

- 7) Errol Sharpe: Important to see all these problems as rooted deeply in the history of Canada – not just yesterday's development. Clearing the plains is just one, important aspect of
Need to recognize historical depth.

Radhika thanks Gabriel for joining us today.

7. Constitutional Amendments

General Rationale: Several amendments are presented below. Changes to the General Assembly process and timing are proposed to enable virtual meetings, or hybrid virtual+face-to-face meetings, and to enable meetings with appropriate preparation times in the event our conference is cancelled or delayed again. We also propose an expanded Executive to build, expand and diversify membership and to expand representation among student/youth and scholar-activists. In the event that the new membership composition passes, we will hold elections for the new positions before the close of the meeting. The current text of the constitution, updated to 2019, is online at <http://socialiststudies.ca/about/constitution/>.

Note: Yellow highlights signify inserted text. Strike-through text signifies deleted text.

Motion 1: that Section 5: General Assembly be amended as follows:

5c) The General Assembly will meet in a Membership Meeting, normally at our Annual Conference, or if an Annual Conference does not convene, at any Society event no later than June 30. Meetings will be conducted as a hybrid of online/in-person or entirely online as circumstances permit or require. ~~at each Congress of Humanities and Social Sciences in which the Society for Socialist Studies participates.~~ The quorum consists of those members in good standing who are present. The Membership Meeting shall review the operations of the previous membership year, plan for the current year, hold elections as appropriate, and approve a budget for the current year.

5d: All members in good standing in attendance will have voting rights at Membership meetings. ~~be issued a voting card at the General Assembly Membership Meeting.~~

Passed

Motion 2: that Section 6a and 6d be amended as follows:

6a) The day-to-day conduct of the Society is in the hands of the Executive, consisting of the following officers: President, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, three (3) Members-at-Large, two (2) student and youth representatives, and two (2) scholar-activist representatives. The Journal Editor and Conference Committee Chair or nominee will be *ex-officio* members of the Executive.

6d) The President, Secretary, Membership Secretary, and Members-at-large, student and youth representatives, and scholar-activists are elected for two (2) year terms. The Treasurer is elected for a three (3) year term.

Passes

Motion 3: that Section 6c be amended as follows:

6c) The Executive will issue a call for nominations thirty (30) days before the General Assembly Membership Meeting by March 31 on years on years when positions will be vacated. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the General Assembly Membership Meeting. A member of the Executive not seeking re-election will oversee the elections. The election of all positions will be conducted by secret ballot by members in attendance at the General Assembly Membership meeting unless uncontested.

Passes

Motion 4: that Section 7: Duties of the Executive be amended as follows:

7c) The Secretary shall record proceedings and resolutions of all meetings of the Society; receive and answer letters addressed to the Society; issue all notices of meetings; maintain the website; keep a register of the members; perform all duties pertaining to the office of Secretary.

7d) The Membership Secretary shall convene and chair a committee, open to all members in good standing and appointed by the Executive, tasked with maintaining and updating the membership list; retaining, expanding and diversifying membership; and working to stabilise and increase membership and donation revenues. The Membership Secretary and sub-committee will ensure compliance with all relevant privacy legislation and protection of members' data. The Membership Secretary will report to the Executive on the activities of the sub-committee and provide an annual report to the General Assembly Membership meeting.

7e) The Treasurer shall report on the condition of the treasury at all meetings of the Society; collect membership fees, donations and other incoming funds; keep the financial records; make payments on behalf of the Society; prepare a budget for submission to the Annual Membership Meeting; authorize expenses not exceeding 120% of the respective budgeted amount; request Executive approval for expenses exceeding this amount.

7f) Members at Large, student and youth representatives, and scholar-activist representatives shall attend executive meetings regularly, contribute to its functions of deliberation and oversight and take up special tasks required for the working and advancement of the Society by mutual agreement with the rest of the Executive.

Passes

Motion 5: that Section 4: Local chapters be re-written as follows:

Section 4. CHAPTERS AND AFFILIATES

- a) The Society welcomes the formation of chapters and the affiliation of existing organizations to advance its purposes of scholarship and social practice.
- b) Any number of members may form a chapter. The Chapter will be recognized if it includes a minimum of five members, subject to approval of its application by the Executive.
- c) An existing organization may affiliate to the Society if it include a minimum of five members, subject to approval of its application by the Executive
- b) The activities of Chapters and Affiliates shall be compatible with the purpose of the Society for Socialist Studies as described in 2a.
- c) Subject to 4b, Chapters and Affiliates may have an internal structure as may be considered appropriate for their activities.
- d) The recognition of Chapters and Affiliates may be withdrawn by the Executive for activities not conducive to the interests of the Society.
- e) The Society will aid the coordination of Chapter and Affiliate activities, with itself and among them.

Discussion:

Note to GAMM participants for discussion: Separate from a constitutional amendment, the Executive proposes to devise a form along roughly the following lines, to be completed and submitted to the Executive by chapters or affiliates in formation:

PROPOSED CHAPTERS AND AFFILIATES APPLICATION FORM

Chapters and Affiliates seeking recognition from the society must fill out the following details and submit the form to the Executive for approval:

1. Name of Organization seeking to become Chapter or Affiliate
2. Status sought: Chapter or Affiliate
3. Officers
4. Date of formation
5. Purposes
6. Rationale for becoming Chapter or Affiliate
7. Any conflict of interest with SSS and its purposes.
8. Proposed activities as Chapter or Affiliate for the next 2 years
9. Proposed activities as Chapter or Affiliate in the longer term.
10. Names of SSS Members in the Chapter or Affiliate
11. Name of SSS Liaison

Frank: Toronto, Thunder Bay, Ottawa, London chapters worked well back in the days. Main functions - workshops, mini-conferences: they were easiest to do. Activities: should not have to get permissions from Executive for particular activities. Local chapters should normally be responsible for funding and arranging own events.

Sam: note spelling mistake – “Organization”, not “organizations”. Corrected in present minutes

Cheryl: locals generate activity, but could also generate revenue.

Alan mentions a Parliamentary petition to Trudeau to support lifting sanctions during Covid-19 – the petition had support from NDP MPs, a first. Worthy of attention Will provide a link on chat line for the meeting.

Motion 5 passes

Form for the chapter application - discussion:

Bill Carroll: no suggestions to change what is on the form. However, could we think of good-fit groups? outreach to them would be worth thinking about.

Suggestions from the floor:

- *Canadian Dimension*
- St. John's Social Justice Co-op (Sarah Bartlett)
- *Studies in Political Economy*
- Venezuelan Peace Committee
- *Spring* (the journal)
- *Fight Back* – run Marxist.ca; mainly Trotskyite

Elaine Coburn asked that we pause to award the Book Prize, as Dr Waldron had been waiting a long time. Item 10 was accordingly moved up in the programme, and re-numbered as 8.

8. Book Prize Award Presentation (Elaine Coburn for the Committee)

Elaine: Thanks to the committee – Meg Luxton, Megan Aiken, Ian Liuujia Tian, Elaine Coburn ((get names))

She recalled the award is named for Errol Sharpe, attending this meeting, founder of Fernwood Books, and a tireless presence in Canadian left publishing.

Recalls Covid-19 – unequal impacts; violent dispossession; anti-black violence: “race is a story”

Ingrid Waldron – describes and analyzes systematic racism against Indigenous and black peoples. She debunks the myth that “we are all in this together” – that unity is something to be built from resistance and transformation. Her award-winning book addresses environmental racism in particular, against both Indigenous and Black people. It does so both as a case study

and as a theoretical contribution on the intersection of settler colonialism, white and male supremacy, neoliberal capitalism, and other vectors of oppression.

Ingrid Waldron spoke: This was the focus of her doctoral and post-doctoral work – interesting this has become her work. It was community-based research; done with a different kind of lens – intersections of race, gender, class. There is little done on this. She thanks Cheryl Teelucksingh; Robert Bullard; many Canadian scholars and others as influences. Not enough is done on capitalism and racism.

Thanks to Fernwood; Errol asked her to write; thanks to Nancy Mallett; Beverly Roche; willingness of people on the ground to talk about this.

Thanks to research staff, NGOs; lots of intersectoral work and activists; learning on environmental science.

9. Executive nominations from the Floor

No nominations came from the floor.

10. Elections to the Executive (Sandra Rein presiding)

Secret balloting was available, but **the following slate passed by acclamation.**

i. President

Radhika Desai

ii. Members at large – 3 positions

Jamie Magnusson

William Carroll

iii. (Membership secretary if approved – 1 position)

Megan Aikin

iv. (Student and youth representatives if approved – 2 positions)

Ian Liujia Tian

Will Kujala

v. (Scholar-activist representatives if approved – 2 positions)

David Huxtable

Sabra Rezaei

Frank Cunningham – suggested to new executive, especially student representatives: student essay prize (graduate and undergraduate), using the same criteria as the book prize. A new committee would be needed for this, alongside the book prize committee.

Radhika – echoes this; compare the progressive economics forum.

11. Motion Revising the Mandate and Call for Submissions for the Book Prize Committee (Elaine Coburn; Megan Aiken for Book Prize Committee)

Moved: 1) That the GAMM of the Society for Socialist Studies revise the mandate and the call for submission of the Errol Sharpe Book Prize committee as follows, in order to reflect the evolving character of left scholarship and activism:

“As a tribute to the robust scholarship undertaken by its members and to recognize their publication achievements, the Society for Socialist Studies awards an annual book prize for a significant contribution to socialist research in Canada. We solicit nominations of books that advance the general aims of the Society for Socialist Studies, which currently are "to facilitate and encourage research and analysis with an emphasis on socialist, feminist, anti-racist and ecological points of view". For the Errol Sharpe book prize, we understand this to include, as well, scholarship committed to transformative social change involving such topics as Indigenous issues and queer and disability perspectives. Books should go beyond just historical or biographical accounts and celebrations of achievements to include critical political, economic, and/or cultural analyses and indicate paths of activism relevant today to Canada and beyond .

Those nominating a book for the Errol Sharpe prize should describe, in two or three paragraphs, how it meets the criteria.”

Discussion:

Megan Aiken explained this concerned submissions to the committee that were progressive but not encompassed by the existing mandate of the committee.

A broader discussion followed about the relationship of the prize to Canada: by Canadians or about Canada; referral to the book prize committee.

Passed

12. Discussion: Congress 2021 in Edmonton (Elaine) **Deferred**

13. Discussion: Role of Socialists and the Society for Socialist Studies amid the Pandemic, and Anti-Racist and Anti-Colonial Resistance. **Deferred**

14. Adjournment