



SOCIETY FOR CINEMA & MEDIA STUDIES

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Dear SCMS Members,

As you are all aware, increasing numbers of post-PhD academics are precariously employed – working in contingent, adjunct, part-time, or non tenure-track positions. Given trends across the country, and indeed across the globe, their number is likely to increase. SCMS is aware that among our membership a significant portion are in precarious positions. We understand the difficult working and funding conditions that these members face when attending the conference, renewing membership, and otherwise participating in SCMS; and we are grateful that they have continued to join and have shared their experiences with us. The SCMS Board tries to be aware of the concerns of precarious faculty when deciding things related to membership, the conference or other matters. However, Board membership has been largely reserved for those with tenure. While this was intended to ensure that Board duties did not interfere with one's tenure trajectory, we recognize that while the tenure track is a dominant ideal, it is not lived reality for many. As a scholarly society we must consider the working conditions and experience of all our members and ensure that all voices are heard.

The Board would like to thank the SCMS members who formed the Precarious Labor Task Force and gathered in Toronto to advocate for greater visibility and wrote an eloquent statement arguing for a “seat at the table” on the Board. With their help and guidance, and to ensure that the concerns and needs of precarious laborers are fully represented, the Board voted unanimously to allocate one of six at-large Board seats to a member employed in a contingent, adjunct, part-time, or non tenure-track position. This will be a regular Board seat with the same duties and expectations of any Board member, in accordance with our by-laws. The candidate will be voted on by the entire SCMS membership.

We are writing to alert you to this change, which will be effective for our upcoming February 2019 election, when we will have two at-large board seats open, one of which will be designated for precarious labor. We ask you to send suggestions (including yourself) for possible candidates to the home office, to be forwarded to the Nominating Committee for review and consideration in accordance with the by-laws. These individuals should be current SCMS members; should have completed graduate school; and should be employed in contingent, adjunct, part-time, or non- tenure-track positions. Your suggestion should indicate the person's name, research/teaching interests, and job status (e.g. an adjunct at X University, teaching at X and Y community colleges, working outside academia, etc.). While we expect candidates to be in precarious positions at the point of being recommended for nomination, we recognize that someone might be elected while precarious, and then find a full time job (which would be great news).

As always, you can feel free to send names and bios for other open Board positions, including the President-Elect and the other open at-large Board seat for consideration by the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee will consider all names submitted in an advisory capacity. The Nominating Committee will then present a slate of ranked candidates for the Board to review and the Board will determine the final candidates.

You may send any suggestions for the Nominating Committee to scms-office@ou.edu

In addition, the Board voted unanimously to support plans to create an organization for precarious labor analogous to the Graduate Student Organization (GSO). This organization, tentatively titled the Precarious Labor Organization (PLO) is in early stages of development. Website Content Manager Aviva Dove-Viebahn has already set up a preliminary webpage on the SCMS site: <http://www.cmstudies.org/group/PLO> This webpage includes a draft mission statement. Members can

use the site to discuss and vote on the mission statement and organization name, and plan a meeting for the 2019 SCMS conference in Seattle.

If you have questions about this new initiative, or would like more information about the duties of a Board member, you can email me. The Board liaison for the Precarious Labor group is Miriam Petty and the liaison for the Nominating Committee is Michael Curtin. Both can be reached via the SCMS home office.

All the best,

Pamela Robertson Wojcik
President, SCMS