
Western Social Science Executive Council Minutes April 2, 2014 Albuquerque, NM**Members in attendance**

Michèle Companion
Mary Jo Tippeconnic Fox
Lynda Dickson
Barbara Bonnekesson
Kristina Lybecker
Tom Isern
Geoffrey Hale
Ross Burkhart
Leslie Alm
Scott Carson
Reynold Nesiba
Prabha Unnithan
James Linn
Theodore Ransaw
Kate Herke
Larry Gould

Members not present

Heather Nicol

Les Alm called the meeting to order, 7:58 AM**Larry Gould, 8am**

The Vice President/Secretary of WSSA must take accurate notes to meet tax guidelines and provide a record of the meeting that is acceptable for placement on website.

Adrian Alder, Yuma Investment Group Presentation, 8:05 AM

Adrian presented an overview of the Yuma Investment Group, which is associated with LPL Financial Group, one of the largest financial groups in the U.S. WSSA's investment portfolio is approximately \$180,000. Adrian recommends that WSSA craft an investment policy statement (IPS) that he can use to provide long-term investment services. Reynold Nesiba (chair of WSSA's financial subcommittee; other members are Kristina Lybecker and Scott Carson) asked what other non-profit companies Yuma works with at this time. Adrian provided that information and added he is happy to share information with any one that is authorized by the board to receive that information.

Reynold Nesiba, 9 AM

Reynold supported the crafting of an investment policy statement for WSSA. He also stated that he is concerned with the low rate of return from last year and that 1/3 of our portfolio is in property/real estate. Reynold suggested that we consider a strategy/process where an investment company can compete for WSSA's business.

Larry supported the crafting of an official policy statement. This policy statement will direct decisions that will be used by the organization and serve as guidelines for incoming/outgoing council/committee members. One-third of our board changes every year. The committee discussed looking at other examples to serve as useful models to help inform our decisions.

MOTION

Tom Isern made a motion that the finance subcommittee draft an investment policy statement to be distributed to the board by June 1, 2014, for purposes of discussion and adoption by email ballot. The motion was seconded by Prabha Unnithan. Les called for a vote and motion passed with no dissenting votes. Geoffrey Hale will be available to consult with the committee.

Larry Gould, 9:20 AM

Larry commended our previous web designers (including Chris Hiryack) and outlined his reasoning for needing a new website.

Matt Molenaar, New website presentation 9:30 AM

Matt took the board members through a tour of the new website, including a brief demonstration of how easily changes can be made. Highlights included easier navigation, identifiable entry points, more Google friendly phrases, and easy edits in real time.

10:30 Break

Les called the meeting back to order, 10:47 AM

Prabha Unnithan, conference update, 10:50 AM

Prabha recommended that we pay close attention to submission deadlines in regards to printing deadlines for the conference program. Additionally, conference paper submissions should be sent to section coordinators directly instead of to the program coordinator. This refined process can be supported by the new website. Prabha also noted that in Albuquerque (and from now on) all presentation rooms will have an LCD projector.

Prabha stated that the Philosophy section has low submissions and may need to be revitalized. Barbara Bonnekesson mentioned that she may be able to help. Scott Carson suggested Philosophy may need to be combined with another section. Les mentioned that Philosophy

departments may not be interested in presenting at a social science conference. Scott suggested that the History section may be interested in combining.

Prabha noted that local institution participation is up and advocated for continued pre-conference visit support. Prabha also reminded the committee that current board members can use the official conference program to highlight their departments. Contact Heather Albanesi (incoming president-elect and program director for Portland) to take advantage of this offer.

It was recommended by Prabha that there should be ONE primary contact for all sections so that there is less confusion in submitting proposals and getting other pertinent information out. This may be supported by the updated website.

Larry Gould 11:20 AM

Larry advised that we need to maintain our minimum room guarantee (our minimum guest pick-up for the hotel). There needs to be a better balance between guest room use versus our breakout room usage. Our conference cancellation rate is about twice as much as similar conferences. Larry reported that many people are waiting until the last minute to register for the hotel; that this year we went from 76 percent to 91 percent of our required hotel rooms within the last seven days prior to the conference.

We are doing a better job of having three or more papers in each of our sessions; however, we need to remind section coordinators that two-paper panels make scheduling very difficult.

11:45 Lunch break

Les called the meeting back to order 12:35 PM

Kate Herke 12:35 PM

Kate provided a current conference update. Registration numbers look good and should reach over 700. Certificates of attendance will now be handled by the section coordinators. Section coordinators are best suited to verify actual paper/panel presentations. All registration receipts will continue to have a uniform format that does not include registrant's address. All receipts will be electronic, except for those few pre-registrations which are mailed in.

Tom Isern 12:53 PM

Tom will create press releases and update the WSSA Newsletter regarding the New Scholar Award, President's Book Award, and journal awards. Kate suggested that we think about changing the name of the President's Luncheon to the President's Luncheon and Award Ceremony; the Council approved. We gave a total of \$8,450 in direct awards this year.

Ted Ransaw 1:15 PM

Ted stated that many of the student paper submission problems have been solved. We will have a listing on the submission cover sheet that indicates whether it is a graduate or undergraduate student paper submission. Multiple author submissions will receive a single amount of money to be shared by all authors. The John Wicks Dissertation Award submissions will include institution affiliation. The Dean's local participation grant is provided for free registration based on submission of a list of 5 students from the Deans of the respective schools/universities in the area surrounding the conference site. Larry suggested we think about eliminating room accommodations from all awards, because of the logistical problems involved, and increasing the award amount for our awards, to compensate. It was agreed that Larry would put together a summary of what we now have and present any changes to the board for discussion and a formal vote on Saturday.

Ross Burkhart 1:26 PM

Ross asked for guidance on how to proceed on the search for a Book Review Editor. It was decided that he should send out the advertisement both internally (to the Executive Committee) and externally (to all possible outlets as Ross deems appropriate).

Scott Carson SSJ Update 1:31 PM

SSJ had a 15% acceptance rate last year. We will probably have more than 400 submissions this year. Special issues will be more thematic. Elsevier may not be advertising as much as we would like. There have been no new updates on the open access issue from Elsevier. The Journal impact numbers are up.

Prabha Unnithan UTAR and ICBSSR Update 1:57 PM

At a presentation about publishing in social science journals, UTAR and ICBSSR are sponsoring a conference and are requesting social science conference papers for August 14th. They are asking for reviewers for conference paper submissions. Prabha will email section coordinators about the possibility of providing such reviewers.

Gary Linn Recruitment and Retention Update 1:52 PM

Gary reported that paper submissions are up from last year. Largest gains are ABS, Canadian Studies, Economics, Latin American Studies, Mass Communications and Women's and Gender Studies.

Larry Gould New Scholar Award Discussion 2:14 PM

Larry suggested that the council revisit the idea for a New Scholar Award, similar to the current Immediate Past-President's New Scholar Award, for the President, and the President-Elect.. It was decided to discuss this further on Saturday.

Larry Gould and Scott Carson Discussion of New Idea 2:19 PM

Larry and Scott suggested that it may be time to look at possibly starting another journal or book series to supplement what SSJ already does. Research will have to be completed on how this would work. Further discussion is to be held at the September meeting.

Meeting adjourned (to be continued on Saturday April 5) 2:31 PM

Western Social Science Executive Council Minutes (continued) April 5, 2014

Members in attendance

Michèle Companion
 Mary Jo Tippeconnic Fox
 Lynda Dickson
 Barbara Bonnekesson
 Kristina Lybecker
 Tom Isern
 Geoffery Hale
 Ross Burkhart
 Leslie Alm
 Scott Carson
 Reynold Nesiba
 Prabha Unnithan
 Theodore Ransaw
 Kate Herke
 Larry Gould
 Tony Amato (incoming for 2014-2015)
 Jesus Ruiz (incoming for 2014-2015)
 Christina Medina (incoming for 2014-2015)

Members not present

Heather Nicole
 James Linn

Les Alm called the meeting to order 7:58 AM Larry Gould Budget Update 8 AM

Larry presented the Financial Statement and Review of the annual business meeting.

Larry proposed that we increase the conference fees by \$10 for regular members and \$5 for retirees and students to cover the increasing A/V fees at hotels. We have not had an increase in fees for nine years.

MOTION

Reynold Nesiba *made a motion that we increase the conference fees by \$10 for regular members and \$5 for students and retired members. The motion was seconded by Geoffrey Hale. Les called for a vote and motion passed with no dissenting votes.*

Larry reminded the council that we have conference and officers' insurance.

The fall council meeting is scheduled in Portland for September 25-27.

Future conference sites were discussed with the tentative schedule being: 2015 Portland; 2016 Reno; 2017 San Francisco; 2018 San Antonio; 2019 San Diego. Larry reported that he met with the Association of Borderlands Studies and that they would like to discuss the possibility of holding a meeting in El Paso, Texas; this would have to be a joint effort with a lot of complexities but something we should consider.

Kate Herke WSSA Newsletter 9:43 AM

The spring newsletter should be out soon. Kate is revamping and updating it with most of the submitted material to be used. Work has started on the fall newsletter. New Council members were asked to submit a small piece highlighting their work as an official announcement will be put in the newsletter regarding the spring election results. Everyone was encouraged to make submissions for the fall newsletter with the due date being August 1 (and drop-dead date August 30).

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Break 10:15 AM

Larry Gould Student competition 10:25 AM

Larry led a discussion of the possibility of increasing award amounts.

MOTION

Barbara Bonnekeson *made a motion that we create President and President-Elect awards to match current (Immediate) Past-President's New Scholar Award and that we increase the amounts of these awards as well as of the Larry Gould Best Article, Past Presidents' Best Book, and student paper competition awards to \$800, with the student poster award remaining at \$250 and the student paper honorable mention awards increasing to \$400. It was also stipulated that the poster session/awards be for students only and that the new*

scholar awards be for faculty in their first through fifth year as a faculty member. The motion was seconded by Kristina Lybecker. Les called for a vote and the motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Larry highlighted the importance of cultivating the next generation of social scientists. WSSA will continue awarding local participation grants whereby Deans can nominate up to 5 students to receive free registration. These nominations should be sent to Kate by March 1st. For the time being, there is no limit on the number of institutions who can apply for these local grants.

Travel awards may be granted to students traveling more than 250 miles to the conference. Submissions must include a budget narrative and a one paragraph statement of interest/need. Preference will be given to students whose papers have been accepted to a panel. Travel awards will remain at 10 awardees.

Prabha Unnithan Conference Wrap up 11:27 AM

Overall our section coordinators do a great job. We need continue to encourage communication between section coordinators and participants to get information out in a timely manner. The hotel staff in Albuquerque was magnificent. Abstracts will soon be put on our new website.

Les gave concluding remarks 11:48 AM

MOTION

Reynold Nesiba made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Michele Companion. Les called for a vote and motion passed with no dissenting votes.