

WSSA Meeting, Saturday, April 15, 2009

Phradea opened the meeting at 8:25 a.m. and began with discussion of the agenda.

Kudos: Phadrea congratulated Jack for his great work this year. Larry – for his organization and planning. Larry has paved a lot of road for us between our conference and Hyatt. His relations with hotel staff and understanding of management has left us with few worries. Kate – for her organization of registration, all the updating and for her kindness during this process.

Larry's report: Credit cards have made our lives easier, Kate can cut and paste for the database. We have 507 pre-registered, 257 staying in the hotel. Total: 716 guest nights. Because of Jack's efforts, we have a lot coming from UNM. But we also have people staying elsewhere. Maybe we need a survey about how people make decisions on hotels. Is it funding from the university and people don't know if they are getting funded, so they cannot make registration in advance? If this is the case, then this could be a negotiating factor for the next time. The Hyatt has provided us with a lot of history that will guide our decisions on hotels. There have been the usual eccentricities that have kept us all entertained, usually from non-academics. Four decided not to come, since they weren't being paid to be in Albuquerque (????)

The hauling of stuff for the conference has been arduous. Larry won't ship critical materials. On Tuesday, we are putting together packets, stuffing them, putting labels on them, etc. What this means: We need help on Tuesdays to get all the packets and such set up. Everything must be done by 2pm on Tuesday so that Kate can train students (training takes about 3 hours). The flip side: this will save us some money. We have extra supplies, reams of paper – we end up with excess and maybe we can save some money. President and President-elect should be at the site on Tuesday to get a feel for the hotel and such. Kate stated that students are having time conflicts. Part of the problem was that 6 of the students had planned to come back, but only one managed to actually make it due to various time constraints. Only two students answered the call for the job. They get \$35 for a half day, a shared room paid for and lunch. Larry stated that the students bring in fresh blood but are so much busier than we were at their age. Phadrea stated that maybe we should advertise to the students who do come that there are volunteer opportunities with WSSA. Larry stated that we need to hit Reno colleges hard about the opportunities. Airline tickets are very expensive. Jack stated that maybe we can tie in the jobs with the paper competition advertising. Chris mentioned that in Reno there is a lot of student involvement in local conferences in Reno (Hydrology). Gary suggested that we could give them a booth to advertise their own programs. Chris offered to make some connections with the hydrology students at UN-R. He will make some phone calls and see if some of the professors there can make connections with the students.

Larry: We need to recycle the plastic badge holders, not only for costs but also to be environmentally friendly. A box of 100 cost about \$70. Registration will be on the pavilion level, second level.

Jack's report: Session distribution: we have 88 sessions – we have 92 with the student paper sessions. Saturday we have 52 sessions. The section coordinators will be thanked profusely and have been very cooperative. The drops are not bad – many dropped because of funding or family emergencies. We had a rise in the number of UNM student involvement. There is a significant rise in new attendance. Anthropology has no section coordinator. The section coordinator of Political Science resigned and Jack took over the job for a while. Gil wondered if we could assign section coordinators – usually the sections themselves do that. Larry said that we need to take more control over section coordinators – some of them have been doing this for years and are not doing the job properly. Jack suggested that we get some information on possible coordinators and questioned whether we needed to get more involved in this section coordinator situation. He distributed 3 CVs of possible coordinators for Anthro and Poli Sci coordinator positions. Larry mentioned that he went through previous programs and saw that we had 3-4 times more advertising in our programs – advertising needs to be promoted more so that program printing can be financed. Poli Sci is not organized enough to select a coordinator, Women Studies, Criminal Justice and Indian Studies are well-organized. We don't want to rule them, but we need to see where various sections need the Council's help.

Kate's report: Regarding the survey information (What prompted you to come to our conference or join the organization?) The largest: Info provided by Dept. Chair, Dean, Provost, etc. "OTHER" – many did not list a how or why. We do not seem to be getting much return from our written material but email seems to be doing us well. The main thing is to talk up the organization. Larry said that WSSA has to be a good host – good food, good interaction, the highest level of performance possible. This helps positive information to travel by word of mouth. Phadrea reiterated our role: we need to meet new people at the conference, people that we do not know, and greet them. This will increase our personal conversation next year. Jack said we also need to make sure students feel welcome. We will have a suggestion box this year. We don't want to keep rehashing old ideas. Gary: we should link our information with other organizations. We can also reach out to some international members. Jeff: there is now another Indian organization that may compete with us (May indigenous studies conference). But Jeff will continue to put the word out. Facebook is also a great possibility – so many students are using Facebook for their email. Doug: the timing of the WSSA conference is always good for the Canadians. The Canadian Studies conference will be in San Diego this year and it would be a good opportunity to call out to Canadians for papers to our conference. Larry: the more effective the electronic communication, the more people we catch for WSSA. Phadrea: if we can get some officers invited to some of these organizations, we can represent WSSA there. Larry: we need to get into this sort of marketing more. The international contact is not as fruitful. But if some of the WSSA officers can attend

conferences elsewhere and represent us, then WSSA should pay for their attendance at these conferences. For marketing to other associations, we need to get out there. If council members would give Larry the name and address of another newsletter editor of another association, WSSA will buy an ad in their newsletter. But these ads need to be sent out quite early to make the deadlines. Larry doesn't mind making contacts, but needs to know with WHOM he needs to make contacts.

Kate on the Newsletter: Very little proofreading needed for the newsletter. Submissions were efficiently handled. Our timing getting it out was longer than it should have been, but this was due to situations beyond peoples' control. But we need to hold to the earlier submission date that we decided on last year. We almost did not get the information on new officers because the voting deadline was close to the newsletter deadline. Larry said that this is an easy fix: we can set the due- date for election ballot returns for Jan. 15 or so. Paper competition: do we need to move the date of submissions to an earlier time? We have moved from 4 to 2 newsletters – there wasn't enough news to put in 4 newsletters. When we talk about the WSSA, we talk about a benefit being the newsletter. We are trying to get good and meaty news into the newsletter. The feature article this time was on ABS, an article on diversity. Newsletter assignments need to be more broad and general. Maybe if one of the section coordinators could be involved. Maybe the feature article to be something that is NOT WSSA. We don't want to get filler. Kate would like to get someone to volunteer to do a good article. Something useful, entertaining. For letters, maybe a paragraph or a few sentences for Letters to the Editor. Comments, suggestions, etc. for the WSSA, about the conference. Jeff asked about the length on feature article. Kate stated it would be about 2 pages, Chris said he had about 1500 words on his article he co-wrote with Irasema. There are not set numbers of words. Jeff offered to do an article on Indian gaming since we will be in Reno next year. Maybe we could also think about it now and get the suggestion to Kate a little later. There are set deadlines on these things. Every activity costs a day, Larry stated. The newsletters need to be sent first class. Kate stated that she will be ruthless on proofreading, if necessary. We don't need scholarly articles, just general information. The original submission date probably needs to be in late June for the August printing. Phadrea: these deadlines are not artificial. These are based on the publication deadlines. Thirty days means thirty days. We cannot cost time and money on these deadlines. Gil suggested that we put an ad in the newsletter that we need articles for the newsletter. Kate stated that she would open this up as a general call. However, Rick cautioned that we might get some articles that are not suitable, overly-loaded, or basically look like they could not be published elsewhere. These are supposed to be general. Kate would reiterate that these are NOT scholarly articles. Phadrea warned that there is not a peer-review process, it is not an official publication (although universities decide this usually) – and we don't want to get into the world of rejection letters. Kate suggested going through section coordinators, but Larry stated that it is hard enough to get these section coordinators to do their jobs. Phadrea asked the Council if it would be OK for Kate to send out a call for general articles for the newsletter. Everyone approved this suggestion so Kate will put out a call for the general articles.

Journal Editor: Phadrea

We need to look at the process with which we select a new journal editor.

Larry: The process is about two years out. What we would really like to do is have enough time that we get someone in 8-10 months in advance. When we house a journal somewhere, a team of people from the Council should go to that university to talk about the university's support. We were not able to do that last time around. We had good submissions last time with Prabha and Nick. Prabha and Nick filled this well. But this is a 3-year term (renewable) or do the editors need to resubmit? We need to think in terms of fairness. The Dean at Prabha's institution made a decision that screwed WSSA. This was NOT Prabha's fault, but it might not have happened if we had visited the institution. Prabha does this editorship well but he does not want to do it for 3 more years. Larry stated that it would look better for the journal to have a new editor. Gary said though that there is a lot to be said for long-term editors who do good jobs and mentioned some very good editorships. At the Fall meeting we need to get on the ball with this editor position. This is imperative so that we are ready for the "changing of the guard" in this area. We need to develop a committee to begin the search process for a journal editor and book review editor. Someone will need to be selected by Fall 2011 (??) or 2010 (?) – at the Fall meeting we will need to start this process. Rick stated this should be a renewable process after 3 years – at least if we had a good thing going we could keep it. Larry: we don't want to be constantly involved in a search. As the term is approaching, the committee can get involved in a search. Gil asked if maybe we could increase the term to 5 years. It takes 3 years just to learn the ropes and get good at the job.

Executive Director Report: Larry

He categorized everything so that we can see where the money is going exactly. Currently – we currently have no liabilities. Larry stated that he wanted to get us to 250K in the bank and he would be done with the job. He moved everything into Wells-Fargo. 2.5% interest for a 25-month CD. Larry bought 7 of them and staggered their dates.

Income statement: general categories of revenue and expense. Our money market certificate – we have lost \$2700 on it. It's been a money loser for a while. Where is our money coming from and in what categories? Where is it going? Anything in membership and conference fees was lumped into one category but how does it parcel out. But now we know by splitting up everything into sub-categories. Now we can see where the money is coming from. We have heavy expenses with credit card transactions: from Acteva and from each credit card company. That is \$2,000 that we are losing; however, we are saving hours in manhours working with checks. Some checks are NSF. With credit cards we do not have that. People came to the conference and ended up doing everything at the conference with an NSF check. If they cancel a transaction, Acteva asks Kate to authorize (so we don't get undue charges on cancellations). Leila gets these reports quarterly. This quarter the

report is due to Leila in a few days. Larry needs a report from Leila and some feedback on these reports. We are using Quicken to develop these reports. Presidential lunch – people are paying \$25 each but it will cost 3K. Office supplies cost a lot. Outflow for the hotel: 5K. This was a down payment so Larry could get a discount on certain catering items. It helps their cash flow so that they don't have to borrow to get us stuff. Larry said that we need to adjust some categories – he wants to go back and rework these categories a bit. It is costing more for AV equipment here in Albuquerque than in Denver. There is a difference between Hyatt Regency and Grand Hyatt. Tips are also costing. But this really adds to how they treat our conference attendees. The bell staff also reports that they have been well-taken care of. It all works out very positively.

Each envelope costs 26 cents for reg. materials so we are trying to get away from envelopes as the attendees toss them anyhow. Do we maybe want to give them a preprinted folder for WSSA instead? It would have our name on it and be a bit of an advertisement for us as well. It would cost more. We have to figure out how to contain these materials and save time as well.

We need to get another director for WSSA – and that person will come from a group of council members. We also need more detail about where money is coming from and going to. This helps with the taxes. Rick thanked Larry for categorizing all this and putting it all together. Gary said that we have really come far on this financial work and we have Larry to thank for that. Larry stated that we do not pay federal taxes – we are exempt. We do not pay state tax in New Mexico nor in Nevada (food and drink), and we are incorporated in the State of Texas. We have to file, but we don't have to pay. Kate does the filing. Gary questioned the loss from the Money Market – we cannot deduct it because we do not pay taxes. In some states, however, we do not come under the title Non-Profit (such as Denver) but in Albuquerque we do. Liability exposure – Vic will follow up on this. Does this fall on the hotel? On us? Could we get sued just because a paper is rejected? Phadrea: we need to give Larry feedback on this financial information. Larry: We need to make sure that this information is public and that we have an institutional memory of this. Leila will be VP next year and will not be on Council. Phadrea will look back on past minutes to see about who reviewed the finances last time. We need to have some structure to a financial committee. Larry: We need to select someone from each class of Council. This is oversight. We can keep the history alive on the financial affairs. Gary: Suggested that we have a vote on the documents. Rather than just delegating this to a committee, the Council is reviewing and endorsing the financials statements. Larry: Catering is going up in costs dramatically. We have spent 20+ on catering. There is a 22% service charge; we don't pay the tax, but more fees get added in. So add maybe another 10K to the costs. We need to look at what we want to support and what we no longer want to support. We don't want to leave a lot of leeway any longer due to rising costs. Where can we better spend our money? Phadrea: last year we decided to do away with the Plenary Luncheon. This year we need to look at the Developmental Luncheon. We need to realize where we are doing well and create other opportunities. If we have any questions, we need to let Larry know.

Kate: copies of other peoples' papers – we are finding dropped papers. Maybe we need a double pocket bag for these things.

Rotation:

2010 – Grand Sierra: Reno

2011 – Hilton: Salt Lake City

2012 – Hyatt: Houston

2013 – Grand Hyatt: Denver.

2014 - ? Larry wants to get this in the bag. Maybe the Manchester Hyatt in San Diego. Hotels project out 5 years in advance – the mortgages they have is huge. Or Hyatt in Calgary (more realistic) and maybe even coming back here to Albuquerque. We do need to come back to Albuquerque in 2014. Attendance drops if we go to a place too soon after another conference. Doug Nord – he may have some “in” with the Westin in San Diego because of the ACSUS conference.

We have 257 people registered in the hotel. San Diego: We will try for 2014. Vic asked where we make the most money. Larry stated: Casino towns. But the complaints are: “We don’t want to go to casinos.” Some people really grieved that we were going to the Riviera. Some are irritated by the machines and the mixing of academia. Seattle: Also a possibility. Good air service. Westin is a possibility there. Doug reiterated that it would be nice to have a WSSA conference in the Pacific Northwest. Larry: We need to go along the border states and solidify our relations with our Mexican attendees. Kansas City keeps bugging us but the hotels want to charge us for the break-out space (like 10K a day). Portland: reasonably good air service, but the hotel there, although they can handle our break out needs, they charge a lot. People did not like Portland thought. It rained a lot. The Chinatown area is great. Pasadena: They want to put us in three different facilities. Riverside: What does one do in Riverside? Long Beach: too much driving. LA: showed interest, prices were reasonable. We need to balance out accessibility, costs of rooms, etc. Vancouver: too expensive. They wanted \$210 a night in April. San Antonio: April is a big tourist month. For Phoenix April is also high season. Austin: accessibility problems, airport not the best. The downtown is not organized. It’s a great city but just not organized enough for us. Dallas: Might be a possibility. There are lots of higher ed institutions in the Dallas area. Long Beach: 60 miles from LAX. It would be nice, but the traveling is just terrible. It doesn’t attract large groups of people for a conference. We have choices – Larry will report back the Fall about the negotiations.

Fall meeting: who needs to attend. The Council NEEDS to attend. Do the ex-officio need to attend? If WSSA can no longer pay for it, do they need to come? Is there value in it for them? Prabha: most organizations do not have their journal editors attend preparation meetings. It doesn’t make much sense. Rich wants to be at the Fall meeting. Sept. 10-13, 2009.

Prabha: We need to change our Council laws concerning ex-officio attendance at the Fall meeting.

Larry: If any other organization has a newsletter, we will buy space in that newsletter. We need to get into more of the very large organizations' newsletters. Vic – Regarding Public Administration society: would like to target PhD students and tenure-track faculty at various institutions to come and present a paper, offer a session on portfolio development, how to develop a future into a career. Intent of focus: professors running PhD programs. This is how this has been working for Public Administration. He has an email list of members and will see how it works. Maybe it would work for WSSA?

Gary: intended abstracts. That might be nice to distribute.

Vic: he is initiating this for the Public Administration section.

General conversation followed as to where to put ads (ASPA, etc).

Gil wondered about costs involved. Electronic distribution? Hard copy? Phadrea thought electronic would be manageable, especially at the pilot stage. Then meet and have a discussion about the pilot program. Does it work? Is it worth pursuing?

Vic: PA is trying to use all this as a way to enter into the discipline. What people are learning, if they attended other presentations – get some formal critiques of other presentations. Phadrea: maybe some of this could go into the newsletter and other groups could have a professional mentoring meeting as well. Maybe avoid the hard copy at this time. Gil: the hard copy could come out later if we see how it all works out, but no promises that we have this hard copy until we get the feedback and see how the pilot works. Phadrea: let's see how this works in the pilot program before we suggest it to the other sections. Gil: this could be done in a business meeting maybe by the various sections. Vic will report on his pilot program and how it works. Larry: let's look and see about buying space in a PA newsletter. If we bring in 10 new people, we have largely recouped our advertising costs.

Phadrea: wanted to know if anyone else had any more ideas about marketing.

Larry: What happened to the smaller institutions that used to attend WSSA? Have they changed their mission regarding conferences? Or have we lost touch with them? Larry hit Chadron State, Fort Hayes State with email – but no one is here. Word of mouth and some advertising in other newsletters may help more. Kate: maybe instead of focusing on individuals, we should focus on Chairs and Deans, since the survey showed us that many were at the WSSA conference due to communication from these entities.

Library of Social Sciences: Rick: is the Library of Social Sciences being exploitive? They beg us for a membership list and we would not submit it. But they went to the WSSA and saw the conference presenters and got that list. They are receiving money for the publishers to market books. They have a profit margin they are looking for and do not want to come if they don't hit that margin. They get a free

table at the book display. We don't want to lose our book display for the Library of Social Sciences. Larry: Would it be possible for us to get involved in this or should we keep dealing with the Library of Social Sciences. Rich: deals with a lot of publishers, payments of tables – but what additional work we would have to do in contacting the individual publishers and having them pay for us to market their books? It pays more for publishers to be here if they have a wide range of books to offer. Many people and publishers like the book exhibit. The book display is a great way to bring people in. Kate: what about offering a discount to university presses to display here? Gary: we must have a book display; it's part of the scene of a conference. Phadrea: we cannot carry over books. Where would we keep inventory. Sometimes local libraries get the overflow – but again, labor- who is going to haul those books over to the library? Prabha: some publishers have stated that our conference is too late in the year to bother to show to WSSA. Book decisions have been made for the fall and publishers do not see any use to show up. The relationship with the Library of Social Science has been irritating. But given all of that, he stated that this is a lot of work for one person. Rick: they have had WSSA PAY for us to mail boxes back to them.

Larry: His annual request. When he sends an email, please read it. If one person does not show up, we get fined by the hotel. That's how narrow our margins are. Respond to colleagues, don't ignore them. The deadlines keep being pushed back. It's not easy to be a volunteer or to lead volunteers, if one or two people just don't read their emails. One person can screw up a whole operation.

Phadrea: regarding confidentiality. Reminded us that what happens in the meetings needs to stay in the meetings until and issue is resolved.

Part II of meeting:

Canadian Networking Reception: Larry

ABS, ACSUS – we can get inroads to other organizations. We won't have the Canadian Studies reception as we have had in past years so WSSA has picked it up. Create opportunities for people from many disciplines to get together. On Friday night, we will have an excellent reception. We will also be giving out awards to people. The plaques are very nice. This is something we need to do. We would like to honor ABS as well for their work with us for many years. Doug: Canadian Studies very much appreciates this gesture. Why do this? Gives us an opportunity and pick up where Canadian Studies has been. This is WSSA, ABS and Ask the Canadians. Chris: expressed his gratitude to Larry and to Canadian Studies. Doug: Canadians have funds for American scholars to study Canada. This needs to be publicized.

Paper competition: We had 15 graduate papers and 4 undergraduate papers submitted. It was suggested that we have a password-protected site so that judges could access papers more easily. We also decided to keep the Jan. 15 deadline as students needed the time to find funding and to get trip arrangements made. It also allows for any emergencies in the judging process. The paper competition was quite

successful. Our graduate winner, Ms. Tatjana Rosev, is a Master's candidate, our honorable mention was Ms. Amy Lewis. Our undergraduate recipient was Ms. Veronica Menard. All three will be present to give their papers.

Action: Kate will report on the winners of the paper competition in the Fall newsletter, with a picture of the winners, names of advisors and a reminder about the next competition. The paper competition is good for advisors (who may be coming up for tenure or promotion), the department the student represents, the Dean and/Provost, and the institution in general. So the paper competition has many positive aspects for many different people, including the great advertisement for WSSA.

Past President's Report: Rick

Who was on the nominating committee – it cannot be all Council Members? Tony Ammatto, Jeff Corntassel and Doreen Barrie. We got a good slate of candidates for nominations.

President: Jack Hou

Upcoming President: Gil Fowler

Vice-President: Leila

The election went well and it was very close. One or two votes swung an election. Larry: We need to randomly select the order in which the prospective council names appear on ballots. Many selected the first 2 or 3 candidates or 1,3,5. It sometimes looks better if a person votes for fewer council members – shows that they are being selective. What did we do right to get more returns? Why didn't we get more this year? We could print ballots in different order and send them out. We need to get more ballots in. A self-addressed stamped envelope. Busy-reply cannot be used as they are only domestic (so we are not getting international ballots back). Chris: how about email voting? But how do we control people only voting once? Larry: we do not have an accurate email list of membership. They change their email addresses often. Sometimes about 20% come back as invalid. Even with the US Mail we get reject addresses, mostly from graduate students. Larry's concern at the moment is that we get more people to vote. Chris: where do we get most of the paid memberships? – Larry: from the log-in on memberships. Kate: Kate can get email addresses from ACTEVA if the members pay on line. But people who pay cash or credit on site or send checks – we cannot get their addresses. On-site registrations are the biggest problems, Larry stated. If they pay with a check, the email addresses are illegible. Kate has asked the student workers to make sure that everything is readable. Larry: there is a higher return payment of dues than on ballots. So there is a higher tendency to pay rather than vote. People are not sending the dues letter right away either – they are going to ACTEVA. Chris' idea about voting on the website is good, but what about man hours? If we can capture them with emails, we can get them to vote on line. Then send in an email to remind them to vote on line and a reminder about the biographies of candidates.

By-laws and Replacement Members: Phadrea – how to replace Barbara on the Council. Larry: we can go back to the ballots and see who had the second number of ballot voting. We have done this before. Someone can be asked to complete Barbara's term. The President can appoint and bypass the bylaws in the case of need. Betsy Rankin will be asked to serve on the council for the next two years in place of Barbara.

Discussions: Phadrea: we are having problems with some sections. We were able to revive the Human Communications section. The Philosophy – is it dying? Is it going to die? We had a volunteer last year, but it is still not making it. We have had problems with health issues (Arid Lands, Poli Sci) People are volunteering at the expense of their health and that is an issue. Larry: It's not just about dead and dying, but about our support of those that may not have the proper information. If there is not an email list or a mailing list, then how do you build a section? Many need to know HOW WSSA does it. There is a lot of work – involving a section leader's involvement in other organizations and their email lists. Loads of letters need to be sent out. It was a failure on WSSA's part to tell coordinators to send out hundreds of letters, not just a few. This does not help to grow a section. We are not really talking to the coordinators and we need to do this. It is growing very status quo. There needs to be revitalization. Too few people doing all the work for one section and the section is not reaching out. We are moving into a new era and we have to figure out how this works for WSSA. Chris: a user's manual on how to be a Section Coordinator. This is on the website. Maybe we need a document on how you revitalize a section. Larry: there needs to be phone calls, moral support, etc. Succeeding section coordinators need to know that they must constantly revitalize email lists and member listings. Some organizers stay on too long as section coordinators and the membership gets stale, the structure crumbles, and this ends up killing a section. Phadrea: each section has a vision for that section. Each section needs to constantly work on that vision, look back at the vision for the conferences in the future. Retirement is a problem, or non-continuance at the position of section coordinator can kill a section. Previous section coordinators need to groom the next one. Maybe a section coordinator and an assistant up-and-coming coordinator who can learn the ropes. Jack: he was able to use his email lists and help out a section coordinator. Phadrea: we need to be able to identify situations before they happen – the Council needs to be more accountable to the President-Elect to help support the section coordinators. Some way or another, if something happens with the sections, we need to have an agreement in some way everything is handled rather than flying by the seat of our pants. We noticed that some people were doing all the work and we need to increase the quality of the conference. Larry: it would be good to know who is having problems before they become more acute. Vic: our focus has been the success of the conference, not in getting live bodies. Maybe we need to take one of the officerships and make that person responsible for the academic run of the program. Overlooking the various sections and seeing where help is needed – this would probably help out quite a bit. Larry: this needs to be a three-year position, unlike the Vice-Presidentship, which is only one year. If we want to do something with membership and focus on weak membership, it needs to be someone who is

available for 2-3 years. Gil: the continuity is critical and such a position would allow for this continuity. Phadrea: the President-Elect position lasts three years and there is a lot of connection to the section coordinators. There is an incredible relationship created. Maybe the President-Elect can, the next year, point out problems he/she saw with certain sections. Maybe the President can do this, having had the previous experience with the entire program and the section coordinators? The President could use his/her own authority to make these contacts and help out the coordinators. Larry: we do need to build continuity. We could appoint a council member for this – and that is what that person does with his/her position on the council. This would create a three-year continuity and a person could come in at year two with the current council member to take over, this creating institutional history and continuity. Chris: we could ask council members or the President to perform this role. Then the continuity is there.

ABS: Larry: There was a short conversation about ABS that Larry had with Chris. He wanted to continue that conversation. Chris related the relationship between ABS and WSSA. There is a threat in the ABS that the ABS wants to do something with Mexico and so something with the Mexican scholars. ABS must be at WSSA. Chris feels that WSSA has helped ABS to survive and without ABS, WSSA would have a huge problem. Chris wanted to continue the discussion. Larry: the only problem is negotiating the hotel rates. The Mexicans have been coming here and we cannot go there because of the costs. The government charges too much going across the border (computers). We could rent, but we would rent something we already have. Possibility: co-located meeting between San Diego and Tijuana. It would require a lot of coordination but it is possible. Phadrea: Would ABS be happy with the suggestion that get someone to explain to the Mexicans why we have trouble with a conference in Mexico? Chris will look into a possible meeting.

Book Editor's Report: Rich:

Rich provided a list of books out for review and those up for reviews. Good news: last year we had not so many reviews and it helped to have a blurb in the newsletter. We also talked it up among council members.

Journal Editor's Report: Prabha:

Prabha provided a summarized report regarding the journal:

1. Vol. 46 will be out in the near future.
2. Alexandra Bernasek and Steven Mumme will continue to serve as Deputy Eds.
3. Christine Wheatley is currently Journal Management. She is leaving for a doctoral program and will need to be replaced.
4. Assoc. Eds. Panel is stable at 18.
5. Since 4/1/08 there have been 182 submissions, up 15 per month.
6. Acceptance rate is 37%.

7. Paper submissions are assigned more quickly (11 days) in comparison of the online submissions (32 days). Between date of submission and decision, there were 19 days for desk rejections, 20 weeks for reject/revise and resubmit decisions. Hard copies are faster than the online because a hard copy is just easier to see and remember.
8. Elsevier relations are good. Very responsive to questions and concerns. Most submissions have come online. Prabha is considering shutting down paper submission next January. He was thinking of leaving this for the next editor and asked for guidance from the council as to whether he should not just go ahead and close it down. (These are hard copy submissions, not email submissions. Hard copy submissions would be discontinued). Gil suggested that Prabha use his disgression and use the system that best worked for him.
9. Prabha extended his thanks to Jack Hou for the prominence accorded the publishing session on Thursday, April 16.

Discussion of possible coordinators (revitalization): Jack

Discussion on Stephan Paul Edwards. Phadrea: revitalizing a section – we need to have discussion about these sections. Jack: Can we get a seasoned section coordinator for Stephan. Can he develop under someone else's leadership? Prabha: When was anthro merged with sociology? Phadrea: about 2-3 years ago. We have revitalized Human Communications – do we need to take on another section and see if we can do the same? Maybe put Stephen in charge of a few panels and see what he can do with them? He needs to work through the process with Heather. If he decides to separate the sections he needs to come to Council. For Poli Sci Jack spoke on Stephen K. Shaw. Jack told the candidates that if they are section coordinators, they MUST be at the WSSA conference, even if not supported. They must make that promise. We could co-coordinate Stephen Shaw and Yohannes Woldmariam. And Yohannes could take over for Stephen if he plans to retire. Also, they are from two different backgrounds in Poli Sci and two different regions. Jack asked for council approval to notify the candidates and ask them to come to the business meeting on Friday. The Council approved.

Activities: Phadrea:

Phadrea urged all people to attend the student paper readings. The Canadian Networking Program is not listed in the conference guide. It's at 6:30 (between 6-6:30) on Friday. There is a meal planned and significant amount of food. Open to ABS, Council members and ex-officio members as well as Canadian Studies. No section coordinators. Last minute details and logistics: Saturday morning meeting is in Sierra Vista room at 7:30 am. Every reception is very tasty so please go!

WSSA Minutes – April 18, 2009

Meeting opened at 8:05. Phadrea welcomed all the new Council members. J. Gary Linn was presented a Council award.

Registration ended with 652 registered participants, according to Larry. On Saturday there is a discounted rate for registration, but this is not advertised in the interest of not having others state that they are here “only on Wednesday” or “only one day.” Phadrea was surprised that we had so many participants despite the budgetary constraints. We need Council members to help make contacts in Reno to get student workers. Kate needs a minimum of 6 student workers – that can be reduced during Friday afternoon and Sat.; students are also needed for break down of equipment. Students have to be at the conference for Tuesday training, Kate stated.

WSSA owns the computers (\$8000 + hardware) – Chris wanted to know if we could get computer projectors. Larry said that we could do it, but some don’t know how to operate the AV equipment (compatibility problems, software issues, etc.) –it’s a labor issue as we need a guru at hand to help out with these issues. We have advertised that there are no LED projectors. There is no harm in revisiting this issue, Larry said. Prices at hotels have come down significantly. Phadrea reiterated that we could have the equipment, no problem. But we would need the support personnel.

ABS report: Chris

ABS and future conferences. According to Chris, ABS would not pull out of WSSA. ABS respects the organization and it would be hard to survive without WSSA. ABS would talk with the Council – they might be able to survive and give notice before pulling out. He did propose San Diego and joint sessions in Tijuana. Maybe even moving the entire WSSA to Mexico at some point (Monterey, Mexico City, Guadalajara) ABS will stay with WSSA.

Larry on Vancouver: he has some dates for a possible site in Vancouver. Mexico is still on the plate – going to Guadalajara. Doug Nord mentioned that it would be good to have a meeting in the Northwest. Phadrea proposed a meeting next year with ABS, Larry said that maybe Canadian Studies and ABS could meet with the Council at the spring 2010 meeting (a formal meeting). Our joint ABS and Canadian Studies group gathering with the WSSA Council was a great attempt at creating relationships.

Newsletter assignments:

Student paper winners: Klima

Presidential Soapbox: Phadrea

Coordinators' Corner: ?

Wrap of Albuquerque: Jack Hou

Why come to Reno: *hotel rates are much lower! -- Gil Fowler

Research Note: Klima: Basques in Reno (Basque Community history) Jeff: Native Americans in Reno.

Advertisement: Routledge has asked (they know when the contract is up with Elsevier) Doug mentioned that Canadian Studies journal just signed with Routledge.

Kudos, laurels and milestones: two-three sentences noting something of significance. Does not have to be academic.

Letters to the Editor: commentary, suggestions, no academic-backbiting, just internal chatter.

Larry has plenty of pictures from the awards. Student presentations, we will need some appropriate pictures from Reno. Please, no photos of the wrong hotel.

Jeff: Van Deloria student paper award (\$500)

Leila: Student paper competition: needs to be advertised in the fall newsletter. Information needs to be changed (hotel, address, etc.)

Things that need to go up online: minutes need to get up on line. They need to end up in the library in Denver. The minutes began to disappear as they became electronic. **Just action items or entire minutes? - Larry would like them (the actions) separately on the website and in the newsletter. Minutes need to be archived.**

Board action items: Klima. Items that apply to organization as a whole (not minutes will appear in such and such a time frame, etc.)

Book exhibit: Library of Social Science was quite nice this year. The representative was really nice and easy to work with. Is Book Review Editor and Book Publisher/Book Display too much work for one person? Prabha liked the idea of separating because he said he realizes it is a lot of work for one person. Maybe the journal review editor needs to appoint the book review editor. Larry doesn't want to burden anyone too much. Maybe someone on Council could take the book display on (seeking companies out to come to the conference – a marketing position) Vic stated that this would be a good time to look at understudies so that we can get continuity into positions. Kate stated that for reps we charge \$105 and \$100 for a table. Phadrea stated that we need to start to have in mind the next year – Salt Lake City. We should also think about Houston.

Vice-President of Membership: we need to consider having a Council member in charge of this. J. Gary Linn volunteered as Ex-Officio. Bylaws allow for this assignment as Ex-Officio.

Larry: we need to get someone in charge of getting book publishers for the next conference.

Doug would like to see the various duties of each Council member.

Membership committee, finance committee, nominating committee, student participation committee – Phadrea was naming off various committees we have had. Before she appoints anyone, we need to decide what the duties are, before we find we need two people do that. On the membership position: not just members recruited to WSSA but also looking at some of the organizations that are dying vs. thriving, resuscitation, etc.

Student involvement committee: we need to get more involved in this committee – Jeff, Jack and Klima have the history on this due to the student paper competition. What will we call the student membership recruitment student committee?

We need the call for papers to go out in August, work with other associations, we need to get names and other coordinates for other people in our disciplines so that WSSA can buy space in those newsletters. This is imperative giving the cycle of newsletters. There really is not that much time – and we have to get the Call for Papers out as well. We need to focus on particular outlets for cross-advertising.

Section revitalization: Coordinator, President.

Membership: Executive Director

There is a difference between recruiting individuals, helping sections to support themselves, revitalizing sections – finding ways to work with the section coordinator to find out where everything is going wrong. That's for the President and the President-Elect. The Recruitment and Retention person: Attracting new people. We need more strategic planning. We need a 5-year Plan – runs through about 2/3 of the life of an overlapping Council.

Action item: in order to make this really work, we need to revisit the idea of looking at the last 5-Year Plan and commit ourselves to creating another 5-Year Plan. We need to have a copy of bylaws in front of us and a copy of the 5-Year Plan. We need to UPDATE.

Figuring out the 5-Year Plan – we need to look at bylaws again, figure out what we are doing and codify it all. Maybe a group needs to get together and put everything in order during the summer. Jack, Larry, Gil, maybe Jim Peach. Figure out Jack's and Larry's calendars and figure out when people are available to flesh out committee members duties, hash out all of these. Doug suggested this be done very quickly to present this to Council in the Fall. Denver would be a good city for this meeting.

Phadrea – maybe we need to put off the book review editor until we have the 5-Year Plan. **Gary will write up a list for recruitment and retention.**

Kate: Newsletter deadline. July 31st (see below). This is last date for submissions. Please be on time and don't leave yourself to be chased around for articles.

Establishment of Anthropology as an autonomous section. Jack H. followed up on Wednesdays discussion of this matter. He got agreement from the Anthropology Director to develop 4 sections for the 2010 meeting within the Sociology section. This would be a first step toward the development of an autonomous section.

Political Science Section. Jack H. Followed up on Wednesdays discussion and met with selected Coordinator of the Political Science section and asked that he develop sections for the 2010 meeting.

Development of a 5 year plan. Larry proposed a a meeting in July which would involve himself, Jack Hou, Gil Fowler and Jim Peach to develop a 5 year plan for WSSA. The meeting would last 2 days and a probable site would be Denver.

Fall Meeting. The fall meeting will be September 10 thru 12th. There will be a full day meeting on Friday Sept. 11th and a half day meeting on Saturday Sept. 12th.

Poster Sessions. Gary Linn proposed that the 2010 meeting have poster sessions. Larry Gould recommended that this topic be discussed at the 5yr planning meeting in July.

Number of papers per session: Phaedra Ponds and Larry Gould recommended that sessions should optimally have 3 papers. This would allow adequate time for presenters to deliver their work. Phaedra also emphasized the importance of presenters attending sessions (other than their own). This will assure that all presenters have an audience.

Newsletter. There was a consensus among attending Council members that the Newsletter should be mailed by September 8th. The submission date was July 31st.

Electronic Voting. David Archibald from Canadian Studies will provide Larry G. with information on electronic voting.

Respectfully submitted by: Cynthia A. Klima, Vice-President WSSA 2008-09