

# Minutes

## WSSA Council Meeting

### 13 April 2011

Called to order by Gil at 8:00am

Approval of minutes – action deferred until Saturday

#### **Financial Report**

Larry presented the following documents, with commentary on each.

- Balance Sheet: condition generally good, but heavily reliance on journal contract. By fall will have cost analysis to present, raising possibility of increase in conference fees.
- Income Statement: note importance of revenue from journal contract; side-note, the great improvement in operations deriving from changes in dues structure – much smoother in operation; fall meeting expenses are getting rather high, may have to be reconsidered; concern about reliance on journal revenues, and need to increase conference participation, thus increasing that revenue stream.
- Royalty Statement: details of royalty elements and revenue therefrom.

#### **New Journal Contract**

By end of year, Larry will notify Elsevier we will call for proposals from them (with first right of refusal) and from other providers. Last time Elsevier, Routledge, and Sage. Larry and Prabha confirm the relationship with Elsevier has been good.

The call for proposals will necessitate selection of a journal contract committee. This will put together the call and get it to Elsevier early in next year; also will go to two additional providers, to be determined. Question: What other providers should be approached? We need to name a committee by Saturday. Larry suggests either Jim Peach, Diane Calloway, or Nina Burkhart for their previous experience; also Prahba. Doug encourages we add someone new from the council (for future memory). In response to this, Heather volunteers. So we have Prahba and Heather, and Gil will visit with Jim, Diane, and Nina for another member, and will report on Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup>.

[Break, and reconvened at 9:10]

#### **2011 Conference**

Vic counts 800+ “engagements” on the program. He asks that every council member make a point to visit with six section coordinators and express gratitude for their service. In addition, every council member meet & greet a young person attending the conference. He encourages participation in special events listed on the program, including outside your own discipline. Vic

will report again on Saturday and lead discussion of issues and improvements for consideration in future meetings.

Vic requests participation in three “timelines,” surveying members to “develop a sense of community.” He references the cover of the program, addressing “questions that matter.”

Eileen: commends the “ease of crosslisting” this time around.

Larry notes the complexity of measuring participation, recommends counting “non-duplicated first authors” or non-duplicated presenters as an index to logistical requirements for a meeting.

Heather: what about cancellations? This is an old question of discussion. . . . Kate & Larry note that this year, moderators will be canvassed to report on each session, who showed and who didn’t, how many people were in attendance. This will give a better handle on the issue.

Larry asks, What about section coordinators who have not pre-registered? This is an unfortunately long list. Appears some will be no-shows. He urges we emphasize the importance of section coordinators pre-registering. Also noted, the importance of maxing out sessions up to four presentations, so as to reduce need for rooms.

Further discussion along lines of bolstering roles of section coordinators. Vic emphasizes the importance of implementing outreach to section coordinators, multiple contacts by board members and follow-up, for “integration” and “collegiality” of the association. Doug suggests we make note of what the individual sections do “collectively,” with caucuses or planning meetings in each section. Encourage all to make this happen as a “regular aspect of their duties.” Each of us should contact a section coordinator about this. Kate adds that it is time to update the section coordinator’s handbook. Larry goes so far as to say this is an opportunity to “reinvent the section coordinator” as a means to getting to 700 conference attendance. Finally, there is a need for greater recognition of section coordinators – Heather suggests making the section coordinators’ meeting a reception.

## **2011 Fall Council Meeting**

Place: Hyatt Regency Houston. Arrive Thursday 9/15/11 and depart Sunday 9/18/11. Begin within two weeks from now with plan to network with area institutions. Shortly after, get the list of institutions to section coordinators. A meet & greet campaign at area institutions will precede the council meeting.

## **Student Workers**

Kate reports a “strong rollover” from last year, which is good, but will need council members to recruit harder for next year. Kate will send out information on this for recruitment after the September meeting.

[Break, and reconvened at 10:30]

## **Student Paper Competition**

Tom reports the following improvements or issues for consideration, based on past two years' experience.

- Will develop a cover sheet for submission, retaining the idea of faculty endorsement.
- Joint v single-authorship – discussion ranged, and gravitated toward a third category for multiple-authorship. \$500 award to be divided. Possibility of no award if no entry is of sufficient merit. Structure the prize and incentive package for winners – hotel costs partially defrayed, registration. Possibility of \$100 prize to honorable mentions, up to 2 per category. This matter was tabled, with the current competition committee to come back on Saturday with a proposal incorporating the elements discussed. Chris took good notes on this and is taking the lead in putting it together, elements including (and possibly others)
- Create multi-author category with \$500 prize
- Registration and room for presenters, two nights per paper
- Up to two honorable mentions each category
- Winners required to attend and present
- Honorable mentions get registration, too

The poster session committee (Tom, Theodore, Heather, Gil) will bring in proposal on Saturday. Larry proposes doing this with the opening reception.

Recognition of student papers – where does this go? Hereafter, do this at the presidential luncheon. Isern moves, Heather seconds, passes.

Larry expresses concern that for five years, no Vine Deloria Award has been presented. \$500 for a student paper in Indian Studies. The reactivation of this award needs to be encouraged. This is a process separate from the WSSA general student paper competition. Eileen will carry this matter to parties in Indian Studies.

Larry draws attention to the handout sheet, Conference Planning. He will meet with ABS to discuss this and improve alignment of arrangements, as with the reception at the convention hotel. He advises council members to read it for their own education as to the process.

[Lunch, reconvene at 12:40]

## **Recruitment and Retention**

Larry initiated discussion of how to get exposure for the WSSA. He desires to gather information on publications in which to advertise, email lists to which to post. Council members agree to forward information; the same will be sought also from section coordinators.

Tom suggests: each of us, link to WSSA from your own web page at your university. In addition, like the WSSA Facebook page.

Measures to maintain contact with members new to the conference: call for papers immediately after the spring meeting; newsletter out 3<sup>rd</sup> week of August.

### ***Social Science Journal Report***

Prabha distributed the memo, Subject: Journal Operation, January 1, 2010 – December 31, 2010, summarizing all operations and issues, and talked through the memo.

Question from Tom: What about an article award? An editor's choice, best-article award. Possible future agenda item.

Prabha reported on behalf of Rich re book reviews. Reviews grouped for each issue, 5-6 each issue; reviews in hand for remainder of year, to total 15 for year, about ten books currently looking for a reviewer. As for the book display, the Library of Social Sciences is in for this conference, and University of Arizona Press; no reply from M. E. Sharpe. Larry then addressed the book vendor situation. Library of Social Sciences is somewhat objectionable to other potential vendors. It may be time to make a call for proposals from other entities that do similar things, general social science. Larry may ask Rich to proceed with this.

### **Editor Search**

Doug reports we have no proposals. A couple of people talked with Prabha for background, but none came forward to the search committee. He asks, Do we need to sweeten the pot as to support offered to host institution? Discussion gravitated to the question, Can we patch together an interim arrangement with a friendly party? There was discussion of several prospects. Vic suggests: an ad hoc committee, chaired by Gil, also tap some past presidents, Prabha, and a council member, so charged: make an interim arrangement, and second, find a permanent editor.) So: Who is the working group on this? Larry, Gil, and Prabha.

### **Elections**

Jack reports. Tom is elected President Elect; Chris as Vice President; Ross Burkhart, Jeffrey Hale, and Heather Nicol as council members. All three new council members will attend meeting on Saturday morning. Doreen, Nina, Diane, & Jim were committee members with Jack.

Jack & Gil: proposal from a group organizing an event to add Saturday program on Slavery & Freedom in the Rocky Mountain West. WSSA to co-host public events on Saturday. Larry: need a single point of contact from the council to liaison with the event organizers and configure with WSSA program and logistics. Representation comes from George Junne, African Studies, University of Northern Colorado. Junne will be invited to meet with the council on Saturday.

New business, Larry: "Two more years is about all I can do." Contemplating then a year of transition, integrating a new person. Budget support is \$0. Kate's plans unknown, may be willing to stay on.

Adjourned 2:45pm

# Minutes

## WSSA Council Meeting

### 16 April 2011

Called to order by Gil at 8:00am

Approval of minutes of fall meeting – action previously deferred until this morning.  
Chris moved to approve, Doug seconded, duly approved.

Introductions all around, including new board members. Newly elected and welcomed to the board:

- Ross Burkhart, Boise State
- Geoff Hale, Lethbridge University
- Heather Nicol, Trent University

Completing terms on the board:

- Betsy
- Doug
- Chris, completing board term and assuming vice presidency
- Jack, departing as past president

Also present Debra Rose Wilson, Middle Tennessee State, standing in for Gary.

### **Reflections on 2011 Conference**

Round robin discussion around the table, initiated by Vic, as to success of the 2011 conference.  
Some notes:

- Canadian Studies is down this year; it should be a matter of attention in order to encourage a resurgence.
- Continuing work on logistics of crosslisting needed – frontload the parameters with section coordinators. This is worth doing, because of the “cross-comraderie” observed to be happening.
- ABS is committed to active liaison with the WSSA, which will be facilitated by the membership of Heather Nicol, ABS president this year, on the WSSA board. The relationship between the two organizations has been remarkably cordial this year.
- What about the presidential luncheon? We need to fill this up.
- Doug raises the possibility of bringing in a featured lecturer, perhaps hosted by a different section each year, for the general program.
- The possibilities for networking and induction of young scholars into the transactions of the association appear to be flourishing.
- Dan raises concern about compelling the norm of four papers per session, as three is more the standard for certain disciplines. He also praises the stand-in History coordinator, Monica Sellman, for taking up the reins for this meeting. Also praises the attentiveness of Hilton staff.

- Theodore remarks that our “collegiality brand” is enjoying great appeal, and it should be foregrounded in our marketing.
- Multiple council members have conversed with section coordinators, especially emphasizing pre-registration and staying in the convention hotel.
- Feedback from some local participants: they should be apprised of the possibility of organizing student sessions.
- Jack raises the possibility of the Chinese Economics Association making the WSSA its American conference.
- Discussion time in sessions is regarded as vital to both the intellectual transactions and the promotion of collegiality.
- Integration of students into sessions of papers with faculty prompts them to “rise to the occasion.”
- Indian Studies participation was down, likely due to location of the conference.
- Keep the word out to section coordinators to be alert to needs for projectors, and in using WSSA projectors, having laptops ready for backup.
- The ABS reception is regarded as a grand success. ABS does need to deal with, as Heather Nicol puts it, an “explosion in numbers.” Booked full throughout the conference. Expect to need three room tracks in Houston.

### **Emancipation Proclamation Initiative**

George Junne, meeting with the board on behalf of the Emancipation Proclamation events prospectively to be associated with the 2013 conference. George distributed the handout from Africana Studies, University of Northern Colorado, for the prospective observance, “The Emancipation Proclamation: Slavery and Freedom in the Rocky Mountain West.” Key to the interface of the event with the WSSA conference would be the access to rooms at the Hyatt convention hotel on Saturday. The EP event would use other venues in town for its activities on Thursday and Friday.

Larry responds: Larry can contact the hotel, with the possibility of using one of the large ballrooms for the duration, thus giving the EP event a locus throughout. As for registrations, this will entail some specification of arrangements, but is manageable. The theme of the WSSA meeting is not yet set, but might be made to resonate with the EP event.

Discussion is all favorable to the proposition, exploring possibilities for cross-participation. Theodore volunteers to be initial liaison.

[Break, reconvene at 9:15]

Gil calls for those interested to work as liaisons with George on the EP initiative. Theodore comes forward.

### **Continued Discussion of 2011 Conference**

Larry responds to points raised in the round-robin.

- Presidential luncheon, section coordinators are invited complementary; the council will be also next year.
- 518 pre-registered, but a significant number of no-shows. “Financing is not an excuse.” Emphasize this through section coordinators. Kate will assist with the checkup and reminder process for pre-registration.
- As of close of registration yesterday, we had 142 on-site registrations, a significant increase over past years.
- Number of papers in session, keep it three or more.
- A request came that there be no sessions during the Friday morning breakfast time. But, this means loss of a meeting time, and might be “costly to the flow.” Chris suggests, run breakfast from 7:00 to 8:30, or 7:00 to 9:00. This is generally well received.
- Bought two projectors, now have four available. Should we buy two more? Moved by Theodore, seconded by Eileen, motion passed to make purchase.
- With growth of sections, including the efflorescence of ABS, we will have to make greater use of Saturday presentation times.
- The name tag requirement has been implemented, and seems to be enhancing recognition and networking opportunities.
- Notice of paper acceptance. Section coordinators need to be reminded to take care of this. Also, general coordinator be a backstop—send out a general acceptance notice, referring back to coordinators.
- Opportunity to establish a social work section, on account of the perceived need in the field, the lack of responsiveness of existing organizations. Also renewed discussion of a possible global studies section.

### **Human Communication Change to Communication Studies**

Request received from Brant Short and Dayle Hardy-Short, Human Communication Section, to change name to Communication Studies. Moved to approve by Chris, second by Jack, so passed.

### **Charitable Giving at the Conference**

Gil raises issue, might be appropriate in future meetings to create a giving opportunity for members to give to a local cause. Do good for the community, and a public relations opportunity, too. General approbation of the idea, which Gil and Vic will follow up on.

### **Recruitment & Retention**

Gil: WSSA needs a lapel pin. Larry will work with our graphics contact on this.

### **Student Paper Competition**

Proposal, carried over from Wednesday meeting - see handout from Chris.

- Third category of paper winner may be awarded, multiple author, \$500 prize.
- Two honorable mentions per single-author category, each to receive \$100 + free registration.

- Each paper winner to receive one room two nights of lodging (multiple authors to work out their own details with this).
- Winners must attend to receive cash.

Answer to question posed: if winner does not come, they get the certificate, but not the check. Also, express the expectation to attend and present. Chris moved approval, Doug seconded. Student winners to be notified no later than a month before the conference. Modification, as stated by Doug: advertise the multiple-author option, for graduate students only, award if there are worthy entrants, graduate student authors only. So passed.

## **Poster Session for 2012**

Motion by Tom, Theodore second, proceed with poster session for Houston meeting, open to students and faculty, including a student competition therein, undergraduate and graduate, \$250 prize for each. Must pre-register to participate. Coordinator to be named. So passed.

Remarks from Tom:

- Target constituency: emerging research and preliminary results (so as not to detract from paper sessions) to be emphasized
- Especial appeal to graduate students in the region who are developing posters anyway for campus research days
- Logistical concerns: room setting, exhibit hardware, poster specifications.

## **Upcoming Conference Dates & Locations**

See website for details. Hotel rates are rising incrementally, and hotels are seeking to generate profits with catering fees; this may well generate need to raise conference fees.

Already time to plan for the 2017 meeting. Call for suggestions around the table - mentioned: Kansas City, Boise, Cheyenne, Albuquerque, New Orleans, Oklahoma City, Vegas, Sacramento, Calgary, Vancouver, Newport Beach, Los Angeles, San Diego, El Paso, San Antonio, Seattle. Additional consideration: keep some geographic proximity to previous year, so as to encourage retention year to year. Larry will report back at the fall board meeting.

## **Nominating Committee**

The committee is Gil, Jack, Nina, Diane, & Jim. They will report a slate to the September meeting.

Canadian Studies developments – the consulate once again sounds positive, Doug reports, about doing a reception (Dallas consulate is particularly positive).

[Break, reconvene at 11:00]

## **Journal Contract**



Journal contract committee—Gil has met with Jim, Nina, Diane, Heather, and Prabha, along with Larry, who are responsible for continuing the process.

## **Newsletter**

Kate leads discussion. Any volunteers to write a feature? Larry will provide a why-stay-at-the-conference-hotel article. Need a feature article and a shorter article. Donna volunteers a short article on involving graduate students for professional development. Theodore volunteers a longer article on mentorship. Another suggestion: Theodore will solicit a piece from George Junne about the upcoming EP events. Eileen has a possible piece on Texas Rangers; a desirable possibility, if we can locate an author, is something on the space program. Kate: wants a paragraph from Les about “discussion being the best part” of a session. What about the poster session? Tom will send material on this. Someone on getting into WSSA social media? Donna. Someone recruit a student to write? Vic has one. Gil – also will write short piece on value of first paper presentation. Also available, student paper winner photos. Chris will write short piece on the new contours of the student paper competition. Larry will write on conference participants wearing nametags. Vic will write a wrap-up, also a short invitation to the Houston conference, and Gil a president’s column. June 30 deadline for articles, except June 15 for feature.

Also needed: bios from new board members to publish in website. Send to Kate.

Larry suggests fall agenda item, discuss whether to go all-electronic with the newsletter.

(Side discussion: importance of maintaining time in sessions. 60 minutes total for presentations.)

## **Operation Manual**

All with pieces submit to Kate for compilation; future referral to an editing group.

## **September Board Meeting**

Arrive afternoon Thursday 15 September; Friday night dinner as group; breakfast and lunch provided Friday and Saturday. Will be taking time to review offers from prospective journal publishers. Hope to conclude by mid-afternoon on Saturday.

## **Journal Editor Search**

Gil and committee have conversed with Scott Carson, University of Texas-Permian Basin; it is hoped he will put together a proposal. Authorization of committee to conference call interview Carson and proceed with appointment if deemed appropriate. In addition, Larry or another rep can, if necessary, visit Permian Basin to visit with administrators and facilitate arrangements. So generally agreed.

## **Newsletter Editor**

Kate absents herself. Term up, should she continue?

Eileen moves to continue, Geoff seconds, so passed.

### **Remarks from Incoming President**

Vic's closing comments of appreciation for efforts with this conference. Emphasis: continue and expand outreach efforts. Vic has a list of small improvements he will be calling board members about implementing. If you have fall agenda items, send them to Vic.

### **New Business**

Eileen: possibility of sections offering certificates or prizes for best books and papers in the field.

Theodore suggests: a Twitter account.

Adjourned at noon.