

Minutes from WSSA EC Meeting, Houston, TX 16 September 2011

Day One – 16 September 2011

Meeting opening - Meeting started at 8:20 am, with a round of introductions. Gil Fowler called the meeting to order, as Vic Heller was not able to travel for medical reasons. Gil reviewed the agenda, noting that Wiley Blackwell has cancelled. Minutes from April meeting were discussed and then approved unanimously.

Regional campus visits - Gil then shared comments from various visits with regional universities over the last few days. These include Rice, U Houston Victoria, Victoria College, Houston Baptist, Texas Southern, U Houston Downtown, and U Houston. On these visits, Gil, Tom, and Theodore met with various admin types, shared the poster of the conference, asked people to advertise and attend the conference, promoted the Association and SSJ, and had decent receptions overall. Theodore and Gil hit Texas Southern again, and this allowed them to connect with people that offered to host receptions at the conference. Tom had good visits at Rice and St. Thomas University, with excellent connections with Provosts that were willing to forward EMAILs for advertising and also participate at the conference. University of Houston, Clearlake, was not as successful, with difficulty getting to see people. Larry visited Sam Houston, connecting with the dean of Political Science and CJ, a large and active program, and they did express interest in possibly hosting a reception. Larry also sent EMAIL with posters to number of other schools, with the joint goals of pulling in new people to the conference and also as members. Overall, these advance visits are successful, with good receptions, but we are seeing much more student response that raises a concern that we don't get known as a "graduate student" conference.

Routledge presentation for the SSJ

The team introduced themselves, and this included folks on a conference call. They reviewed the history and scope of Routledge, and they focused on social science journals and also those that are society affiliated. Routledge promotes a personal and tailored approach to dealing with societies, not a one size fits all approach. The SS editor spoke about the various SS societies with whom they work, including a group that is doing a high profile conference to link SS to public policy. They argue they produce physical journals in a sustainable manner, citing various initiatives in this effort.

They also spoke about being a global firm that also has local and regional offices around the world and in the US. They are well connected to Central in the UK, with regular contact (daily?), but they stress personal contact with their US staff as well as the societies and others that drive relevant journals. They regularly review the "state of each journal," doing SWOT analyses of journals on a regular basis. They also spoke about the work they do to calculate impact factors (IF) and to work with journals to increase their IF. They covered the efforts they advance to help increase IFs, offering examples of

specific activities they undertake including special articles, special issues, and marketing efforts.

The marketing person covered their marketing efforts that are run out of Philadelphia. These include “virtual special issues” that contain articles that are ONLY available online via special access; the “9/11 Collection” that has articles dealing with 9/11. They also discussed the use of social media (Twitter and FB) to promote journals, actions that have seen large growth in the last few years, as well as more traditional means of EMAIL, press releases, and related efforts. They also rolled out ideas on how to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the SSJ and utilize this event as a means to promote the SSJ (virtual special issues, special USB drives, promotion of conference, reception, and press releases).

Technology innovations were covered, including embedded metadata, search engine optimization, special access for mobile devices, and special alerts. Each society journal gets a production editor that is a senior editor that is lead on production issues, and this work includes outsourcing to ScholarOne to handle various functions. They also spoke about transition issues from Elsevier to Routledge (EES to ScholarOne), and they have broad experience with this type of transition. Central article tracking system allows tracking of manuscripts from many different people involved in workflow, including an e-proofing system that allows authors very effectively manage and edit their work. Typical schedule is 10-12 weeks for publication of an issue, and this can be speeded up as needed on case-by-case basis. Transition plan was reviewed, and this includes kick-off meeting in Philadelphia with senior leadership of the society and the production team in Philadelphia.

Financial offer was covered, and this included a 5 year contract, a \$100k signing bonus, \$30k annual stipend, \$10k travel budget for editor to travel, 42.5% royalty schedule, \$60k advance on royalties, and free member print and online subscriptions. WRT price, they are looking at a 7% increase in 2012, and the longer term price would be about \$575/per year for institutional rates, with rate for online only of about 90% of the full subscription price.

Q&A – special issues were covered (one per year is recommended), Ted asked about state of the art handheld access to social media site (they will get there), Scott asked about editorial license (which we retain), Larry asked about backlogs, Ted asked about SWOT. What are biggest threats to TF/Routledge and SSJ? Routledge answered this would be handled with a joint effort with Routledge and WSSA. Main threats are marginalization of a given journal, failure to cover key concepts or trends that are breaking, and inability to handle the transition to online media. Dan asked after J-Stor access, and Routledge noted they are working with EBSCO as their main 3rd party packager. They are trying to balance wide access with also protecting Routledge as the main channel to get content to preserve the revenue stream. Larry asked about the 50th anniversary – does Routledge see going into the archives? Response was to look to archives for content for special issues, and also pulling special material to build a display for the 50th anniversary celebration. Dan asked about problems with Elsevier transition.

Reply was dealing with subscription data was a challenge, but the overall experience of these transitions is handled pretty well due to experience on all parties. Tom asked about what would Routledge do for the conference. Routledge would have a physical presence at the conference, with managing editor attending and meeting with the EC to give a publisher's report and potential sponsoring of events. Tom also asked about release strategy, noting the issues we had with Elsevier wanting to release on the article basis while SSJ editor wanting to release on the issue. Routledge can do whatever we want and need, and they are willing to work with us on releasing on the issue basis. Routledge asked about our timetable:

- Final decision by April 2012 for conference announcement,
- Wrap up process by year-end to let people know,
- Elsevier has right of first refusal, and we need to provide summary of all bids to Elsevier. This will happen relatively quickly.

Post presentation discussion on Routledge

Eileen asked about the offer as a function of the term of contract; would all the terms extend to a 5 or 4 year contract? Gil noted that the proposal appears to reflect a 5-year term (Tom concurred), and Larry noted that this was basically a similar offer to what we got with Elsevier when we upped with them. We talked a bit about Elsevier, and the discussion reflected "Elsevier is the firm libraries love to hate" due to bundling issues. Elsevier has NOT regularly made it to conferences, they have NOT marketed SSJ like they said they did, and these are things that Routledge said they would indeed do.

Dan asked if Scott shared Routledge's optimism about the transition across publishers and s/w, and Scott said no, this is a concern. The move is a major deal, and we should not underestimate what is involved. A major concern is the degree to which potential reviewers would transfer over to the new system, and Chris suggested that this be something about which we ask detailed questions to both Sage and Routledge. We should also ask people that have gone through this what their experience was, and we should get references from Sage and Routledge to do this. Gil asked if the stipend comes to the association or do we get reimbursed for these expenses; Larry advised the funds come to us, and we allocate.

Eileen asked how Elsevier would be engaged. They have right of first refusal, we give them the basics on the other offers, and they respond to this with an offer and proposal, with the goal to match the best of the proposals. If they don't match the best offer, we are free to go with another firm. Our long term past relationship with Elsevier was VERY bad (misrepresentation of facts, unwillingness to share financials, and poor service), this improved markedly with the enhanced offer and a better relationship we have had in the last 5 years.

Questions to pose to Routledge and Sage

- 1) What is the story on proprietary journals that might compete with us?
- 2) What are the details of the transition across software platforms?
- 3) With whom have they worked on transitions in the past, and what has their experience been?

Change of credit card processing firm

We have had numerous problems with Acteva (poor communication, withholding of payments, failure to provide service), Larry is concerned that they hold payment of smaller associations to pay larger bills, and the Acteva website was not working when we opened a conference. The overall picture is very negative, and Larry and Kate made the decision to make this change. Kate did much research to investigate other firms, and this involved both a firm that will take payments and also do registrations online.

The new firm is Reg-Online, and this is now online with the WSSA website. The new firm handles all the payments and also has very robust abilities on registration, membership function, and related database management. Kate asks people to take a good look at this and provide input to her, as we have the ability to make changes and tailor this to our needs.

Sage Presentation on SSJ Publisher

Eric Moran and Leah Fargotstein presented their presentation on the proposal. This included a brief overview of the history and scope of Sage, including the scope of what they do. 280 of 600 titles are society journals, and they argue they are the premier publisher of SS titles. This includes funding a range of activities, and they are also supporting efforts to promote SS research in the media. SS Space is a related effort to promote interdisciplinary SS research.

WRT production, each journal gets a dedicated copy editor and also a dedicated production editor, insuring consistency in production and copy edits. They can publish either issue-by-issue or single articles online. They argue their standards are very high with multiple proof checks, and they also shared details on the production flow. They have an online tracking system, SageTrack, that allows monitoring of articles in the flow process, and this is linked to authors, editors, and production processes. Their online portal is based on HighWire, the Stanford-based process, and this provides flexibility as reader styles and access may change. They argue these portals are branded to promote the association and journal and support new membership, and 85% of the access to their journals is from Google searches, providing means to have the brand be seen. They are just launching mobile sites for journals, and they will have these up for all journals by year end. "Toll free linking" allows free access to all articles in the Sage journals for subscribers to a given Sage journal.

Social media are being used to promote journals, and this includes PodCasts of authors to various articles. They are also starting to use Twitter and FB to share information about Sage articles with other users. Other marketing tools include traditional means like EMAIL blasts, discipline specific newsletters, advertising tools, press releases, linking to news outlets, participation in conventions and conferences, and telerenewals. They also work hard to maintain existing subscribers as well as add new subscribers, and this includes much work with bundling efforts. They also continue marketing after institutions adopt their journals to increase penetration and recognition of the societies involved.

They argue they are very good at transition work, and this is due to a specific team that handles each transition. Eric suggested contacting people that have already transitioned to see what has worked and how well they have handled this. They also discussed the range of outreach activities that are undertaken as the process unfolds. Journal impact factor was then discussed and they showed some trends a journal that has been transitioned.

Q&A – Heather asked what % of journals are owned by Sage; 50% of their journals are owned by Sage. They argue that they market society journals more heavily than their own. Larry asked what kind of assistance they can provide to help advertise our conference, and they are able to provide limited assistance on sending out EMAIL to people on a case-by-case basis. Larry asked about conference attendance and support, and they advised Leah would attend and provide a display at the conference. They did NOT offer this nor did they speak to anything having to do with our 50th anniversary. Dan asked after timeline from submission to publishing, and this runs 10-12 weeks from submission of an issue to publishing, and they can shorten this to 8 weeks for individual issues.

Ted asked several questions including asking for details on tracking process, and Leah discussed how SageTrack works, including uploading of reviewers and the ability to easily select reviewers through various filters. Training on SageTrack can be offered, and they also would host a visit from an SSJ team at their offices to deal with the transition. Ted also asked about bundling, and they do not bundle outside of their entire list being bundled. Ted also asked for ideas on how they would brand SSJ, and they shared some basic ideas on marketing the SSJ. Scott asked about transitioning and how reviewers are loaded, and they noted that if we can provide an Excel file with reviewers, they can load this. Eric noted that Sage pays attention to smaller journals, they have a greater ability to work with the people involved, and they like this. Dan asked about production turnover, and Eric noted that they do see production turnover, while the editorial staff is more stable. Dan asks if the dedicated copy editors are a long-term commitment, and they noted that these people tend to be pretty stable. Proposal is for a 4-year contract, but the packet shows 4 and 5 years; both terms are possible with Sage. Eric also argued that Sage sees the deal as a partnership arrangement with societies for whom they publish, and they are proud of this.

At Dan's prodding, Chris asked about a signing bonus, and they advised that this is not part of their normal business model. If this stood in the way of WSSA selecting Sage,

Eric noted, “this would be a discussion that Sage would like to have.” Dan asked about agreements with J-Stor, and Sage noted that they do have a relationship with J-Stor.

Sage asked about our timetable:

- Final decision by April 2012 for conference announcement,
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Post presentation discussion on Sage

Folks liked the fact that Sage spoke in detail to the details of transition and also invited us to check the references, and folks also liked the “toll free linking” that provided free access to both our journal and to others that Sage owns. We seem to have really different options whereby Sage offers some really attractive things and a philosophy people liked, and Routledge offers a very high profile option with a very attractive financial package. Dan notes the attractiveness of Sage opening offices in the developing world, and he also asked about efforts to open up China. They are running into issues of China wanting to control content, and Sage offers journals that have critical content related to human rights.

Geoffrey spoke about the differences in royalties, signing bonus, and editorial support, and this raised questions about what Routledge would do with pricing in the future to make up for the extra cash being paid. Chris noted that if Routledge starts with \$576 for a complete institutional rate and runs 7% increases, we would see similar prices as to what Sage is pricing over 5 years. People liked the perceived stability of Leah being in the game for 5 years, and also that the person cutting the deal would be attending the conference. Folks seemed to like the overall approach that Sage is offering, they are strong in the SS, and they spoke to transition. Routledge is truly the bigger fish with more capital, and Dan asks the question as to if Sage could weather the storms of an uncertain future adequately or if we are better off with a larger firm with deeper pockets.

Next steps

- Larry and Scott clarify some pending issues with Sage and Routledge and ask Sage to sweeten the deal with some form of signing bonus.
- Larry summarizes each of the packages after we clarify things with Sage and Routledge and sends these summaries to Elsevier.
- We then wait to hear what Elsevier says, at which point, we have a decision point.

Journal editor’s report

Scott commented briefly as to the transition process as he is stepping into the editorship. He sees no major changes in the works, following the review process Prabhha put in place and taking advantage of the editorial team. He also spoke with his emerging role as

he slowly gets more involved in the process, with 1 January 2012 being the date by which he is “all in” and Prabbha is no longer engaged. Gil thanked Scott for his willingness to serve, and the group echoed this.

Book review editor’s report

Rich gave a brief report of the book editorship, passing out documents that summarized reviews published to date, anticipated reviews in the next few issues, historical activity, and 2010 and 2011 acquisitions that need to be reviewed. Gil thanked Rich for his service, and the group echoed this.

Newsletter issues

Kate notes she has had trouble getting people to provide kudos and laurels, and she is discontinuing this section. She is replacing this with 2 potential areas where she would like contributions, career development and also “neat things we would like to study but we don’t have time to study.”

Day Two – 17 September 2011

Financials

Larry reviewed the net worth document, which indicates we are worth \$133,859, spread across CDs, a checking account, and a money market account. Looking at the comparison report, we see SLC was a good conference due to lower catering expenses, good attendance, and the new dues structure. Larry hit some of the major categories, and these are pretty consistent from year to year.

- Salary/wages & lodging for student workers is about \$5-6k, but we need to pay it.
- Newsletter printing and mailing is about \$5-6k; folks like the paper copy and see this as an important means to communicate.
- Student worker to help with the journal is now paid by WSSA, not a university as in the past.
- Fall meeting costs us about \$10k, but we need to do this to cover peoples’ lodging and meals to make this work. We need the meeting to get work done and plan the conference.

Given the support the WSSA provides to people, we all need to meet our commitments to Kate for articles and other things we agree to do. We also need to answer EMAIL concerning the fall meeting and other issues to give Larry, Kate, the President, Past President, and President Elect the input that they need to keep the Association running.

Ross asked for clarification on the credit card fee, and Kate noted that the fee that the new company is charging is comparable to what we paid to Avteva in the past. We will continue to purchase 2-3 LCD projectors each year and check these out to sections, and we also need to ask SCs to bring their own LCD projectors and also their own notebooks.

Larry noted that the new LCDs will now accept a memory stick with a special format PPT file, and we want to move the membership to start using this method in the future. Larry will provide detail on this in the future. Ted noted he thought hiring an accountant was a good idea as they can help us see where we can save money.

Larry noted that the President Elect/Conference Chair will need to work with SCs for our affiliates to run their catering through WSSA to help us make our catering minimum. Currently, our minimum catering charge is \$20k, and Larry expects this to go to \$50k in the future. We have shared the expense with ABS in the past, and Larry notes that we MAY be able to share expenses with large affiliates in the future (AFIT, ABS, etc). SCs should contact the President Elect/Conference Chair for details. Tom raises the question as to how Sections deal with leadership in the future, and the idea to have Section mini business meetings to do this seems reasonable. We could help host these meetings with cookies/coffee or wine/cheese, but we need to know this in advance. This is an easier thing to do with affiliates than non-affiliates, and this raises the question of perhaps charging some form of section membership fee to cover this.

We also spent some time discussing the Saturday night reception. We need this to help insure attendance at the Saturday afternoon sessions, and the key is to get people to start doing this. Kate notes that having music is a good draw, Tom asked what type of music, and we talked about something to which one can dance but around which we can talk. Tom will look into this with the folks at St. Thomas, and Gil noted that he should audition them first! We also talked about the “wash” where we see 102% lodging on the first night, then this drops to close to 80% on later nights. People are canceling at the last minute, and this poses a risk of not meeting our room minimum.

SLC meeting recap

We need a past presidents registration page for the Website (they get lifetime free membership), and we also need a registration page for vendors to let us know what they need in the way of setup needs, etc. We no longer need as many student workers as we did in the past as the registration procedure is streamlined and less time consuming, but we may also deploy students to help manage the projectors, perhaps even delivering and picking them up. This is a fairly large expense, and Kate notes that some students that contact her are surprised to hear we pay them and comp them rooms and meals. Gil asks what our student worker needs are for Houston, and this raised the potential to have 2 types of student workers (locals that may work for free and students that travel and need the lodging, meals, and wage support). We talked about no shows, as we have 20-40 pre-registration packets that do not get picked up. We may want to deploy students to research this, but we also don't want to overly police the conference.

Houston Conference Discussion

Tom asks about the conference theme. Do we need one? We don't have a plenary to anchor the theme. This can act as a filter for papers in a very competitive arena, but we don't have this situation. What about just running with our motto of interdisciplinary

scholarship, service, and collegiality? We are so broad in our range of interests, what could link or unify efforts under a theme? Heather Nicol shared a somewhat negative experience and noted that this can backfire. Folks overall were not terribly supportive of having a specific theme, and Tom came back to the issue of stressing our motto of scholarship across disciplines.

Poster session – After a walkabout of the hotel, we don't really see a place to put this, and the hotel is not able to provide the setup for this. They provided some local firms that might be able to meet our needs, but Ted has not been able to chase these down. Tom will call folks that have done this for other associations to generate ideas. This is something we have discussed for almost 30 years, and we have lots of unanswered questions:

- 1) How to physically pull this off WRT to hardware (clothesline, fold out cardboard, or pushpins in air walls)? We need to work this out in advance so people know what they need to bring.
- 2) If we do the table top/fold out, do we ask people to purchase stuff or do we pay for it?
- 3) How many posters will we have, 4 or 100? What do we do if we are overloaded?
- 4) When would we have it, and where would we have it? Opening reception is current option, and so is the Friday am breakfast. Could we NOT have papers in the Friday am slot to induce participation? This would push papers into Saturday afternoon, and the largest affiliate, ABS, feels like this is doable. If we do the poster session and breakfast together, it will not fit in Windowbox and will have to go in the Imperial Ballroom.
- 5) What about a "peoples' choice" contest whereby people vote on the best poster with leaving three marbles at each poster? People REALLY like this idea a lot, and it links REALLY nicely to the breakfast idea.
- 6) Who is going to organize this? Theodore is the poster SC, and he will basically be running a separate section for posters.
- 7) Dan asks, will this have a negative impact on SCs pulling together papers for regular sessions? If we pitch this as an add-on activity above and beyond regular papers, then we should have better response.

Social media

Donna has set up a FB page, and she asks that people access and like the page to get things moving. Tom noted the differences between a page and a group, and he is asking SCs to set up groups.

Cross reference table

Can we develop a tool to help make cross-referencing easier? Ideas in play include some sort of "program at a glance" banner stands or other tools to help this happen. Banner stands need advance notice and get expensive, and they are out of date the moment they are made. New idea – we set this up to run on a projector and just project this on a screen. Problem solved.

Service project in the Houston area

Gil brought this up as a means of getting a story in the paper to announce “The WSSA is in town; come on down.” This could include making a donation to a local charity, setting up a treadmill and having people run to generate a donation to a charity, or some other idea. Groups in play include Rotary (drilling wells in Africa to generate a range of benefits), Lions, or Optimist, and Larry notes that connecting to a given group like this makes sense but needs advance notice. Dan notes that the Friday breakfast would be a good collection point. Heather Albanesi agreed to research this and get something in play, and people like the idea of some form of food bank or related activity. Tom notes this would make a good story for the newsletter.

Student paper competition

Chris provided an update on the revised call, the guidelines, and the cover sheet. Dan noted that the WSSA Webpage is currently linking to last years page, and Kate notes she will get this resolved. The call and cover sheet are in the newsletter, and the call is going out on the cold call mailing to regional universities.

We need a committee to read the papers, and this has varied in the past. It has included the VP and candidates in the past, and this will not work this year. The group leaves this to Chris to decide how to develop and deploy this committee, and Chris needs to work this out. Ideas include summing up past presidents and asking them to serve, looking to existing members of the EC to serve, or other movers and shakers in the organization. Chris asks that if he asks people to serve, please serve. Donna Lybecker and Ross Burkhart have graciously and generously agreed to serve. Thanks!

Section Coordinators’ Handbook

Gil notes Dan’s work on this is much appreciated and is applauded by the EC, and this will be going out to the SCs in the coming week. Dan did ask for clarification on when the final program is set, as people are already asking for when their paper is scheduled to allow them to purchase plane tickets. After some discussion, Gil suggested that we should be able to provide people with the date their paper will be given by 1 February 2012. What about the details of AV? We are NOT supplying overheads unless they are requested. The list should only include overheads on an “as needed” basis and we will also provide a limited number of LCDs. The goal is to guide SCs to bring their own LCD and notebook computer. We also need to notify SCs that we will not have paper sessions in the Friday morning session from 8-9:15, as this is reserved for the new poster session and the breakfast.

Globalization & Development Section

Chris missed some of the early discussion on this and needs to get the scoop from Heather Albanesi. It appears we agreed to have a virtual section on globalization, and Heather will be taking the lead on this.

Social Work Section

We agreed in the past to establish this section, and we have learned that Diane Calloway-Graham and Bill Pederson are working on solidifying this and making it happen.

Recap of research into Routledge

I have nothing here and cannot remember what was happening. Can anyone help?

Newsletter requests and assignments

Kate noted that the President normally writes an invitation to the city where the Spring conference is held, and the President's Soapbox where he/she says whatever they want about whatever they want. Given Vic is out with medical issues, Kate is not going to ask him to do this. She is asking for volunteers to write the invitation, and also is willing to entertain a discussion about what to do about the President's Soapbox.

Assignments include:

- Invitation to the City – Kate to ask John Burke (SC of Chicano Studies) if he will do this, once Gil talks to Vic to see what Vic wants to do;
- Tom's piece on conference overview, plug and play from the program;
- Student piece on either a WSSA experience or a student experience (300-600 words) – Donna will get Caleb or Beth to do this;
- Another piece from a student worker on being a student worker at the WSSA conference (300-600 words) - Donna will get Caleb or Beth to do this;
- Runup to the SSJ 50th Anniversary - Larry
- Short bit on ABS student paper competition (short paragraph) – Heather Nicol
- Longish piece on Pavee in Ireland (~1500 words) - Elieen
- Introduction to new SSJ editor with editorial philosophy and promotion of the journal – Scott
- Meet the candidates piece – Gil to provide slate and data to Kate to extract detail and write this up
- Houston service project – Heather Albanesi
- New SC Handbook – Dan
- “Something I always wanted to study piece” (1000-1500 words) – Chris does something on the US-Canada research he is doing, value of comparative work, progressive work of the IJC, desire to learn more about 2 regions in Canada
- Poster session – Theodore to write an update on mechanics, rules, and scope
- Assessment of education project and grants (500 to 1200 words) – Dan
- Another “something I always wanted to study piece” (500-600 words) – Ross

- Another “something I always wanted to study piece” (500-600 words) – Geoffrey

1 November is the deadline by which the completed first draft of the article is due to Kate, and she would like a summary/update (how many paragraphs and photos on what topic) by 7 October. She also needs ALL the articles in before she can send it to Omni for layout and printing, and this has been a problem. Larry suggested that we take a page to do a piece on the 50th Anniversary, and we have some historic data from the 50th anniversary that can be examined.

Update on the Emancipation Proclamation effort

Theodore has made numerous efforts to contact him via EMAIL and phone, but no replies at all. Larry advises that he must have the details on the conference needs for anything he wants to do by July of 2012 for the 2013 conference. Theodore will continue to work on getting something going.

Geoffrey’s request for information and assistance

Geoffrey would like some assistance concerning how the WSSA may overlap with other disciplinary networks and organizations and also with geographic networks. Larry shared the experience we had in the past with reaching out to CJ networks and also to people in Ontario and how these efforts were successful in helping promote the WSSA and conference. Pieces of the puzzle we do know about are:

- CJ experience in the past
- Word of mouth recruitment to the conference
- ACSUS, WSSA, and ABS constellation
- Constellation of Canadian Studies groups, ABS, and WSSA
- The vitality of individual SCs is crucial to our success or failure.
- Some successful and productive connection with the AAG (Victor, Heather, Chris, Emmanuel, Henk von Houtum, Martin van der Velde)

Brant Short’s discussion of potential awards

Brant Short has suggested that we have awards for members above and beyond the graduate student awards, and folks feel this is long overdue. Larry is willing to work something up that could be put in play possibly in 2012 in Houston, but more likely in Denver in 2013.

WSSA Lapel Pins

Gil suggests this is a very easy and simple way to spread the word about WSSA. One idea is to just run with the logo we have now, and Chris suggested that we just run with this. Gil to send Larry an EMAIL asking him to have his graphics people work up something based on the WSSA logo, gold on a blue background. Larry will do so, and then send out the proofs to the EC to review.

Slate of officers and EC members

Gill passed out the slate and discussed the process of asking folks to serve, some of their responses, and the idea that the better the people we have on the Board, the better the WSSA will do. The current slate shows a group of people with a very strong commitment to the WSSA that will do us well, and we are fortunate to have these folks volunteering to serve. Larry and Gil will review the constitution to see what the details are, and the slate will go out with the ballot in the next few weeks. We expect to see voting completed in February and be able to announce the winners of the election at the Annual meeting in Houston in April of 2012.

Ideas to induce better compliance on conference pre-registration

Dan introduces a proposal to require mandatory pre-registration for the conference prior by the last date we accept pre-registration on the Web, and failure to do so will cause people to be purged from the program. The goal of this is very positive, but 3 problems exist:

- 1) Our heaviest registration period runs from early/mid February to the middle of March, and pulling the plug early will hurt us on the gate.
- 2) The program goes to the printer prior to the date we would pull the plug.
- 3) ABS people would be in the crosshairs of this proposal, and the loss of these people would be damaging to the overall gate.

Folks discussed downloading this responsibility to the SCs, and the wording would be something like “all presenters should pre-register for the conference by date X to prevent the SCs of sections from dropping non-registrants from the program.” This doesn’t really solve the problem, it just shifts the responsibility to the SCs. The idea that came from these discussions was to increase the late fee, leave the current procedure in place, and see how things unfold next year. The new online membership and registration software will automatically create a database of registered people that can be viewed online by anyone, and this would allow the SCs to watch the lists and see if they have a problem that they can resolve.

Chris made a motion to change the deadline for early registration to 15 March, allow the higher late fee to kick in, and see what happens in 2012. We got a second, and then we discussed the idea. However, we had to pull the idea from consideration, because we have already advertised the existing dates. Chris withdrew the motion, and we agreed to discuss this in the future for the 2013 conference in Denver.

Meeting ended in the mid afternoon of day two.