

**Western Social Science Association (WSSA)
Executive Council Meeting
Friday, 26 Sept 2014
Portland, Oregon
Meeting Minutes**

Attendees:

- ✓ Prabha Unnithan, President (Sociology, Colorado State University)
- ✓ Les Alm, Immediate Past-President (Public Administration, Boise State University)
- ✓ Heather Albanesi, President-Elect (Sociology, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs)
- ✓ Ross Burkhardt, Vice-President / Secretary (Political Science, Boise State University)
- ✓ Mary Jo Tippeconnic Fox, Executive Council (American Indian Studies, University of Arizona)
- ✓ Kristina Lybecker, Executive Council (Economics & Business, Colorado College)
- ✓ Reynold Nesiba, Executive Council (Economics, Augustana College)
- ✓ Barbara Bonnekessen, Executive Council (History, Philosophy & Social Sciences, Pittsburg State University)
- ✓ Michèle Companion, Executive Council (Sociology, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs)
- ✓ Lynda Dickson, Executive Council (Sociology, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs)
- ✓ Jesús Ruiz Flores, Executive Council (Political Science & Society, Universidad de Guadalajara at La Ciénega)
- ✓ Anthony Amato, Executive Council (Rural and Regional Studies, Southwest Minnesota State University)
- ✓ Christina Medina, Executive Council (Public Administration, New Mexico State University)
- ✓ Larry Gould, Executive Director (Professor Emeritus, Northern Arizona University, Yuma Branch Campus)
- ✓ Gary Linn, Coordinator of Member Recruitment and Retention (Optimal Solutions in Healthcare and International Development)
- ✓ Scott Carson, Editor, *The Social Science Journal* (Economics, University of Texas, Permian Basin)
- ✓ Kate Herke, Communications Director (Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance)

The meeting began at 8:35 a.m.

Agenda Item 1. Welcome, Call to Order—WSSA President Prabha Unnithan welcomed attendees to the meeting and passed out the agenda. The attendees then introduced themselves to each other.

2a. Financials—WSSA Executive Director Larry Gould made a presentation on the state

of the finances of the WSSA, examining the August 2013 – August 2014 period. The total cash assets are \$63,576.78. The strategic investment account is \$164,034.92. The WSSA net worth is \$291,659.10. The estimated liabilities of the WSSA for August 2014 – August 2015 are \$25,180.

Financially, the WSSA is in good shape. We were audited and the auditors are satisfied with us as a not-for-profit. The auditors suggested that we should formalize a process to rotate the membership of the Investment Committee and place it into the By-Laws.

2b. Membership: Larry Gould said that the WSSA is holding steady on membership. Kate Herke said that the WSSA has about 750 members. Larry said the WSSA needs to increase membership or risk decline as an organization. Ideally, the WSSA seeks new members at the beginning of the career trajectory. The WSSA welcomes student membership and participation as well.

2c. Future Meetings/Siting: Future meetings are as follows: 2016, Reno; 2017, San Francisco, 2018, San Antonio. The Executive Council considered other possible sites for future conferences, including San Diego and El Paso / Ciudad Juárez.

2d. Website: The WSSA website (www.wssaweb.com) is up and running, and is ready for conference registration and abstract submission. Kate Herke is the point person on website issues and will be speaking with the webmaster soon on ironing out the kinks as the WSSA transitions to its new website.

2e. Albuquerque Conference Post-Mortem: The Executive Council considered several matters regarding the April 2014 conference in Albuquerque. One issue concerns the timing of registrations and hotel reservations. It is hard to

Heather Albanesi: Is there a cut off date for registration?

Larry Gould: We try to negotiate it to be 14 days out.

Kate Herke: The hotel reservation deadline date should be in the materials we sent out.

Larry Gould: After the hotel registration deadline, the hotel sells us rooms at a higher rate. Once the hotel hits 90% of capacity, then room rates skyrocket because the hotel has us lodgers over a barrel.

Larry Gould: For the first time, we had LCD projectors in each room. However, the A/V people charged us too much for labor. We will get a bid for Portland and hopefully see the cost even out. We will no longer have television for any session rooms (TVs are four times the cost of the LCD), as well as no slide projectors and no overhead projectors. That equipment is old fashioned. Attendees are responsible for any special equipment cords.

Les Alm: We should remind section coordinators of the no TVs, no overheads, no slide projectors policy, and that attendees are responsible for bringing laptops. Instructions for LCD usage (creating Powerpoint slides specifically for the LCD) are on the website.

Prabha Unnithan: We almost ran out of programs.

Larry Gould: We printed programs based on past experience, but things are less predictable now.

Kate Herke: We have more solo Saturday participants and more local participants, so we can't use hotel registrations to gauge the printed program need as easily.

Reynold Nesiba: At an economics conference I will soon attend, the printed program will cost \$55 per copy.

Larry Gould: It is a perennial balance regarding the printed versus digital programs. At some point we will need to make a decision on whether or not we want to print programs.

Michèle Companion: Can we give conference participants an option upon conference registration of "I want a paper/electronic copy"?

Larry Gould: We should consider it.

Kate Herke: We will likely have multiple displays of the program (electronic message board e.g.).

Reynold Nesiba: Do we have a penalty rate for late registration?

Kate Herke: We have a discount rate for on-time registration.

Larry Gould: On-site registration is always more expensive.

Heather Albanesi: The Food Bank fundraising breakfast was chaotic with the change in location on the morning of the breakfast.

Les Alm: Larry will talk to the hotel to make sure that this won't happen again.

Les Alm: Heather Albanesi will schedule events so that there's no chaos.

Larry Gould: A suggestion: let's have all big events in the same room, with no other panels in there.

Reynold Nesiba: Heather Albanesi should emphasize to section coordinators the importance of attending WSSA events. Those attendees who associate attendance with their association (ABS, AFAIT) don't often think of WSSA events as ones that they can and should attend.

Heather Albanesi: Can we translate WSSA documents into Spanish?

Larry Gould: Even though Albuquerque has been good for the WSSA, we should give it a rest. We have been there every five years.

Prabha Unnithan: I received a complaint that we didn't have town car service from the Albuquerque bus station to the hotel.

Larry Gould: This is news to me.

Lynda Dickson: Shouldn't the Portland Marriott have an airport shuttle?

Larry Gould: It is expensive for a hotel to operate a shuttle service unless the hotel has a fleet of shuttle vehicles. Nowadays, hotels contract the service out.

Reynold Nesiba: The MAX light rail works well.

Timothy Amato: The Blue Star shuttle service does good job of ferrying passengers without giving the grand tour of Portland.

2f. Book Display: Larry Gould said that Scholar's Choice wants to do the book display again next year in Portland. Albuquerque was better for them this time around and the display was better from the standpoint of the WSSA. Scholar's Choice needs the conference program earlier to do searches of conference presenters in order to bring books to the conference written by them for the book display. WSSA is too late in the year for publishers to make money off of the book display.

Reynold Nesiba: Can Powell's do something? It's world-renown and would attract conference attention.

Kate Herke: I will contact Powell's.

Larry Gould: The WSSA does not want to be in competition with whatever other activities are taking place / being sold in the hotel. However, one popular set of vendors

at previous conferences is to allow Native American local crafts / artisans (jewelry) to sell their wares. The WSSA will give them a free table.

Kate Herke: I have always heard that they are very pleased to sell here.

Les Alm: There is a Saturday market near Portland State University, not far from the Marriott.

3a. Review of Financial Subcommittee Document: The Council thanked Kristina Lybecker for writing the bulk of the Investment Policy Statement. Reynold Nesiba and Scott Carson assisted with editing. Reynold Nesiba presented the Statement to the Executive Council, which reviewed the Statement.

Article I of the Statement is an Introduction to the purpose of the WSSA Fund, "created to provide perpetual financial support to the [WSSA]" The Portfolio refers to the Fund's investments. "The Portfolio was created through a bequest from the estate of former WSSA President, John Henry Wicks. At the end of 2013, the Portfolio had a balance of approximately \$177,430." Article II refers to "Selection & Terms of Service of the Investment Committee". Larry Gould interjected that this article may need to be moved to the By-Laws. Also, do we make Investment Committee membership available to past Presidents only? Over past 14 years that Larry has been the Executive Director, we need a sense of stability and history for this Board.

Article III refers to the Role of the Investment Committee, which essentially is to provide guidance, review finances and financial statements, and make recommendations to the Executive Council. Article IV states that all earnings will be invested and no annual withdrawals will be made until 31 Dec 2020, unless there is an exigency. Heather Albanesi asked a question: from where do the Wicks Dissertation funds come? Larry Gould responded that it comes from other funds than the Wicks property sales. We need to meet 501(c)(3) obligations.

Article V refers to Portfolio Investment Policies. There are broadly defined asset categories, and several guidelines: (1) a balanced portfolio, (2) cash investments are temporary, (3) below investment grade assets may be held only as part of a fund, (4) diversification is the strategy for risk reduction, (5) seeking minimum average credit quality, (6) annual rebalancing in December, and (7) no gambling with Portfolio.

Article VI refers to Monitoring Portfolio Investments and lays down benchmarks for assessing performance. Part C calls for an overall review every five years and the solicitation of at least one competitive bid on the management of the portfolio.

Larry Gould: The Statement is excellent. It needs minor editing. The word "Board" needs to be struck at every instance and replaced with "Council". Our attorney suggests changing "Investment Committee" to "WSSA Foundation Board" on page 1 of the Statement. Otherwise, the attorney had no heartburn over the Statement.

Heather Albanesi: Do we have an investment manager?

Larry Gould: Yes. It is Yuma Investment Group Wealth Management, who presented to the Executive Council last year. They encourage a reevaluation every 4-6 years of everything associated with the WSSA investments.

MOTION: Reynold Nesiba made a motion to move Article II of the Investment Policy Statement for the Western Social Science Association, dated June 4, 2014, to the WSSA By-Laws. The motion was seconded by Anthony Amato. The motion

passed unanimously.

Larry Gould: I will recommend where the Article should appear in the By-Laws. Operationalization can only occur at the April 2015 WSSA Business Meeting. The WSSA President should make that recommendation.

MOTION: Heather Albanesi made a motion that WSSA President Prabha Unnithan enable the By-Laws change at the April Business Meeting. Christina Medina seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Reynold Nesiba made a motion to use the Investment Policy Statement in the interim period from today through the April 2015 WSSA Business Meeting as the WSSA investment guidelines, whereupon the Statement can be reactivated and be in effect at the Business Meeting. In the meantime, Larry Gould will share the Statement with Yuma Investment Group Wealth Management. Barbara Bonnekesen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3b. Larry's Retirement/Proposal: Larry Gould has happily retired from Northern Arizona University. Reynold Nesiba interjected that Larry will someday also retire from being Executive Director of the WSSA and that the Executive Council should have a plan or policy for succession. Larry provided some history on the matter of his becoming Executive Director in 2000. Larry was on the WSSA Executive Council at the time. Some years prior, Brian Downs took over the Executive Director duties and rescued WSSA from bankruptcy, whereupon Jay Stauss came in when a succession was necessary and became Executive Director for a three year term and no longer. Larry made a good WSSA business presentation to the Council in San Diego and was subsequently recruited into the Executive Director position.

Larry made a proposal to the Executive Council. He wants to have a stable business and innovative academics operation, with both being separate. Larry had a staff when he came on board, then Kate came on board. Larry has no staff now; Kate is the Communications Manager. Episodically the WSSA consumes lots of his time. Larry's proposal is to become a IRS 1099 Miscellaneous Employee and be compensated for time on an amortized basis of \$1,000 a month, with a net to him of \$700. Larry would like to continue this arrangement as long as possible. WSSA already compensates Larry for storage, out-of-pocket expenses, and travel. The WSSA would not be responsible for Social Security & taxes on this compensation.

Barbara Bonnekesen: This is a good proposal because it's hard to assign university staff to engage in work activities outside of the university. The WSSA is lucky to have such an experienced person as Larry and he should be compensated for his year-round work.

Gary Linn: This proposal is totally consistent with his experience as an Executive Director of a 501(c)(3) organization.

Prabha Unnithan: Do we have a job description for the Executive Director?

Larry Gould: Yes, it's in the WSSA By-Laws.

Reynold Nesiba: This is a good plan.

Kate Herke: There is a precedent with her; when she started at WSSA, she was compensated a couple of hundred dollars a month, and when she changed positions,

compensated more (\$1k a month) when employer considered her work a liability.

Lynda Dickson: This proposal seems especially appropriate because this was service for Larry when he was a full-time employee, but now he's no longer a full-time employee at an academic institution.

Larry Gould: Aside from my proposal, we do need to figure out both a secession process (should we recruit an Executive Director from the academic ranks? Administrator ranks?), as well as a formal performance review. Larry added that he does not plan on going anywhere for the next half-dozen years.

Heather Albanesi: Is the proposal too modest?

Larry Gould: It works, financially speaking.

RN: Do we do an annual review of Larry Gould?

Larry Gould: I have requested them in the past from time to time and would welcome a more systematic review process.

Kristina Lybecker: I agree with Heather that it is a modest proposal but I suggest setting aside another \$5,000 per year in honor of Larry for scholarships.

Gary Linn: I support this, and the amount should be revisited.

Larry Gould: The Executive Council could revisit it.

MOTION: Reynold Nesiba made a motion that beginning January 1, 2015, Larry Gould be paid \$1,000 a month on under the guidelines of IRS Form 1099-MISC Miscellaneous Income, and that the WSSA President and WSSA President-Elect will create an annual review process for the Executive Director to present at the April WSSA Business Meeting. Michèle Companion seconded the Motion.

Discussion from Lynda Dickson: Should there be separate motions?

Reynold Nesiba and Prabha Unnithan: They should be in one motion.

Comment from Christina Medina: We do need to reconsider who serves and compensation in future. It is very unusual that we've had an uncompensated Executive Director.

The motion passed unanimously.

A story: Larry got his cell phone back at the hospital in the spring when he was hospitalized. He called Jim Peach and asked if he could take over as Executive Director in case something happened. After a long pause, Jim said "Of course."

MOTION: Kristina Lybecker moved that beginning in January 2015, on an annual basis the Executive Council will place \$5,000 in a designated fund for scholarships to attend the WSSA conference in Larry Gould's name. Any constraints regarding the awarding of these scholarships will be decided in consultation with Larry Gould and that donation shall continue as long as Larry Gould serves as Executive Director. Michèle Companion seconded the motion.

Discussion from Scott Carson: I'm a child of the Great Depression. Is the \$5,000 donation sustainable? Where does it come from?

Larry Gould: Right now it's sustainable. But this matter will become a separate conversation. Do we use the interest from investment principal, for instance, or do we use part of the principal, or does the entire \$5,000 come straight from the principal? We need to look 25 years down the road. Our mission is to build the

social sciences from within.

Kristina Lybecker: The mechanics is a separate issue.

Les Alm: We can let Larry decide.

Reynold Nesiba: Do we look at an income statement?

Larry Gould: At the April WSSA Business Meeting, we always look at the income statement from January - December of year. The WSSA has \$11,000-\$12,000 growth in assets. We've raised the membership fee from \$40 to \$45 and the conference fee to \$135 for individual members, \$95 for retired members, and \$90 for student members.

The motion passed unanimously.

4a. Recruitment and Retention Report: Gary Linn, the WSSA Coordinator of Member Recruitment and Retention, made a presentation on this subject. Recruitment and retention is a four part process. First, Gary analyzes the panels and papers at the WSSA conference and presents his findings at the April WSSA Business Meeting. Second, Gary writes an article for the Fall WSSA newsletter that gives "kudos" to those sections who increased participation at the most recent WSSA as compared to the WSSA in the prior year. Third, Gary works with lower participant sections to brainstorm strategies for increasing participation. This year, Gary is actively working with American Indian Studies, Asian Studies, Environmental Policy & Natural Resources Management, Latin American Studies, and Poster Sessions to boost participation. Fourth, Gary was given the "Midwest Initiative" assignment by Larry. Gary selected two institutions who sent several participants to the WSSA Albuquerque conference, the University of Illinois – Chicago and Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis, and intensively recruited on those campuses for participation at the WSSA Portland conference. The recruitment activities consisted of letters to chancellors, deans, and department chairs of social sciences departments. Gary provided sample recruitment letters to the Executive Council.

In addition, Gary has contacted liberal arts deans at another 16 Midwestern campuses with letters and emails seeking more participation. These campuses are: Kansas State University, Kent State University, Michigan State University, Michigan Tech University, Northwestern University, Minnesota State University – Moorhead, Missouri Institute of Technology, Missouri State University, Northern Illinois University, Oberlin College, Southwest Minnesota State University, The Ohio State University, University of Missouri, University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire, University of Wisconsin – Stout, and Wright State University.

Gary hopes that this effort will raise the image of the WSSA in the Midwest.

4b. Recognition from Disability Center, University of Hawai'i: Gary Linn called the attention of the Executive Council to the letter of thanks from Dr. Steven E. Brown, Professor of Disability Studies, the University of Hawai'i – Manoa Center on Disability Studies to President Prabha Unnithan for providing a Skype connection at the WSSA conference in Albuquerque, which allowed a presenter who could not travel to Albuquerque to present. Gary wants the Skype connection to be offered in 2015 as well. Gary does not advertise the Skype connection. Three presenters requested it in their proposals to Gary, who is co-coordinator of the Chronic Disease and Disability section of

the WSSA. Participants using Skype still have to register for the conference, but because of their disability they cannot travel. We need a dedicated room at the hotel to have the Skype session. It puts WSSA in a good light.

Les Alm: While it is costly to have the Skype connection, about \$1,000, Gary has done a good job with it.

Heather Albanesi: Could other panels use the room with the Skype connection on that day?

Les Alm: At the two previous conference hotels, yes. We should ask the A/V hotel staff in Portland if it works this way here, too.

Heather Albanesi: I'm in support of this idea.

Heather Albanesi: Does Gary find potential new section participants?

Gary Linn: Only when section coordinators responded to my offers of assistance. Over the four years that I have been doing this, it is progressively more difficult to get email lists.

Scott Carson: What is our market? Given limited budgets, do we want to recruit too far away from the American West?

Gary Linn: This is the first time we have tried this type of initiative, inspired by the Midwestern participants at the WSSA conference last year. We thought it to be worth our while to try this market.

Lynda Dickson: I appreciate Gary's effort to put this together. However, we are inundated with invitations to go to conferences. Can we discuss making sure folks see these messages?

Barbara Bonnekesen: Any invitation has to be from a school I recognize. It must be personalized.

Gary Linn: I send hard copy letters via U.S. Postal Service to department chairs.

Larry Gould: The WSSA had a similar discussion in 1986, and it was determined that the West Coast was not a part of our territory. That's hard to believe these days. How do outside folks find out about us? Word of mouth. The Midwest Initiative was an effort to build density by word of mouth.

Anthony Amato: We have a competitor organization in Rural Studies. It sent graduate students to other conferences to promote their conference. The Midwest is a good place for us to recruit "swing scholars".

Kristina Lybecker: Let's include a one page flyer with each hard copy letter that Gary sends. I'll put that flyer on my office door and on the advertising bulletin board in my department.

Kate Herke: We used to send out color flyers.

Reynold Nesiba: I'd like the color flyers for promotion purposes.

Kate Herke: We will send them out to you.

Anthony Amato: A real asset is our low cost as well as monetary awards for students and faculty.

Heather Albanesi: In emails on the conference, we should put "Portland" in the email subject line so that it might catches the eye.

Reynold Nesiba: Who needs help recruiting? ABS?

Larry Gould: We have associates and organizations, over whom we have no control, and then we have sections whom we do control. ABS needs no help with recruiting. We have bought advertising in association trade publications & that has yielded participation

results. For instance, for the Calgary conference we increased our attendance in Political Science from two to 40 after advertising on the POLCAN listserv. But there's a lot of lead time to consider.

Heather Albanesi: Can we advertise in student newspapers?

Kristina Lybecker: Economics conferences are advertised on a centralized website that I consult frequently.

Michèle Companion: The same is true for sociology conferences.

Kate Herke: Please send me email addresses and I will place the WSSA conference on these websites.

4c. Discussion of Skype Option Request for 2015 Conference: Christina Medina asked whether or not we can bring our own internet, and if so, then would we be able to use it for the Skype connection and save WSSA money?

Larry Gould: Regarding logistics, no, we need the hard-wired internet at hotel to ensure the stability of the connection. Hotspots and wi-fi are always uncertain, and we need this to be a picture-perfect connection. Also, this expense is well worth it in a moral sense.

Barbara Bonnekesen: The WSSA recognizes the contributions of people with disabilities.

Christina Medina: Let's keep looking at technological solutions because we may be able to do this ourselves at future conferences.

Larry Gould: We have the room all day long, so we can use it, but its use should be governed on a needs-basis, not a wish-basis.

Reynold Nesiba: Is it a two-way Skype conversation?

Gary Linn: Yes, it is within the format of the conference.

Les Alm: The Council should make this happen.

MOTION: Reynold Nesiba made a motion to spend up to \$1100 for a Skype connection to the 2015 WSSA conference for those with disabilities. Mary Jo Tippeconnic Fox seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried.

Heather Albanesi: On the WSSA website, there should be a tab for conference accessibility request at the 2015 WSSA.

Larry Gould: Yes, we should, and as an aside, we used to have Galludet University participate consistently at the WSSA conference.

7. Bert and Phyllis Lamb Prize in Political Science: Ross Burkhart and Prabha Unnithan made a presentation about this new prize for undergraduate political science students who write innovative papers on political science topics. The Lamb family wishes for the \$500 prize to be presented at the WSSA conference. Bert (Lee) Lamb was a past president of WSSA (mid-1990s) and has an abiding regard for the WSSA. While the WSSA would have no formal judging role for the prize, Ross is on the advisory board and former Executive Council member Donna Lybecker is on the selection committee for the prize, so there is that WSSA connection. Also, WSSA will be helping with promoting the prize. Michèle Companion: This is good exposure for WSSA. Can we keep our name linked to it somehow?

Barbara Bonnekesen: If we are the medium for the prize, then should we have a member

on the judging committee?

Kristina Lybecker: We should not set rules for the Lamb Prize.

Reynold Nesiba: Is there an ideological perspective associated with the prize?

Prabha Unnithan: No. Lee Lamb has a Ph.D. from Washington State University and was a non-ideological social scientist.

Reynold Nesiba: Should we have the lunch and registration fee waived for the prize winner?

Kate Herke: I can waive anyone. Just say the word.

Reynold Nesiba: I suggest that we have the prize inner present at the WSSA conference.

Prabha Unnithan: We will discuss this with Lee Lamb. Perhaps WSSA could have a bit more of a stake in the prize, but we will convey to the Lamb family that the Executive Council is utterly supportive of the Lamb Prize and its presentation at the WSSA conference.

5a. The Social Science Journal: Prabha Unnithan said that Scott Carson has been our editor for *The Social Science Journal* (SSJ) since 2011 and his three year term has come to a close. Scott would like to continue as Editor for another three year term. Scott then proceeded to discuss the state of the SSJ with the Executive Council.

Some statistics: during Scott's term as Editor, the SSJ has increased its impact factor by 50% – 67% depending upon the year analyzed. The SSJ has accepted 72 manuscripts for publication, more than ever. The number of manuscripts submitted has increased to 416 in 2013. The number of book reviews has increased by 50%. The time in review for each manuscript is down by 50%, very important for tenure-track faculty trying to publish. Scott has tripled the number of reviewers.

Scott has three goals for the next three years: (1) bring the SSJ impact factor up, (2) have a new journal or book review series that focuses on international social science, and (3) addressing the bottlenecks of special issues. Regarding special issues, the demand for them increases but criteria include that the special issue proposal needs to positively influence the journal and that there be at least 18 manuscripts for the special issue. If short on the 18 number, we can have a partial special issue.

Kristina Lybecker: If we have a second journal, then will the quality remain?

Scott Carson: I think so, but if English is not the first language, it's difficult to publish without spending a lot of time on grammar and style and we would need a second managing editor for that shepherding alone. We do have a huge database of reviewers.

Gary Linn: Could the new journal be linked to the SSJ to increase the impact factor?

Scott Carson: No.

Larry Gould: In Article 1(?), Section 2, Part B of the WSSA contract with our publisher, Elsevier, we cannot have a second journal if it materially affects the SSJ, which essentially means that if we have a second journal then Elsevier must be the publisher. Who do we talk to at Elsevier about a second journal? Our current liaison appears to be overstretched and may not be in the best position to discuss this matter.

Prabha Unnithan: We should devote time to discussion of a second journal at the April Executive Council meeting. We need to think about what a second journal would look like.

Larry Gould: Scott Carson should approach Elsevier with this idea and gather intelligence for use at the April Business Meeting.

Scott Carson: Some thoughts: (1) We may want to have a subcommittee for this activity, and (2) let's look at other academic organizations with multiple journals. We should pitch an area of distinction for this second journal.

Larry Gould: Referring to the WSSA contract with Elsevier again, Article 4, Section 3: By the end of the year the publisher will prepare a marketing plan for the journal which should include promotion at conferences and online advertising.

Scott Carson: Elsevier is not truly meeting its contractual obligations. We should be able to advertise and market the journal much better. Our best contact is with David(?) at Elsevier.

Larry Gould: Please send me David's contact information so that I may follow up with him.

Reynold Nesiba: Shouldn't we advertise the WSSA conference in the SSJ?

Several: Yes.

Gary Linn: Shouldn't we beef up SSJ with more international content to increase the impact score?

Scott Carson: We could do this.

Reynold Nesiba: Should we put together a subcommittee to work on these issues?

Several: Yes.

Lynda Dickson: Isn't there a journal that does similar things to our proposed 2nd journal?

Prabha Unnithan: There isn't a journal that truly does this.

Scott Carson: We could earn revenue for this.

Larry Gould: Let's get information from Elsevier about their level of interest in a second journal before we put forth energy on subcommittee work. Ideally, they would give us a letter either way.

MOTION Reynold Nesiba made a motion to create a subcommittee to explore possibility of a second journal for the WSSA. Barbara Bonnekesen seconded. The Executive Council unanimously approved the motion. Post-motion discussion from Reynold Nesiba: Can we staff the subcommittee now? Barbara Bonnekesen, Lynda Dickson, and Gary Linn volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

MOTION: Reynold Nesiba moved to reappoint Scott Carson for another three-year term as editor of the SSJ. Heather Albanesi seconded. Some Executive Council discussion took place without Scott Carson in the room, with praise of Scott's editorial leadership and achievements at the SSJ. The Executive Council unanimously approved the motion.

MOTION: Scott Carson requested that a new slate of SSJ Associate Editors be approved who will help with identifying quality manuscripts emerging topics (e.g. same-sex issues, international social movements, and the like): Benino Aguirre (Sociology), Yu-Feng Lee (Economics), Donald Haider-Markel (Political Science), Marrisa Harrison (Psychology), Marie Moral (Economics), Daphne Pederson Stevens (Sociology), and Ning Zhange (Economics), who will replace Ross Burkhart (Political Science), Brian Coffey (Urban Studies), Daniel McInerney (History), Priscilla Southwell (Political Science), and Richard Dukes (Sociology). There should be regular rotation of Associate Editors, with an eye to have non-Executive Council members serve as Associate Editors. Lynda Dickson moved to approve the slate.

Michèle Companion seconded the motion. The Executive Council unanimously approved the motion.

6. Book Review Editor of the SSJ: Ross Burkhart presented on this matter. Ross has been search for a Book Review Editor of the SSJ for several months with no takers. (Scott Carson has served as interim Book Review Editor for two years.) Ross has advertised the position in trade publications in social science, and talked about the position within his networks. No one has expressed an interest in being the Book Review Editor. What are we to do? Perhaps Ross should be fired from this appointment!

Larry Gould: Do not be too harsh on yourself. Universities do not compensate any longer or see value in their faculty being a book review editor. It used to be a position of prestige. Also, in the By-Laws no job description exists for either the SSJ journal Editor or SSJA Book Review Editor. Journal editors will get compensation. Should book review editors get compensation?

Prabha Unnithan: The WSSA should compensate the Book Review Editor for travel to the WSSA conference.

Scott Carson: It is harder to get people to review books, and it is harder to place books for review.

Reynold Nesiba: What are the time and effort demands of being the Book Review Editor?

Prabha Unnithan: I did it on Wednesdays when I was the SSJ Book Review Editor.

Larry Gould: Consider it done: we will increase compensation for the position. We will comp travel for the Book Review Editor to the conference, and should add this sweetener to the advertisement for Book Review Editor.

Ross Burkhart: I will make this change and will send the advertisement for the Book Review Editor position out to Executive Council. Please spread the word far and wide amongst your networks.

Scott Carson: Does the editor need to be affiliated with WSSA?

Prabha Unnithan: We will inculcate them with the ethos of the WSSA.

Christina Medina: Does the Book Review Editor have to be academic?

Prabha Unnithan: Yes.

Barbara Bonnekesen: Consider a librarian for the editorship.

8. Food Bank Update: Michèle Companion met with the Oregon Food Bank. It has 996 partner organizations to whom they supply food. The Oregon Food Bank is very excited to be affiliated with the WSSA for the breakfast. It will send printed material to the breakfast as well. The Oregon Food Bank is also willing to be host to a repackaging event putting food boxes together. Would we be willing to participate? This might be a good opportunity for students who are looking for service learning credit?

Heather Albanesi: I'm not sure we'd have enough time spent in the activity for students to earn a course credit.

Prabha Unnithan: Do we even have enough time for the event? We'll be pretty stretched in just administering the conference.

Michèle Companion: The Oregon Food Bank is also willing to co-sponsor a WSSA conference panel on food / hunger issues.

Prabha Unnithan: Could they participate on the panel?

Michèle Companion: Perhaps, but they'd provide resources for certain.

Gary Linn: This activity improves our brand with our feet in the community.

Barbara Bonnekesen: If the service activity is on a Saturday morning, for instance, how would students get there? I understand that it's a distance away.

Michèle Companion: The Oregon Food Bank is indeed pretty far away. And if we sent students there, it would pull them away from panel sessions.

Heather Albanesi: What if we screened some documentaries prior to a Thursday afternoon panel? Then we'd have the Friday morning fundraiser. That would be good exposure

Lynda Dickson: Why do we choose the Oregon Food Bank as our charity?

Heather Albanesi: Ninety percent of donations to food banks are given back directly to the hunger removal effort. Also, WSSA double matches up to \$2,000 for each dollar raised at the breakfast.

Kate Herke: Please send me the Oregon Food Bank link and I'll put it on the website.

Michèle Companion: Another organization that would be a great co-sponsor is Mercy Corps. It is a massive international aid organization. They also produce white papers and employ social science degree holders. Can they have an information booth at the conference?

Prabha Unnithan: Please encourage them to submit proposals.

Kate Herke: We can comp their participation.

Reynold Nesiba: While it's hard for us to break away to enjoy all of these organizations during the conference, could we have them bring their publicity materials to the breakfast?

Michèle Companion: Yes!

9. Institution Visits: In the tradition of WSSA officers visiting local higher education institutions to encourage their participation at the WSSA conference, Les Alm and Prabha Unnithan visited Portland State University and met with six people: Dean of the College of Urban and Public Affairs Stephen Percy, Director of the Hatfield School of Government, Provost Sona Andrews, Associate Dean for Humanities and Social Sciences Shelley Chabon, Associate Dean for Natural Sciences Drake Mitchell, and Associate Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies Margaret Everett. The meetings were very positive. Dean Everett said she will get matching funds for 10 students to attend the WSSA conference, and would alert the McNair Scholars Program of the conference. McNair Scholars are undergraduate students who undertake intensive research experiences and look for conferences as outlets for their research prior to applying to Ph.D. programs. Their research is of very high quality. It's always a surprise that no one knows WSSA; this could be because we haven't been to Portland in a long time. We should get great participation. The Provost offered to ask the President, Wim Wiewel, to give a welcome at the WSSA conference. HA: she was told that Portland wants more conferences.

Heather Albanesi and Lynda Dickson visited Lewis & Clark College and Reed College in Portland. While neither college has social sciences graduate programs, the deans with whom they met, Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Jerusha Detweiler-Bedell at Lewis & Clark College, and Dean of the Faculty Nigel Nicholson at Reed College, saw connections between their institutions and WSSA, especially with their

seniors required to undertake thesis projects. Faculty are expected to mentor students in their research. The deans were welcoming but are not sure faculty will attend. They are smaller, liberal arts colleges, which emphasize teaching. Reed College claims that 20% of graduates go on to doctoral programs. Additionally, Michèle Companion spoke to Linfield College in Portland and faculty will pass the WSSA conference information along.

18. By-Laws Changes: Larry Gould has been looking over the WSSA By-Laws, and we need changes. In prior revisions, we eliminated the Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, and Conference Manager positions and rolled them into the Communications Director position. However, we need a job description for the Communications Director position. The terms of office have changed. There is no job description for either SSJ Editor and SSJ Book Review Editor. We need to approve guidelines for the election, duties, and any compensation of the WSSA Foundation Board. Finally, we need to change the Executive Director duties to include liability insurance purchase. Larry will draft these changes and send to Prabha Unnithan, who will then send it out to the Executive Council. These By-Laws changes need to be approved at the WSSA April Business Meeting

12. Book & Journal Awards: Les Alm is working with Scott Carson on the Western Social Science 2015 Larry Gould Journal Article Award for best article in the SSJ in 2014, and the Western Social Science 2015 Distinguished Book Award. We will invite the winners to the WSSA conference.

Barbara Bonnekesen: The 2014 Distinguished Book Award winner was very excited and happy to have won the award.

Les Alm: The Western Social Science 2015 Past President's New Scholar Award will be awarded to Amanda Johnson Ashley from the Community and Regional Planning Program at Boise State University. Amanda will make a presentation. In addition to the Past President, both the President-elect and President also get to choose New Scholars for the New Scholar Award.

15. Invocation: Larry Gould has been organizing the invocation for the past few years. Should he continue to organize this? He feels like a neophyte.

Michèle Companion: For respect purposes, this should come from Larry.

Reynold Nesiba: The invocation went long, so can we time it more?

Larry Gould: No, that would be disrespectful.

Michèle Companion: We should also emphasize other respectful deportment during the invocation, such as refraining from taking pictures. Whoever is introducing the prayer giver could say these things. Elders need to be given respect and length of prayer is a matter left to them.

Lynda Dickson and Barbara Bonnekesen: The balance was pushed a bit with the length of the prayer.

Anthony Amato: We should give explicit instructions to the audience insofar that the invocation is given by our guest.

Larry Gould: Let's give these instructions at the beginning of the reception.

Reynold Nesiba: Could we schedule the invocation just before the reception?

TA: Perhaps an equivalent to saying grace.

Larry Gould: Let's try to have the invocation ceremony at the very beginning of the reception, with the food covered, and explain to the speaker that there will be a speaker after them.

Reynold Nesiba: Do we give a gift?

Larry Gould: We give an honorarium.

DINNER: Dinner is at The Southpark Seafood Grille 901 SW Salmon Street (left on Columbia right on SW Park, on Salmon St 1/2 mile) (meet in lobby @ 5.30 to walk over). www.southparkseafood.com

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m., until 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 27th, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,
Ross Burkhart, WSSA Vice-President / Secretary