

NCSA Business Meeting Minutes

Bowling Green, Ohio

October 7, 2005

Attendance: Kathy Feltey, Kent Schwirian, Tom Van Valey, Jay Weinstein, Joe Yenerall, Paula Dubeck, Steve Carlton-Ford, Robert Newby, Jerry Pankhurst, Marty Schmidt, Sarah Beth Estes, Anna Linders, Michelle Smith, Rebecca Bordt, Katie Claussen, Jay Howard, Debra Swanson, Fayyaz Hussain, Dean Purdy, and Susan Alexander.

I Call to Order: 9:05 a.m., Kathy Feltey, Presiding

II Approval of Minutes

Susan previously distributed copies of the minutes, via email, from the Old Council Meeting on April 7th, 2005, and the New Council Meeting April 10th, 2004

Motion to approve minutes from April 7th. (Howard/ Schwirian). Approved (10-0-0).

Motion to approve minutes from April 10th. (Howard/Linders). Approved (10-0-0).

III Introduction of Council Members

IV Officers and Committee Reports

Vice-President Report (2005-06): Rebecca Bordt

A report was distributed. Rebecca noted that the call for papers has been distributed via the NCSA listserv and is available on the website. Everyone is encouraged to submit papers by the December 1 deadline. The Useem Plenary address will be delivered by Walda Katz-Fushman of Howard University.

President-Elect: Jay Howard

Jay reported that minutes from the Midwest Sociological Society (MSS) were distributed via email. He has met twice, to date, with MSS representative. The joint meeting is scheduled for April 4-7, 2007 in Chicago. There will be two Presidential addresses, discussion is still underway about the Plenary speaker, there will be one program that is fully integrated, and one registration fee rate, discussion is also underway about a single reduced rate person's for joining both associations. Jay expressed his gratitude to Peter Adler for his work on planning this conference.

Dean noted that the MSS has not held elections yet, so some discussion are on hold until the election results are finalized. Dean also mentioned that the American Sociological Association will pay the costs of a speaker if they are from the ASA Sorokin list. The room rate for Easter weekend is \$114. NCSA and MSS will exchange representatives at next year's mid-annual business meetings.

Local Arrangements (2005-06): Jay Howard

Jay reported that the Local Arrangements committee will provide a restaurant guide and student workers for the meeting in Indianapolis. Any other ideas should be sent to him

Vice-President-Elect: Jay Weinstein

Jay encouraged the participation of students from all colleges and universities in the Chicago area at the 2007 meeting. He is also working on some possible speakers for the 2007 meeting.

Past-President: Kent Schwirian

No Report

Publication Policy: Kent Schwirian

Kent reported that the committee is considering hiring a professional publisher for *Sociological Focus* and the use of electronic submissions. The committee is examining ways to increase the institutional subscription rate. There are several special issues in process.

Editors, *Sociological Focus*: Steve Carlton-Ford/ Paula Dubeck

A report was distributed. Steve reported that the NCSA policy with EBSCO is to embargo all electronic (pdf) copies of *Sociological Focus* articles for one year. A full text version of the journal is available through EBSCO's SocINDEX at 102 institutions. Steve also reported that in comparison to last year, both institutional and individual subscriptions are down.

Discussion followed regarding what steps need to be taken to prepare *Sociological Focus* for a commercial publisher including: increasing number of submissions, the use of special issues, advertising in *ASA Footnotes*, efforts to increase submissions through sessions or personal contact at NCSA meeting, the submission of graduate student competition papers, the use of an on-line issue, and providing pdf files for author's use.

Steve also reported on the current costs of production and the process of paying for the journal. Discussion followed regarding the percentage of membership dues that could be part of the journals operating budget. This matter will be referred to the Publications Policy Committee for consideration.

Executive Officer: Dean Purdy

Dean reported that the two sites under consideration for the 2008 meeting are Columbus or Cincinnati. The 2009 meeting is still in process, but Detroit is under review. A discussion followed regarding the pluses and minuses of various sites.

Dean has spoken with the Library of Social Sciences to provide the book exhibit at the 2006 meeting. After some discussion, Marty Schmidt has agreed to help organize the book exhibit by contacting local representatives from publishing companies. Marty will let Dean know what book companies have agreed to participate.

Dean noted that the NCSA web site renewal is due this year. The cost is \$250 for the year.

Secretary: Susan Alexander

Susan distributed hard copies of the revised NCSA Constitution and By-Laws. She noted that an electronic version is available on the NCSA website.

Treasurer: Annulla Linders

Anna noted that the transfer of the treasurer's office is still in process. A report from the former Treasurer, Marty Jendreck, was distributed. Registration for the 2005 meeting was 342 and membership for 2005 is at 301.

A discussion followed about the Butler Jones Fund and how to reach the required \$10,000 for the fund to be used.

Marty Schmidt presented information on the NCSA membership and registration pay structure in comparison with other regional associations. After a discussion of the membership categories and joint membership, it was agreed to send the issue to the Membership Committee to formulate a proposal for any changes to the membership pay structure of registration fees.

New Business (during lunch break)

On-line Registration and Membership (Dean Purdy)

Dean presented information on using an on-line service for registration fees and membership dues. Discussion followed about the rates, check versus charge options, impact on *Sociological Focus*, and impact on Treasurer's accounts.

Motion to move this item from an information item to an action item (Howard/Yenerall). Approved (10-0-0).

Motion to approve Dean Purdy contracting with an on-line service for the collection of membership dues and registration fees using the current fee structure with the exception that the late fees for a regular member be increased from \$85 to \$90 (Howard/Linders). Approved 10-0-0.

Motion to modify the existing registration fee structure by separating retired from unemployed and retaining the free membership for unemployed and requiring a \$50 registration fee for retired/Emeritus (Schmidt/Alexander). Motion defeated 1-9-0

Motion to refer the issue of restructuring membership dues and registration fees to the membership Committee to developed a proposal to the NCSA Council at the Old Council meeting in March 2006, and a vote will be taken then on proposed changes (Howard/Schwirian). Motion approved 9-1-0.

Editor, Newsletter: Joe Yenerall

Joe noted that the newsletter was in the final stages and will be mailed within the next couple of weeks. Also, anyone with information for the spring 2006 newsletter should submit materials no later than January 31, 2006.

Ad Hoc Committee on Names & Awards: Keith Roberts

Not present, but a report from the committee was distributed. Following a discussion of the recommendations presented in the report, the Council needed additional information

Motion to send the report back to the Ad Hoc Committee on Named and Awards to clarify the specific policy for naming awards and to present at the Old Council meeting in March 2006 (Schwirian/Weinstein). Motion approved 10-0-0.

Applied and Clinical: Tom VanValey

A report was distributed on the committee membership, sessions for the upcoming meeting, and future activities of the committee.

Community Colleges: Michelle Smith

Michelle reported that she is working on ideas to promote the NCSA among community college teachers.

Distinguished Service: Tom Brignall

Not present. Tom Van Valey noted the committee is looking for members.

Employment Exchange Program: Christopher Bradley

Not present. A report was distributed that included a copy of the flyer sent to all individuals on the NCSA membership list. A service fee of \$25 is charged for all job listings.

Finance: Jerry Pankhurst

The committee is working on some technical issues.

Graduate Student Representative: Katie Claussen

A report was distributed. Katie noted that she currently has 82 students on a listserv. Discussion followed regarding the availability of a student room at the annual meeting, a food budget, and the timing of student committee meeting.

Motion to provide the student representatives with a \$200 food budget for entertaining students at the 2006 meeting and two free rooms for the graduate and undergraduate student representatives (Bordt/Purdy). Motion approved 10-0-0.

Katie is also organizing a room share and a ride share for students using the listserv. She has also contacted the MSS student representative about the 2007 joint meeting.

Undergraduate Student Representative: To be appointed.**Membership:** Bruce Keith and Marty Jendrek

Not present. A report was distributed. **The committee requested that NCSA approve \$625 for membership mailings** (Motion approved 10-0-0). The committee also requested that the NCSA develop a brochure for future membership mailings. After discussion, this item was sent back to committee to consider target audience, cost, designing multiple brochures, a possible competition for design, to add information about *Sociological Focus*, and information about Butler Jones Fund raising. Third, **the committee requested the NCSA approve of the spending of \$150 for 1,000 NCSA lapel pins to be distributed in the membership bags at the 2006 meeting** (Motion approved).

Nominations: Jeanne Ballantine

Not present. A report was distributed with a partial ballot. A request was made for additional nominees.

Discussion also followed regarding the use of an on-line survey site (SurveyMonkey.com) for the NCSA elections for a fee of \$20 per month. Susan will check into this service.

Professions, Freedom, and Responsibility: Sarah Beth Estes

A report was distributed. The committee is working on clarifying the concerns raised about the growing attack on academic freedom. They will consider an endorsement of the AAUP (American Association of University Professor's) statement but include concerns for high school teachers. A proposal will be brought to the Old Council meeting in March for a vote.

Public Policy: Charles Gallmeier

Not present

Race, Ethnic and Gender Equality: Robert Newby

A report was distributed. The committee will seek to increase the number of people of color in the NCSA program and in the NCSA overall. The committee is considering a survey to identify individuals and perhaps contacting ASA for information. Marty Schmidt will head a subcommittee specifically exploring gender inequality.

Student Paper Awards: Fayyaz Hussain

A report was distributed. A discussion followed about the concerns of embedding all graduate student competition papers in the program.

Motion to no longer embed all graduate student competition papers in the program but to encourage students to submit their papers to regular sessions (Bordt/Alexander). Motion approved 10-0-0.

Teaching Section: Debra Swanson

A report was distributed. There are 42 teaching/teaching related sessions, 6 teaching workshops, the "Teaching Reflections" keynote, and the high school teachers' workshop planned for the 2006 meeting. The Distinguished Contribution to Teaching Award has been named for John F. Schnabel beginning in 2006.

Webmaster: Cindy Saylor

Not present

V Old Business

None

VI New Business**A. Forums on New Orleans at NCSA 2006 meeting**

Bob Newby will hold a forum on "Race and Class in New Orleans." Kathy Feltey will hold a forum on the "Disaster in the Gulf Coast."

B. Political Issues

Marty Schmidt noted that other regional associations have issued statements on current political policies such as the Constitutional Amendments defining marriage. A discussion followed regarding how the NCSA might respond more quickly to emerging political issues. After referring to the NCSA Constitution and By-Laws (Article X, sections 1, 2, 5), it was determined that the Council may facilitate an electronic (email) discussion and vote on emerging political. This interpretation will be presented at the 2006 Business meeting and an information item.

C. NCSA website items

Currently, items are placed on the NCSA website if they are approved by Kathy Feltey. The NCSA needs an established policy identifying who is responsible for approving items for placement on the website. This matter will be referred to the Public Policy Committee to develop a policy.

D. Transference of NCSA books for Treasurer

There was discussion of the process for transferring the books when a new treasurer is elected.

E. Michigan Sociological Association meeting

Jay Weinstein announced that the MSA meeting is in Ypsilanti MI, October 21-22. He invited NCSA members to attend. The keynote speaker is Reynolds Farley, Research Professor, Population Studies Center, and Professor of Sociology, Emeritus The University of Michigan.

VII Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn (Howard/Schwirian). The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.