

# NCSA Special Meeting on Constitutional Amendments

## Minutes

Bowling Green, Ohio  
October 7, 2004

**Attendance:** Kent Schwirian, Jerry Pankhurst, Fayyaz Hussain, Marty Schmidt, Bruce Keith, Patrick Bell, Kathy Feltey, Debra Swanson, Harry Potter, Natalie Haber, Marty Jendrek, Kathy Rowell, and Susan Alexander

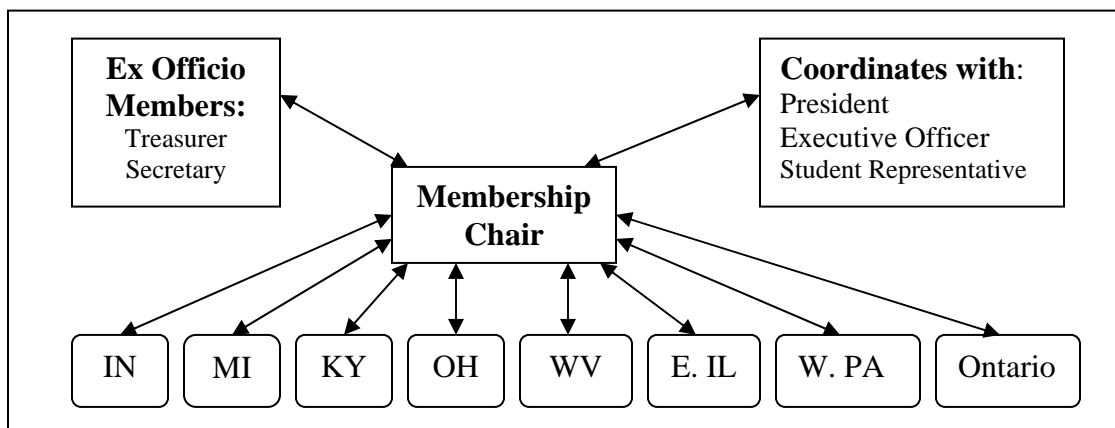
**I CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Kent Schwirian, President, at 7:45 p.m.

## II BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- A. Amending the Constitution and By-Laws.** Kent Schwirian noted the following points with regard to amendments to the NCSA Constitution and By-laws.
- Amendments can be made with 2/3 affirmative vote by NCSA members
  - Amendments may be proposed by a majority of the Council members
  - Proposed changes must be mailed to NCSA members 30 days prior to a vote on the amendments
- B. Ad Hoc Committee on the Constitution.** Bruce Keith presented a draft copy of revisions submitted by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Constitution, chaired by Marcia Segal. An overview of the proposed changes followed.
- C. Procedural issues.** Discussion concerning the following took place: identifying who is responsible for issues copies of the Constitution and By-Laws to new Council members, determining when an ad hoc committee should become a standing committee, the evaluation of the executive officer position, the distribution of the NCSA membership list, and the creation of an NCSA listserv.

Kathy Felty agreed to establish the NCSA listserv for members to post information.

- D. Membership Council.** Bruce Keith presented information about the establishment of a Membership Council, to replace the Membership Committee (By-Laws, Article II, Section 6f).



### III Proposed Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws

- A. Constitution. Article III, Section 1.** Motion (Rowell/Schmidt) to change this section to read: “Persons who have either a graduate degree in sociology or can present evidence of professional expertise and commitment to the field of sociology.” (*Motion approved 10-0-1*)
- B. Constitution. Article VII.** Motion (Rowell/Felty) to change the section to read: “The NCSA Executive Committee, the immediate past President of NCSA, **two (2)** persons elected at large by the NCSA members, ...” (*Motion approved 11-0-0*).
- C. Constitution. Article VII.** Motion (Keith/Jendrek) to change the section to read: “The NCSA Executive Committee, the immediate past President of NCSA, two (2) persons elected at large by the NCSA members, **Membership Committee Chair**, committee chairpersons, the editor of the NCSA official scholarly journal, and the editor of the NCSA newsletter shall be designated as the NCSA Council.” And under Section 1, to add “**d. Membership Chair,**” who will replace one of the four current elected at-large Council members. The Membership Chair will be a voting member of Council. The term for this new Council member will begin in 2006. If the change is approved by NCSA voting members, the President will appoint someone to serve one year until the 2006 election. (*Motion approved 11-0-0*)
- D. Constitution. Article VII.** Motion (Haber/Jendrek) to change the section to read: “The NCSA Executive Committee, the immediate past President of NCSA, two (2) persons elected at large by the NCSA members, Membership Committee Chair, committee chairpersons, **Student Section Chair**, the editor of the NCSA official scholarly journal, and the editor of the NCSA newsletter shall be designated as the NCSA Council.” And under Section 1, to add “**e. Student Section Chair,**” who will replace one of the four current elected at-large Council members. The Student Section Chair will be a voting member of Council. The Student Section Chair will be responsible for presiding at Student Section meetings, attending NCSA Council meetings, recruiting new students members into NCSA, developing on an annual basis a list of NCSA students, working with the PPF (Preparing Future Faculty) committee, and distributing information about the Student Section at the NCSA annual meeting.
- The term for this new Council member will begin in 2007. If the change is approved by NCSA voting members, the President will appoint someone to serve two years until the 2007 election. (*Motion approved 11-0-0*)
- E. Constitution. Article VIII. Section 1.** Motion (Haber/Jendrek) to add “The Membership Chair and the Student Section Chair will be elected every two year, not in the same year,” and **Section 2** add “The terms of the Membership Chair and the Student Section Chair shall be for two (2) years.” (*Motion approved 11-0-0*)
- F. By-Laws. Article III.** Motion (Swanson/Pankhurst) to insert a new section as follows: “Teaching Section. Section 1. Sections of the NCSA shall be established or terminated upon recommendation of a majority of the voting members of Council

and upon subsequent approval by a majority of the members of the NCSA members voting in an on-line or mail-in ballot. Section 2. The Teaching Section shall: 1.) Promote, through whatever means it deems desirable, feasible, and productive, effective teaching of sociology wherever it is offered; 2.) Exhibit special sensitivity to the pedagogic problems of sociology teachers in community colleges, liberal arts colleges, and high schools, and actively promote pedagogic and scholarly efforts among them and sociology teachers in university settings; 3.) Seek to develop a wider range of useful and innovative classroom materials and reliable instruments for measuring teaching effectiveness; 4.) With prior approval of Council, sponsor research related to the improved teaching of sociology as a discipline.” All subsequent articles, beginning with Executive Officer, will be renumbered to reflect this addition.

**By-Laws. Article II. Section 6, j.** Restructure the Teaching Sociology Committee to be the “Teaching Sociology Awards Committee.” The committee shall “1.) Solicit nominations for the NCSA Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award through advertising in the NCSA Newsletter and in whatever other ways are deemed advisable; 2.) establish criterion for evaluating the nominations; 3.) consider that nominee(s) may be an individual, department, a program, or an institution; 4.) Select the winner of the award from the nominees or defer making an award until the following year.”

The responsibilities of the Teaching Section Chair will be as follows: convene a committee comprising of a minimum of five (5) members to include the past year’s recipient(s) and at least one members of the current Teaching Section; supervise the evaluate of nominations for the Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award; solicit supporting materials from nominees and distribute to committee members; determine how the vote is to be completed; inform the recipient(s) of the award; arrange for the award plaque; present the award at the NCSA annual meeting; arrange for a Distinguished Contribution to Teaching session at the NCSA annual meeting; publicize the award winner in the NCSA newsletter and other appropriate venues; and arrange for a Distinguished Contribution to Teaching article in *Sociological Focus*.

*(Motion approved 11-0-0)*

- G. By-Laws. Article IV.** Motion (Haber/Felty) to insert a new section as follows: “Student Section” under Article IV of the By-Laws, “The NCSA Student Section is open to all students in the NCSA region who wish to address student issues in the NCSA. The Student Section will promote formal and informal networks among sociology students. Section 1. The Student Section will be governed by a five (5) member Student Council to include the Student Section Chair, Co-chairperson, Secretary, one graduate student representative, and one undergraduate representative. Section 2. The Student Section Chair is elected by the membership of NCSA; all other Student Council members shall be elected by a simple majority vote of the NCSA Student Section members present at the annual meeting. Section 3. The terms of the Student Section Chair shall be two year; all other Council members’ terms are one (1) year. Section 4. The Student Council shall fill any vacancies in its

elected membership resulting from illness, death, or extenuating circumstances. The Student Section may establish ad hoc committees as deemed necessary to conduct NCSA's affairs. All subsequent articles, beginning with Executive Officer, will be renumbered to reflect this addition. (*Motion approved 10-0-1*)

- H. By-Laws. Article I. Section 5.** Motion (Felty/Pankhurst) to add the follow to the description of Secretary's duties: "The Secretary shall maintain and distribute, as necessary, the current NCSA Constitution and By-Laws. (*Motion approved 10-0-1*)
- I. Revisions of the Ad Hoc Constitution Committee.** Motion (Schmidt/Felty) to accept the additional proposed amendments to the NCSA Constitution and By-Laws as proposed by the Ad Hoc Constitution Committee with the exception of By-Laws, Article II, Section 6, f, 7. "maintain a membership list." Amendments include the following: By-Laws, Article II, Section 2, delete "by the President, upon recommendation" and "council;" By-Laws, Article II, Section 3, delete "shall be ex officio" and "all;" By-Laws, Article II, Section 5, delete entire section, and renumber subsequent Sections to reflect this deletion; By-Laws, Article II, Section 6, 4, delete "independently, if desired;" By-Laws, Article II, Section 6, F, 6, delete "issue an annual notice for dues;" By-Laws, Article II, Section 2, L, 5, delete the word "chairperson;" By-Laws, Article II, Section 2, M, d,e,f, strike the words "upper division;" By-Laws, Article II, Section 2, M, delete g.h.i.; By-Laws, Article II, Section 2, M, 5, delete the word "chairperson;" Article IV, Section 1, strike the words "the Secretary shall mail" and "in an envelop bearing the signature of the members." Additionally, all other sections of the Constitution and By-Laws will be editing to reflect the proposed changes. (*Motion approved 10-0-1*)

**IV Adjournment.** Kent Schwirian, President, adjourned the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Alexander, Secretary