

NCSA Old Council Meeting

Minutes

Cleveland, Ohio

April 1, 2004

Attendance: Bruce Keith, Rebecca Bordt, Thomas Calhoun, Marty Schmidt, Marty Jendrek, Kent Schwirian, Kathy Rowell, Jay Howard, Fayyaz Hussain, Ryan Schroeder, Dean Purdy, Gus Giacomani, Leslie Wang, Barbara Chesney, Jeff Dixon, Natalie Haber, Jay Weinstein, Bob Shelby and Susan Alexander

I CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Bruce Keith, President, at 7:10 p.m.

II APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes from the 2004 Business Meeting, Bowling Green, Ohio, October 10, 2003 were approved.

III OLD BUSINESS

A. Membership Campaign.

Kent Schwirian briefly mentioned the new strategy of the membership committee. The full report will be provided by Jay Weinstein during his committee report.

B. Ad Hoc Committee on the Constitution.

No one from the Ad Hoc Committee on the Constitution was present. Leslie Wang raised a Constitutional item for later discussion. Specifically, that the Council considers the issue of allowing committee members two terms (6 years) before stepping down from a committee. As the NCSA's By-Laws, Article II (p. 5), currently reads, "Standing committees shall be reconstituted each year with a turnover of membership of at least one-third (1/3), and no member may serve on the same committee of the NCSA for more than three (3) consecutive years, except ex-officio, without express approval of the Council."

C. Policy Statement on the Use of AV Technology.

Barbara Chesney circulated a revised policy statement which included specific recommendation for the AV equipment/technologies to be provided by the NCSA at the annual meetings. Discussion followed regarding the potential sources for renting AV equipment, a national company or a local company in the city where the annual meeting is to be held. It was decided to leave this decision to the Executive Officer.

Motion to approve (Tom Calhoun/Jay Howard) the amended policy with the following change under Request Management: "Requests for AV equipment for the NCSA's annual meeting is the responsibility of the Executive Officer who will pursue strategies to ensure the lowest cost possible. The Executive Officer will report at the fall Business Meeting as to potential vendors and costs." Motion approved.

D. Archives Update

Dean Purdy reported that some NCSA archival materials have been moved to the Bowling Green Library. Bruce Keith and Dean will follow up on moving the remaining materials from Ohio State University Library to BGU.

IV OFFICERS REPORTS

Vice President: Jay Howard distributed a report indicating 329 people are listed in the 2004 program. There are six thematic sessions following the meeting theme of "Assessing the State of

Sociology.” Also included in the program is: the Preparing Future Faculty (PFF) series, the High School Teachers’ Workshop, and a mini-conference on Symbolic Interaction. The Ruth and John Useem Plenary Address will be given by Caroline Persell Hodges of New York University.

Vice President Elect: Kathy Rowell noted that the meeting packets have a “call for papers” for the 2005 meeting. She encouraged people to organize sessions. If anyone noted a problem with the program, please contact Kathy. Some discussion followed as to the cut off date for changes to the program. Kathy noted that a deadline was set, but that a statement will be added to the NCSA web site about who to contact for corrections to the 2005 program next year. Finally, Kathy is trying to determine a method for providing new session organizers with information on how to do properly organize a session.

Secretary: Susan Alexander reported on the use of the electric ballot this year. There was a 21% voting rate for NCSA members. Noting some problems with the bulk distribution of email including spam filters, Susan will continue to work to resolve problems so that NCSA members may choose between email ballots and hard copy ballots.

Treasurer: Marty Jendrek distributed a report on the member, registration, and income and expenses of the NCSA from September 1, 2003 until present. Marty noted that registration and membership with both up this year; 220 people pre-registered. The report shows that NCSA continues to operate with a surplus. Marty is paying back all the Vanguard accounts (the current status of each fund was included).

A discussion of the Butler Jones Minority Scholarship Fund Vanguard account followed. *An ad hoc committee (Tom Calhoun, Marty Schmidt, Barbara Chesney, and Mareyjoyce Green) was formed to assess how and when to begin using this fund which is designated for minority scholarships.*

Past President: Tom Calhoun, no report.

Executive Officer: Dean Purdy reported on some problems in the Program mostly concerning typographic errors. Dean also noted some of the problems encountered with spam filters during the electronic ballot process. *Dean suggested the Council consider moving NCSA forms including membership forms, registration forms, and ballots to the NCSA website. This issue will be brought the NCSA Council during the fall 2004 Business Meeting for a vote.*

Tom Calhoun suggested that the NCSA expand the use of advertisements in the program in order to generate revenue, and that the NCSA President personally contact publishers or universities about advertising. Any suggestions on organizations to contact for the 2005 program should be sent to Kent Schwirian.

V CONTINUATION OF OLD BUSINESS

A. Term Limits for Committee Members

A motion was made (Kathy Rowell/ Kent Schwirian) that the NCSA Constitution with regard to term limits for committee members be suspended for one year to allow for the Ad Hoc Committee on the Constitution to report to the NCSA Council regarding changes to the Constitution. Motion approved.

VI COMMITTEE REPORTS

Applied and Clinical: Steve Steele. Not present.

Community Colleges: Dennis Cole. Not present

Distinguished Service: Paula Dubeck reported that the 2004 Distinguished Service Award will be presented to Kathleen Piker-King.

Editor, *Sociological Focus*: Gay Kitson/Mary Aaby. Not present.

A report had been distributed via email by Gay.

Editor, Newsletter: Joe Yenerall. Not present

Joe did send a note requesting mailing labels for the NCSA Newsletter be issues in a timelier manner. Discussion of labels followed.

Finance: Rebecca Bordt distributed a copy of the 2004 budget noting that the NCSA has operated with a surplus for several years. Two recommendation were made by Rebecca: 1. that the NCSA budget be revised to show income and expenses for each fund, regardless of when these transactions are made by the Treasurer, and 2. that given that the NCSA has operated in the black for the past four years, the NCSA should repay any amounts owed to named funds. Rebecca also noted that she is providing the Council with a budget, not a financial statement concerning the net worth of the NCSA.

Local Arrangements: Marty Schmidt updated the council on the AV equipment provided by the University of Akron. Marty noted that the NCSWS (North Central Sociologists for Women in Society) luncheon was being sponsored by Prentice Hall.

Membership: Jay Weinstein reported on the structure of the membership committee. The Membership Committee has a central contact person from each of the seven states and Ontario. Each state then has a subcommittee to work on membership in that state. The committee is assessing the success of the membership campaign this year, and they will consider changes to process in order to further the success of the membership campaign.

Nominations: Tom Calhoun distributed a report on the individuals appearing on the NCSA ballots. Tom noted the election process had successfully taken place, but the Council should continue to consider ways to increase voting participation. The new officer would be officially announced by the NCSA Secretary at the annual Business Meeting the following day.

Professions, Freedom, & Responsibility: Annulla Linders. Not present.

Race, Ethnic, and Gender Equality: Jieli Li. Not present.

Scholarly Achievement Award: Not present.

Student Representative -- Graduate: Natalie Haber will be distributing 250 flyers to all graduate students at the meetings inviting them to joining the NCSA Graduate Student Council. During this conference graduate students will also have access to a "graduate student lounge" which will be assigned to one of the unused conference rooms.

Student Representative -- Undergraduate: Gus Giacomani reported that he was in contact with seven undergraduate students interested in serving as NCSA Undergraduate representative on the student council. He plans to continue updating the undergraduate booklet. Gus is graduating this year, so he is still in process of identifying the next undergraduate representative.

Student Awards Committee: Fayyaz Hussain distributed a report listing the 2004 NCSA student paper competition winners. There were 24 papers received representing 10 different colleges/universities. Student award winners were listed in the program, and they will receive their awards on Saturday. Discussion followed as to whether all students who submit papers for competition should be eligible to present during the meetings.

Teaching Committee: Leslie Wang distributed a report indicating the number of teaching related sessions, workshops, and poster session.

Leslie asked the council to reconsider a motion approved at the 2003 October Business meeting stating, "Be it resolved that the NCSA annually provide funds for the hotel room expenses for two nights for the keynote speaker for the High School Teachers' Workshop." Leslie suggested one night might be sufficient. The council agreed to remain with the stated policy.

Leslie announced the joint recipients of the 2004 distinguished Contribution to Teaching Award are Kathy Felty and Susan Alexander. Leslie asked the Council to consider whether the winners names should be announced in the program rather than waiting until the Awards Ceremony.

Leslie noted that the NCSA website has a "teaching link" but there is not information on it yet. Please forward all ideas to Tom Van Valey.

Leslie announced that the new chair of the Teaching Committee will be Debra Swanson from Hope College.

Public Policy: Brian Coleman. Not present.

Publication Policy: Bob Shelly distributed a report concerning the new editors of *Sociological Focus* as Gay Kitsen term is expiring July 1, 2004. Editorship will be held jointly between Steve Carlton-Ford and Paula Dubeck from the University of Cincinnati.

Bon reported that the university's committee to financial support for Gay's assistant, Mary Aaby's, was ending. Gay has requested the NCSA provided funds for an assistant. *A motion was made (Marty Jendrek/Kent Schwirian), "The NCSA will provide funding in the amount of \$3,834 to be used from now through October 2004, or until the November issues of Sociological Focus is completed, in order to provide the editor, Gay Kitsen, with an assistant." Motion approved.*

Webmaster: Cindy Saylor. Not present.

Employment Exchange Program: Ryan Schroeder distributed a report on the growing successes of the Employment Exchange, including the posting of several position announcements. Ryan suggested the Council consider a \$50 fee for posting on the NCSA website.

VII Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.