

NCSA Old Council Meeting

Minutes

Pittsburgh, PA

April 7, 2005

Attendance: Harry Potter, Marty Jendrek, Marty Schmidt, Bob Shelly, Thomas Calhoun, Kathy Rowell, Debra Swanson, Fayyaz Hussain, Dean Purdy, Kathy Feltey, Kent Schwirian, Jay Weinstein, Barbara Chesney, Anna Linders, Bruce Keith, Natalie Haber, Patrick Bell, Paula Dubeck, Jay Howard, Rebecca Bordt, and Susan Alexander.

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

II APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Motion to approve the minutes from the special meeting on the amendments to the NCSA Constitution and By-Laws on October 7th, 2004 (Keith/Weinstein). Motion unanimously approved.
2. Motion to approve the minutes from the 2004 Business Meeting, Bowling Green, Ohio, on October 8, 2004 (Swanson/Fayyez). Motion unanimously approved.

III OLD BUSINESS

A. Follow-up on Action Items from October 2004 Business Meeting

1. Marty will gather information about possible pay structures for lifetime members to present at the spring 2005 New Council Meeting.
No progress to report.
2. Marty Schmidt agreed to create an information poster about the NCSA for display at the annual meeting.
No progress to report
3. The Teaching Committee will investigate the possibilities of CEU credits and contact Keith Roberts, High School Teacher's Workshop organizer, about this matter.
No progress to report. Fewer high school teachers have registered for this meetings. Keith Roberts will explore CEU credits for the 2006 meeting in Indianapolis.
4. Bruce Keith agreed to create a diagram of the membership committee structure to add to NCSA materials.
Completed, see minutes.
5. Fayyaz will forward to the Program Committee a list of all papers submitted to the competition -- including student author, faculty advisor, and paper title -- for inclusion in the final program.
Completed. All papers were embedded in the program
6. Fayyez will: 1.) send a letter to all faculty advisors encouraging them to attend the NCSA meeting to support their students, 2.) send a letter to all students submitting papers to encourage them to present in a regular session, 3.) add a line to the submission guidelines to suggest students are "highly encouraged" to

submit to regular sessions, and 4.) organize a special roundtable session for undergraduates to present their papers.

Completed.

7. Dean will investigate potential vendor who provide interactive forms and on-line payment using accredit card, and he will report at the spring council meeting.

Dean reported that one of the companies he talked with would charge \$99 mo. plus 3% of each credit card usage. He is checking on some other potential vendors that have been recommended. Council may wish to explore increasing the registration fee to cover the costs.

A discussion followed concerning that generally endorsed this idea and to have Dean contact other organizations to identify how they handle payment by credit card.

8. The current editors will write a letter to Gay Kitson on behalf of the NCSA for all her hard work as the past editor of *Sociological Focus*.

Completed.

B. Follow-up to Motions from October 2004 Business Meeting

1. "The NCSA will establish a \$25 NCSA membership rate for high school teachers, excluding the journal. Motion approved (APRIL 2004).

No action yet. The Teaching Committee will be responsible for implementation.

2. The recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Butler Jones Scholarship Fund to build the fund to a minimum of \$10,000 and then initiate a graduate student paper competition on multicultural research focused on African Americans.

The funds have not yet reached \$10,000. No group has been identified for discussing how this fund will be distributed. Kathy Feltey will appoint a group to draft a proposal for implementation.

3. The NCSA annually provide funds for the hotel expenses for two nights for the keynote speaker for the High School Teacher's Workshop.

Funds were distributed this year to support the high school teacher's speaker.

4. The NCSA formally expressed its gratitude to both Mary Abby for her work as assistant editor and Rebecca Ostoyich for her work on the NCSA Constitutional changes by providing each with \$50 gift certificate.

Thank you gifts were distributed.

IV OFFICERS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Secretary: Susan Alexander reported the newly elected officers for 2005 are: President-elect Jay Howard, Vice-President elect Jay Weinstein, Treasurer Annulla Linders, and the two new council members at large are Hans Bakker and Joe Yenerall. Susan also reported that all the proposed changes to the NCSA Constitution and By-Laws were approved by the NCSA voting members. Susan thanked her department secretary Rebecca Ostoyich and webmaster Cindy Saylor for all their work in on the constitution changes and the election.

Treasurer: Marty Jendrek distributed a report on the member, registration, and income and expenses of the NCSA covering the fiscal year of 9/1/00 to the present. Marty noted that membership was

down slightly from last year but registration is up this year; 248 people have pre-registered compared with 219 in 2004. The report shows that NCSA continues to operate with a surplus. Marty reported on the Vanguard accounts (the current status of each fund was included). A discussion followed concerning the discrepancy between membership and pre-registration.

Finance: Harry Potter distributed a report indicating total NCSA membership from years 2000-2004 by payment. The data suggests a large number of NCSA members are paying at the lowest rates (<\$25) which are reserved for students. Total membership in 2004 was at its highest level in several years (356 members). The NCSA continues to operate at a small operating surplus.

A discussion followed about how to report "in-kind services" on the NCSA budget reports and the need to keep track of in-kind services as required by FASB Statement 116 (Financial Accounting Standards Board).

Membership: Jay Weinstein reported an email regarding membership was sent. The committee has been on hold as the NCSA membership voting on the changes to the constitution regarding the membership committee structure.

Student Awards Committee: Fayyaz Hussain distributed a report listing the 2005 NCSA student paper competition winners. Twenty-eight papers were received representing 8 different colleges/universities. Fayyaz thanked the following persons for serving as judges: Cliff Bowman, Naomi Roslyn Galtz, Sara Hare, Mary Ann Kanieski, Donna Kauffman, and Geoffrey Habron. Student award winners were listed in the program, and they will receive their awards on Saturday. Undergraduate students will have the opportunity to present their research in a round table session and graduate paper winners had their papers embedded within regular research sessions. Discussion followed as to whether paper competition winners must present during the meetings to receive the travel funds.

Executive Officer: Dean Purdy reported that he has begun exploring the costs associated with implementing on-line registration and membership renewal. Dean noted that the 2008 meeting had been tentatively slated for Windsor Canada, but with the poor exchange rate and the new policy requiring passports in 2008, the conference location should be reconsidered. Discussion followed about alternative sites such as Cincinnati or Louisville. Dean will explore these two sites and report at the October business meeting. Dean noted that Peter Adler, President elect for the Midwest Sociological Society is at the NCSA conference to continue discussions about the joint NCSA/MSS meeting in 2007.

Nominations: Bruce Keith distributed a committee report identifying the individuals appearing on the 2005 NCSA ballot. The committee had no further items at this time. Bruce passed around the engraved platter that is the gift for the 2005 Plenary speaker Bill Bielby.

Student Representative -- Undergraduate: Patrick Bell had no report at this time.

Vice President: Kathy Rowell distributed a report indicating 490 people are listed in the 2005 program, 121 sessions, 24 sessions organized by the Symbolic Interactionist mini conference, 3 sessions organized by the Group Process mini-conference, 3 workshops, and 5 roundtables. New to the 2005 program were: evening sessions, Community College breakfast, and Student Section meeting.

Kathy raised one issue for discussion, embedding all the NCSA Student Paper Competition entries into the program. Kathy suggested changes to help facilitate the process next year including

having faculty advisors be more involved and using roundtable for undergraduate presentations. Kathy suggested the Council revisit the policy of embedding every entry into the program.

Teaching Committee: Debra Swanson distributed a report indicating the number of teaching related sessions: research (8), workshops (1), keynote talk, and poster session. Teaching related sessions were down overall. Deb invited William Brislen, West Virginia Northern Community College, to give a talk on his recently published teaching article.

Deb noted that the 2004 Distinguished Contribution to Teaching Award winners, Kathy Feltey and Susan Alexander, will be giving a talk on Saturday, and their “teaching reflections” will be published in the November issue of *Sociological Focus*.

Keith Roberts organized the high school teachers’ workshop again this year. There were 7-8 participants. Diane Bryant from Sandusky High School was the invited guest.

Debra announced that the winner of the 2005 Distinguished Contribution to Teaching Award is Kathy Rowell.

Lastly, Debra reported that the Teaching Committee will be considering whether to name the teaching award after John Schnabel, who founded the teaching award. This matter will be discussed by the Teaching Section at their meeting on Saturday morning.

Editors, *Sociological Focus*: Steve Carlton-Ford distributed a report highlighting key items related to the journal. Institutional subscription rates were down slightly (292 compared with 299). The journal is close to a formal agreement to distribute electronically via EBSCO publishing. The manuscript flow from April 2004 to April 2005 is at a 23% acceptance rate with 108 new manuscripts. The editors are still working to reinstate the journal to the *Social Sciences Citation Index*. The editors have hired a new assistant editor, Cynthia Carlton-Ford. Finally, Blackwell has approached *Sociological Focus* about handling the journal’s publication. The editors will continue to explore this issue. Steve raised two issues for discussion: the editing costs and the legal agreement.

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

Student Representative -- Graduate: Natalie Haber reported that the new Student Section approved by the Constitution and By-Laws amendments is in process of creation. She has 35 students who have expressed interested in the group. She recommends the new graduate student representative create a group listserv to distribution of information, organizing room sharing, and other questions about the NCSA students may have. The first meeting of the Student Section is at 7:30 on Friday.

Professions, Freedom, & Responsibility: Annulla Linders distributed a report indicating the committee organized two panels for the conference: “Ethics and Bureaucracy in Research on Human Subject” and “Reviewing Peers – Peers as Reviewers.”

Vice President Elect: Rebecca Bordt distributed a report summarizing the 2005 meeting – a total of 53 sessions with 190 papers will be presented. The 2006 meeting’s theme will be “Making a Difference: Sociology as Social Activism.” The 2006 Ruth and John Useem Plenary address will be given by Dr. Walda Katz-Fishman from Howard University. A list of the 2006 Program Committee was included.

Community Colleges: Dennis Cole. Not present

Distinguished Service: Tom Calhoun distributed a committee report on the process for identifying the 2005 Aida Tomeh Distinguished Service Award. The committee will be discussing how to increase the number of nominations. This year two individuals will be honored: Ellen Paige Robin and Tom Van Valey.

Editor, Newsletter: Joe Yenerall. Not present

Discussion followed concerning the lateness of the newsletter issue containing the call for papers. The result was some problems for the Program Committee in terms of incorrect information.

Employment Exchange Program: Christopher Bradley, not present. A report was sent electronically that reported that 12 jobs were listed on the NCSA website which generated \$175 profit for the NCSA. Chris proposed that the jobs advertised should also be included in the NCSA newsletter.

Local Arrangements: Barbara Denison, not present.

Public Policy: Brian Coleman. Not present.

Publication Policy: Bob Shelly, no report at this time.

Scholarly Achievement Award: Doug Harper announced that Peter and Patti Adler are the recipients of the 2005 Scholarly Achievement Award.

Webmaster: Cindy Saylor. Not present.

V ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. **NCSWS Luncheon.** Marty Schmidt invited all Council members to the North Central Society for Women in Sociology luncheon on Friday at 11:30. The lunch is being sponsored by Prentice Hall.

VI ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.