

NCSA New Council Meeting

Minutes

Dearborn, MI

April 19, 2009

Attendance: Kathy Rowell, Jay Weinstein, Kent Schwirian, Jay Howard, Mellisa Holtzman, Kathy Felty, Daysha Lawrence, Jieli Li, Carrie Erlin, Beckett Broh, Carolette Norwood, Annulla Linders, Natalie Haber, Susan Alexander, Harry Potter, Joyce Lucke, Gustavo Mesch, Mary Senter, Lissa Yogan, Leslie Elrod, Deb Swanson

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Kathy Rowell, President at 9:00 am

Old Business: Discussion regarding by-law/committee issues that need to be addressed, strategic planning for NCSA, and the Dearborn meetings

- **President: Kathy Rowell on by-laws/committees**
 - The by-laws are out-of-date and often not followed closely by council or committees; thus, a review and revision of the by-laws is in order – this will be handled by Kathy Rowell and the two at-large council members, Jieli Li and Mellisa Holtzman
 - Anna Linders noted that the by-laws need to be revised so that membership years coincide with calendar years (renewals each January, for instance)
 - Because of the joint meeting with MSS in Chicago in 2010, conference costs and registration fees will be different from those currently outlined in the constitution and by-laws, thus, both need to be suspended temporarily
 - **Motion to suspend the constitution and the by-laws by Annulla Linders; Second by Kathy Felty; Passed (6-0-0)**
 - Committee chairs need to create checklists and other forms of documentation that can be posted on the NCSA website for future chairs
 - Committee chairs should review the description of their duties in the by-laws and recommend any changes that should be incorporated into a revision of the bylaws
 - Committee chairs are also challenged to recruit at least two new members to their committees and send an updated membership list to Kathy; the membership lists will then be published to the NCSA website

- **President: Kathy Rowell on strategic planning**
 - NCSA needs a vision statement, a mission, a 5-year plan; this can be accomplished with the development of a strategic plan
 - Bruce Keith has agreed to chair this effort; he will have a draft of a strategic plan ready for consideration at the mid-year council meeting in October

- **Treasurer: Annulla Linders on the Dearborn meetings**
 - Anna noted that attendance appears to have been down and a number of participants had not registered or paid their membership fees in advance; this amounts to lost revenue
 - A discussion followed regarding how we can get people to pay their fees in advance of the conference; this will be addressed further at the mid-year meeting
 - There was also discussion over the cost of meetings for students and ways to help alleviate that cost (including promotion of AKD grants for conference travel on the NCSA website's student page)

New Business: Discussion over the 2010 joint conference with MSS in Chicago and committee reports

- **Vice-President: Deb Swanson on the 2010 conference**
 - The conference will be held from March 31st through April 3rd in Chicago, IL at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile; it is a joint meeting with the Midwest Sociological Society (MSS); submissions will be accomplished via an online system and submitted abstracts will be published; the submission deadline will be December 1, 2009
 - The program committee consists of: Deb Swanson, Vice President; Art Jipson, Vice President-Elect; Lissa Yogan, Teaching Sessions, Carrie Erlin, North Central Student Sociology Conference (NCSSC), Daysha Lawrence, Student Sessions; Mellisa Holtzman, Workshops and Panels

- **Local Arrangements Chair: Natalie Haber on the 2010 conference**
 - NCSA will need to maintain its presence at these meetings; Natalie is working on organizing a number of local events, including trips to ethnic neighborhoods

Committee Reports

- **Publication Policy: Kent Schwirian**
 - Announcement of Gustavo Mesch as the new editor of *Sociological Focus*

- ***Sociological Focus*: Gustavo Mesch**
 - Reported on the transition of the editorship from Steve Carlton-Ford to himself

- **Student Committee: Daysha Lawrence**
 - Reported on efforts to create a student committee composed of both graduate and undergraduate students; discussed the creation of a NCSA student facebook page
 - Kathy Rowell, President charged the committee with putting forth a proposal for how we can incorporate undergraduates into council

- **North Central Student Sociology Conference: Carrie Erlin**
 - Reported on success of the NCSSC at the Dearborn meetings; discussed preliminary efforts for 2010 conference

- **Student Paper Competition: Carollette Norwood**
 - Discussed deadlines for 2010 competition and possibility of providing gift cards as a token of thanks to committee members

- **Teaching: Lissa Yogan**
 - Discussed issues for the 2010 conference (timing of the High School workshop, book discussion group, movie night, poster session on “Materials that Help Us Teach”)

- **Finance: Kevin Christiano (absent)**
 - Kathy Rowell reported that Kevin has agreed to continue as the Finance Committee chair for one final year; we need a new person to take on this position and the committee needs to create a budget for NCSA

- **Membership: Kathy Felty**
 - Reported on membership recruitment efforts; a discussion followed regarding recruitment of members in Canada, efforts to maintain current members, and options associated with institutional memberships

- **Applied and Clinical: Mary Senter**
 - Reported on the survey to members that will be sent out soon; a discussion followed on the role of applied/clinical/public sociology in ASA and NCSA

- **Community College: Leslie Elrod**
 - Discussed committee membership and intentions to try to involve community colleges from surrounding states

- **Aida Tomeh Distinguished Service Award: Jay Howard**
 - The call for nomination is out; nominations are needed

- **Milton Yinger Distinguished Career Award: Harry Potter**
 - The call for nominations is out; nominations are needed

- **Nominations: Jay Weinstein**
 - Call for nominations will go out soon; nominations are needed
 - Although this position has been handled by the past-president in recent years, that is not a requirement of the by-laws; during the revision process, it makes sense to officially assign this as a duty of the past-president

- **Profession, Freedom, and Responsibility: Beckett Broh**
 - Discussed the role of this committee, as well some potential agenda items (economic impact of recession on women of academia, etc.)

- **Race, Ethnicity, Gender Equality: Robert Newby (absent)**
 - Kathy Rowell discussed the role of this committee; further discussion took place regarding the possibility of including “sexuality” in the committee name/mission and regarding the need for this committee to develop a policy for using established funds for student support (travel, an award, etc.)

- **Scholarly Achievement: Steve Scanlan (absent)**
 - Hans Bakker discussed the award process and the degree to which the award should be explicitly associated with members of NCSA and the region; further discussion took place regarding having each year’s winner offer a speech or an “author meets critic” session at NCSA

Coordinator Reports

- **Public Relations: Susan Alexander**
 - Reported on status of the newsletter and redesigned webpage; will try to launch both by mid-May
 - Noted that a conflict of interest statement is needed given this position is now paid

- **Conference: Joyce Lucke**

- Provided an introduction; discussed the need for NCSA to have an alcohol policy
- The issue of an alcohol policy will be discussed further at the mid-year meeting

Other New Business: Kathy Rowell noted that the by-laws call for the establishment of a Development Committee but we haven't followed that practice in some time; she is going to forego appointing the committee until the review of the by-laws is completed.

Kathy also noted that the mid-year meeting would be October 9th in Bowling Green, OH at the Hampton Inn.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:45 am