

**NCSA Old Council Meeting**  
**March 31, 2010**  
**Chicago, IL**  
**9:00 am – 12:00 pm**

Present: Kathy Felty, Harry Potter, Art Jipson, Kathy Rowell, Barbara Denison, Susan Alexander, Jay Howard, Kevin Christiano, Kent Schwirian, Hans Bakker, Daysha Lawrence, Mellisa Holtzman, Natalie Haber, Annulla Linders, Deb Swanson, Lissa Yogan

President Kathy Rowell presiding.

Rowell called the meeting to order at 9:10 am.

Motion to approve minutes from the mid-year Council meeting, October 9, 2009, to approve the consent agenda made by Art Jipson second by Kathy Felty. Motion passed, no nays or abstentions recorded.

Motion to remove suspension bylaws and constitution – and to thank the committee and especially Mellisa Holtzman for their hard work revising constitution and bylaws - made by Daysha Lawrence, second by Art Jipson. Motion passed, no nays or abstentions recorded.

Natalie Huber reported that local arrangements has gone well and then departed to assist with the opening of registration.

Jay Howard reported for the Strategic Plan Task Force (see minutes of previous meeting from 3/31/2010). He summarized the key points and recommendations that will be brought to the New Council meeting on Saturday morning.

Kathy Rowell reported Chicago registration is about the same as last time, about 300. We benefit from lower costs in Chicago but we do not pick up and increase membership when we come here. She also reported on her efforts to reduce spending on things like the catering, plaques and certificates, etc. We did create an agreement with Midwest to have tote bags, the lanyards have both names, and there are t-shirts for sale. Thanks to Deb Swanson for designing program cover which is also on the tote bags.

The discussion moved to other issues surrounding a joint meeting. Kathy Rowell commented on the positive aspects of the joint meeting but we also noted problems with the inflexible deadlines, the on-line submission process and simply the loss of institutional memory for the NCSA meeting. Several commented that the flexibility of the NCSA meetings is a plus.

Treasurer Anna Linders joined the meeting to make her report. She reiterated that we lose members but do well with attendance here in Chicago and it seems at this early stage that this will hold true this year. She also reported that our accountant is retiring; Motion by Hans Bakker second by Jipson to direct Anna Linders to seek out new accountant once checking on estimated price. Motion passed, no nays or abstentions recorded. The Council by consensus approved sending a letter of appreciation to the retiring accountant recognizing his years of service as NCSA's primary accountant. Anna Linders will take care of this. Some comments on the financial reports were made to simply clarify several items.

Barbara Denison made the elections report in Jay Weinstein's absence. President-elect is Larry Nichols, Vice-president-elect is Carrie Erlin, and Council member at large is Betsy Ross and Membership chair is Mellisa Holtzman. Anna Linders was re-elected to another term as treasurer. Next year we will elect 4 positions

It was noted that for next year someone needs to get board and council and officer ribbons!!!

Next we heard from Carrie Erlin on the NCSSC -Student Conference – 42 submissions, 3 withdrew to 39 and all student sessions are on one day to ease travel costs for students and their advisors. Erlin selected the best papers for the paper sessions and invited everyone else to present posters for a poster session, and so far no one has withdrawn. But this has been an ad hoc effort these past two years so if this is to continue it needs to be regularized and someone needs to take charge of it. It is Carrie Erlin's recommendation that the Student Conference continue with selected papers on featured sessions and poster sessions for the rest and to stay with the all on one day for format. Gail McGuire at IUSB was mentioned as a possible replacement. Carrie Erlin will approach her. The suggestion was made to get student section chair and more students involved. In Dearborn there were some observations on the large numbers of students; this approach seemed to create student opportunities but control the proportion in the overall meetings.

Motion by Mellisa Holtzman seconded Daysha Lawrence by to create a permanent committee to run the North Central Student Sociological Conference. Motion passed, no nay votes or abstentions recorded. Motion by Art Jipson to amend the previous motion to make the NCSSC a standing subcommittee of the Program Committee, second by Hans Bakker. Motion passed, no nay votes or abstentions recorded.

President Rowell next called on Kent Schwirian to make the Publications report. He reminded us there is some interest in publishing our journal from another publisher; *Focus* editor Gustavo Mesch has scheduled a meeting with the current publisher and the appropriate committee members for tomorrow, April 1, 2010.

Deb Swanson says there are about 1200 people registered to be here, the hotel and local restaurants know we have a short lunch break built in, and registration has opened. She recommended we do go to an online submission process; even though there were some frustrations with the process this year. Deb Swanson also has information from MSS that they have a contract with the Marriott in Chicago for 2013 but it is her recommendation we discuss with them meeting together every 6 years, in 2016. Kathy Rowell indicated the New Council will need to consider this; there will need to be a meeting with the MSS counterparts after this meeting so the topic can be discussed.

Deb Swanson also reported the last minute rash of cancellations and suggested the new program committee will need to consider this problem and if there are any steps we can take to minimize this from happening.

Joyce Lucke reported the Mid-year Council meeting is back in Bowling Green OH again this year on Friday October 8, 2010. The 2011 annual meeting is in Cleveland, March 31 – April 2, 2011. The 2012 annual meeting is in Pittsburgh, PA. There was discussion on keeping the mid-year meeting in Bowling Green or moving it to the same site as the annual meeting; also possibly using video-conferencing on some sort of web technology. Joyce also reported on practices for alcohol policy at other associations and said there is a move towards no alcohol due to liability in groups of similar size. Joyce was directed to look into an insurance policy and how much difference there may be if we have a no alcohol policy, and to report back at the Mid Annual meeting.

Kathy Rowell reported on the status of the archives at Bowling Green and instructed anyone to bring material for the archives to the mid annual meeting there. We will also need to decide if the archives should remain at Bowling Green or not.

Susan Alexander was called upon to report on Public Relations. First, she said, our domain name expired in fall and we have a one year extension. The ownership of the domain is problematic and Susan Alexander will make a 5-year renewal while researching the best way to resolve the problem. Second, she reported, the website is being transitioned from Dreamweaver to Drupal, an open source code. Susan will also collaborate with Daysha to open the Facebook site to everyone. Art Jipson mentioned we need to consider other digital tools such as

Wikipedia, Twitter, etc. but he has some questions about what we should use and who is going to manage these, recognizing this is beyond the current limits of Susan Alexander's contract with the association. Susan was recognized with applause for all her hard work, especially on the newsletter.

The 2011 meetings' tentative theme is "Pragmatism in Research and Education" and two conversations have begun with Jack Goldstone and Lynn McDonald for plenary addresses. No commitment has been made. Also some discussion of the one-day student conference, and of trying to reach out to groups of faculty in their early years, also groups of folks studying social media. Specific dates for call for organizers not settled yet.

Kudos were expressed to Deb Swanson for the program cover and t shirt design with suggestion to make t shirts next year with the Rock n Roll hall of fame theme - "sociology rocks" was suggested.

Susan Alexander and Joyce Lucke were excused for the remaining agenda item. Kathy Rowell then proceeded to briefly summarize the creation of the Conference and Public Relations Coordinators positions and their first 2 contracts for 6 months, renewed at the mid-annual council meeting last October. Kathy recommends 1 year contracts effective June 1 for both of them this time, with a review and possible renegotiation of their job descriptions to be handled by Hans Bakker. Motion by Art Jipson, second by Hans Bakker to offer 1 year contracts to both Susan Alexander and Joyce Lucke. Motion passed, no nay votes or abstentions recorded.

After asking for any new business, the Council expressed with applause their thanks to Kathy Rowell for her leadership. Kevin Christiano spoke for all of us in saying how much we appreciate her work, especially with some of the unforeseen issues in this past year.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara J. Denison