

**North Central Sociological Association
Mid-Annual Council Meeting
Bowling Green, OH
October 7, 2011**

Minutes

Present: Susan Alexander, Hans Bakker, Todd Callais, Steve Carlton-Ford, Kevin Christiano, Barbara Jones Denison, Leslie Elrod, Natalie Haber-Baker, Mellisa Holtzman, Fayyaz Hussain Anna Linders, Joyce Lucke, Gail McGuire, Melinda Messineo, Bob Newby, Larry Nichols, Carolette Norwood, Mary Senter, Carrie Erlin (via speakerphone)
President Larry Nichols presiding.

Call to order by Nichols at 9:20 am. President Nichols then called for introductions around the table.

Motion to accept previous Council minutes from Cleveland by Linders, second by Senter. A clarification on who is a voting member was called for and completed. Motion carried, no nays or abstentions noted. As an addendum, it was noted Bob Newby remained as chair of the Committee on Equality and Inclusion.

VP Erlin (via speakerphone) was called upon next to give her report. A discussion followed about the costs, uses of and preferences for PowerPoint equipment specifically and A-V equipment generally, with suggestions expressed from a number of people.

Carlton-Ford suggested we begin working on a policy that A-V including PowerPoint will be provided for the Keynote, Schnabel and other plenary addresses. Callais also mentioned coming up with a long term solution as it is increasingly unacceptable to not have technology available; other conferences provide technology equipment for presenters. Nichols felt that it was, indeed, unacceptable to not have this type of technology available. Carlton-Ford spoke to separating the issues of 1) can we provide A-V for a limited number of hi-profile talks, and 2) perhaps appoint a committee to look at the long term A-V technology issues for the annual meetings.

Motion: Carlton-Ford moved, with second by Senter, to provide A-V technology if requested or required by speakers giving the hi-profile addresses at the conference, to include Presidential, Keynote and Schnabel lectures, at the expense of the Association. Motion carried with no nays or abstentions recorded.

Motion: Senter moved, with second by Callais, for a Working Committee on Technology to 1) explore A-V capabilities for the annual meetings; 2) explore video-taping addresses at annual meeting; the committee will report back at the spring Old Council meeting in Pittsburgh. Motion carried with no nays or abstentions recorded. Hussain, Haber-Baker and Bakker with input from Linders, Alexander and Lucke will form committee with Haber-Baker chairing.

Erlin went on with her report talking about the new online portal for the call for sessions which worked "swimmingly" and collected more standardized information better than the previous method. There is now a new portal for the call for papers, and four papers have already been submitted (even though it's not "live" for anyone but Council yet). A suggestion for some sort of reply confirming your submission should be added, to which Erlin replied that has now been added. A discussion of the submission process and how submitters will select a session to which they submit ensued.

Motion: Erlin moves that we expend \$120 (to be reimbursed to her) for the Survey Monkey costs for the call for papers submissions process. Second by Linders. Motion carried, no nays or abstentions recorded.

Erlin presented an action item to institutionalize the online submission process; she and Lucke have researched 3 different packages that create a submission process, including Survey Monkey and an Access based system, and a process within the Registration application (RegOnline) we already pay for.

Motion: Senter moved and Linders seconded to institutionalize an online paper submission process, and at the April 2012 meeting in Pittsburgh the Program Committee will bring a recommendation to the 2012 Old Council meeting and we will vote on which process from among the choices. Motion carried, no nays or abstentions recorded.

In response to a query, it was shared that the Preliminary program should be on the website by the end of January 2012 so people can view the program and make travel and attendance plans. Another query about publicity for the meeting, namely creating a way to contact the chair of every department of sociology within our region, was discussed and it was pointed out by Public Relations that this seems to be under the Membership Chair's duties. Discussion followed on how this could be accomplished, and Denison offered to assist Holtzman with this. Lucke pointed out Hussain had previously mentioned having a list of Michigan sociologists and Bakker asked Lucke to find the list Kathy Felty had previously created of Canadian sociologists with whom to communicate.

Motion: Senter moves and Bakker seconded joint sponsorship of up to two sessions focused on the Marcellus Shale impact in Pennsylvania and related topics of sociological significance; organized and convened by Denison. Motion carried, no nays or abstentions recorded.

Moving on to the **treasurer's report**, Linders reported our relationship with new auditor is working well; new auditor will be providing W-2s for employees beginning this tax year. One issue the auditor raised, however, is the building up of money in the journal's account and Linders pointed out we need to begin thinking about a use for some of those funds to be more compliant with IRS rules. Nichols asked if the funds could be used to address some of the A-V issues that have been raised. The Working Committee on Technology should include the possibilities of the funds in their discussions. It was noted the fund, about \$35-36,000, would be spent quickly on A-V; however with the new publisher there may be an entirely different business model and income stream. Carlton-Ford suggested perhaps the journal account should be referred to the treasurer's oversight.

Motion: Senter moved, second by Callais, that Linders and Carlton-Ford should collaborate on a report at the April 2012 Old Council meeting first on how to best integrate the journal fund with our overall treasurer's report and second, what should we expend the journal fund on to benefit the Association? Discussion followed as Callais asked when we would be able to provide input on the use of those funds. The question was called. Motion carried, no nays or abstentions recorded.

Linders next reported the suggestion from the accountant that the Vanguard fund transactions to supply funds for the student prizes, etc. needs to be accomplished and she will be taking care of that. A question about the Butler-Jones account was raised concerning when will expenditures begin from that fully funded account? Linders responded that there is discussion going on, involving Newby and his committee, on that issue. Several other questions about the nature of the treasurer's report were asked and replies supplied by Linders.

Lucke pointed out the hotel rebate in the treasurer's report will also be something we will receive (amount undetermined) in Pittsburgh but will not be available starting with the contracts she negotiates, beginning in 2013. Christiano added to Linders' report to say we did well as an association this past year, generating income over our expenditures. We did better than previous years in terms of spending, and we were very frugal in our efforts, cutting expenditures. Lucke raised the question of purchasing some expendables in bulk to save money even though it bumps up expenses in a given year.

Motion: Bakker moved, second by Holtzman, to accept the treasurer's report with thanks. Motion approved unanimously.

Moving to the committee reports on the agenda, Nichols noted he would contact Jay Howard about the **Tomeh Award Committee**. Haber-Baker reported for **Applied and Public Sociology** explaining how the committee was addressing a concern over having more Applied and Public sessions on the program, and having a panel session for students on Applied and Public Sociology's content and job markets. Elrod reported for **Community Colleges** that the participation from community college faculty has been historically low. E-blasts to all sociologists in PA, including the community colleges, have been sent and will be sent again highlighting the Call for Papers. A suggestion was made to think about topics or other activities besides just sessions on the program to target community college sociologists; also putting all on one day sessions focused on important interests to that particular audience.

Finance issues, Christiano reported, were included in the treasurer's report discussions. **Membership**, Holtzman, reported, still has as their primary activity publicity promoting the organization and the annual meeting. **Profession, Freedom and Responsibility** Committee reported next, with Hussain who asked for input from anyone on related topics to the committee's charge. To the Reynolds' proposal that we passed at last year's New Council meeting, Hussain said, the next action was unclear. Denison volunteered to work with Nichols to be sure the president of NCSA gets that motion sent to the governors of Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Indiana.

We next took up the **Publication Policy and Focus** report:

Motion: Carlton-Ford moved, and Linders seconded, in a response to Schwirian's comment about the impending end of the editor's term, that the sense of Council is in support of Gustavo Mesch accepting a second term as editor of *Focus* if he is interested. The Council expressed its strong support of Mesch, and directs Schwirian to ask Mesch if he will consider a second term. Nichols will make Schwirian aware of this motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Public Relations coordinator Alexander reported that the draft fall newsletter is going around the table for additions and corrections. The listserv is growing, and the Facebook page is also growing, becoming a job listing source. She reported over 1,000 visits to our website, way beyond our normal membership reach. Kudos were expressed for Alexander's work by Hussain and greeted by applause from everyone.

Newby reported for **Equality and Inclusion**. After some research we learned that the committee is now called "Equality and Inclusion" as reflected in the bylaws. First, he said, he thought some years ago the charge of the committee was changed from issues of equity to issues of inclusion so wasn't the name of the committee changed? Second, the committee needs to address beginning a plan for using the proceeds of the Butler Jones Fund. Linders clarified how much money could be spent, perhaps \$150, from the fund and several suggestions for supporting students were made. Perhaps the model used for the *Our Social World* grants a few years ago could be examined, and we could announce there could be some small awards for travel for 1 or a few whose presentation has been accepted. Other ideas and suggestions should be emailed to Newby. And finally, an emphasis on inviting persons of color and all underrepresented groups to the meetings needs to be the work of everyone not just the committee and its chair. Send suggestions to Newby at his email listed on the website.

We backed up to **Nominations and Elections** for a report from Bakker. He reported having trouble finding solid candidates for president and vice president, despite lots of suggestions. People have been declining. We clarified who can vote in the election (those who are paid members for 2012 because of when the election falls) and when the election occurs (during February) so that the Nominations and Elections chair needs to have the full slate and information to Denison (as secretary) by about Jan 15. Erlin mentioned only 31% of past presidents over the past couple decades are women and Council discussed ways to promote women, and also other minorities, as potential candidates to increase diversity on Council. Senter's suggestion to have Council members forward to Bakker in the next few weeks any suggestions, particularly names of women and other underrepresented groups in terms of looking at our past leadership was well received. It was suggested the Equality and Inclusion committee think about how to address this down the road.

Motion: Linders moved that the Equality and Inclusion Committee collect some data on those who have been NCSA's leaders in elected offices in terms of various social categories and put forth at the Old Council meeting in April 2012 suggestions on proposed methods to include those underrepresented categories as have been identified. Bakker seconded the motion. Motion carried, no nays or abstentions recorded.

Scholarly Achievement Awards' Committee working smoothly, Student Paper Awards committee, Norwood commented, working on par with the previous year. The **Student Conference** report from McGuire noted the great turnout last year, and that the hospitality room needs to be publicized better.

The **Teaching Section** report from Messineo mentioned the Future Faculty Development and Professional Development programs, and Council handled several questions from Jay Howard about those programs. It was noted that instead of a Teaching Poster session there will be a Teaching Idea Swap since there were no posters received last year.

Motion: Bakker moves that for 2012 we will create a pilot to partner with the Pennsylvania Sociological Society at the NCSA meeting in Pittsburgh by having NCSA waive membership fees for PSS members who are accepted on the program and present at the NCSA meeting in response to PSS's provision of the PSS membership list and the PSS email list of sociologists in Pennsylvania for NCSA in promoting the meeting and in recognition of PSS's contribution of a joint session contributing in a substantive and scholarly manner to the NCSA 2012 meeting. Motion carried, no nays or abstentions recorded.

Motion: Senter moves and Denison seconded that the Schnabel Award winner need not pay conference registration in the year in which they give their Schnabel address. Motion carried, no nays or abstentions recorded.

Student Section report from Carter asked for some support of the student section.

Motion: Linders moved and Senter seconded the expenditure of up to \$200 for the Student Section on food subsidy, a mixer or other social aspects to support the student section. Motion carried, no nays or abstentions recorded.

April 4-7, 2013 are the dates of our contract with the Crowne Plaza in Indianapolis, Lucke reported. She also has RFPs out for Cincinnati for 2014. She mentioned looking at the Covington/Newport KY area across from Cincinnati's downtown.

Under Old Business Bakker pointed out that the **Public Policy Committee** under the by-laws, and Nichols added the **Development Committee**, don't seem to have chairs and seem to be inactive. Nichols and Carlton-Ford will look at the 2 unchaired and inactive committees and bring information to the April Old Council meeting.

Motion: Linders moved, with second from Carlton-Ford, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 3:00 pm