

NCSA New Council Meeting Minutes

Cleveland, OH

April 3, 2011

8:30 am

Meeting called to order at 8:34 am

Larry Nichols presiding

Present: Kevin Christiano, Barbara Denison, Carrie Erlin, Anna Linders, Kelly Reidenbach, Susan Alexander, Todd Callais, Mary Senter, Joyce Lucke, Leslie Elrod, Kent Schwirian, Betsy Ross, Steve Carlton-Ford, Fayez Hussain, Melissa Holtzman, Melinda Messineo, Jennifer Carter, Natalie Haber-Barker

Joyce Lucke informed everyone that the mid-year council meeting will be held on October 6-7, 2011 at the Hampton Inn, Bowling Green Ohio. This is an evening – all day Friday meeting, the room rate is \$89.00 + tax; however they did inform Lucke that the rate will increase for the following year.

The 2012 Conference will be in Pittsburgh. The Plenary Speaker under consideration, Nichols and Erlin reported, is Professor Daniel J. Myers, University of Notre Dame. We will be staying April 12-15 at the Marriott City Center. Room rate is cheaper than this year in Cleveland.

The Program Committee for 2012 has met and will be integrating a new system to streamline the process for the call for papers and submitting papers and presentations to the program; dates will reflect this new system. Bakker requested the Program Committee contact the Canadian Sociological Association with 2012 promotional information; Denison said she could promote NCSA at the Pennsylvania Sociological Society meeting in fall 2011.

Treasurer's Report: - Anna Linders reminded us we had a couple lean years and we need to remember to be frugal despite this year's excellent registration numbers. Lucke reminded the Treasurer we need a new FIN certificate due to government requirements changing for tax exempt consideration. Final attendance figures are not yet available but approximately 350 people attended.

Todd Callais asked how, in the long term, one might get another city, say Columbus OH on the cycle and Lucke mentioned the first year we don't have a "city" location committed would be 2015. She also mentioned if you meet in bigger cities, considering the "outer loop" properties which are less expensive. She also pointed out we haven't raised our registration fees recently and we may need to consider a raise.

Committee Reports:

A discussion of the Public Policy Committee listed in the Bylaws but not formed and given a chair in the past few years was held. Carrie Erlin pointed out the charges to the Public Policy and the Profession, Freedom and Responsibility Committees and we considered where the resolution referred to New Council from the Business Meeting would best be placed.

Aida Tomeh Award – Jay Howard

remains as chair.

Applied and Public – Natalie Haber-Barker newly appointed chair. The suggestion of identifying "Sociologists in action" and video recording them, to put on website, will be moving forward.

Community Colleges – Leslie Elrod remains as chair.

Membership- Melissa Holtzman

Finance- Kevin Christiano remains as chair.

Nominations and Elections – Hans Bakker will be chair. Raised under the area of this committee was the concern that we create a mechanism to replace or remove Council members if necessary.

Motion: Melissa Holtzman moves, with a second by Carrie Erlin, to create a constitutional amendment to replace or remove a member of Council if necessary:

“Given the events at the mid-annual and since, Council should vote on amending the constitution/bylaws so that there is a mechanism in place to remove elected members.

[to be placed in Constitution Article VIII: Nominations and Elections]

Section 4: A Council member, whether elected or appointed, may be removed by a majority vote of the voting members of Council upon a finding of fact that:

- a. The Council member has substantively failed to complete their function or duties as described by the Constitution and/or By-laws of the NCSA; or
- b. The Council member has failed to complete tasks as assigned or directed by a majority vote of Council; or
- c. The Council member's actions directly conflict with the stated purpose and objectives of the NCSA; or
- d. The Council member's actions, whether intentional or not, become disruptive to the operations and functions of the NCSA as an organization.

A finding of fact requires a majority vote of the voting members of Council and is to be brought upon motion by a voting member of Council. If a finding of fact is made that a, b, c, or d apply, then a motion may be made by a voting member of Council to remove the member in question from their position on Council. Once a member is removed, a new member may be appointed to that position by a majority vote of Council. Motions for a finding of fact and/or to remove a Council member may be made at a meeting of Council or via electronic communication between Council members. If a motion under this section is brought via electronic communication rather than at a face-to-face meeting of Council, the member whose actions are in question has seven (7) days to formulate a response to any motion for a finding of fact and a vote on either the finding of fact or the member's removal from Council cannot be held until those seven (7) days have expired.”

Friendly amendment to make the vote 2/3 or 66.66% of the voting members of Council was made by Mary Senter and accepted by Holtzman and Erlin. A friendly amendment to this amendment to add “who cast a ballot” after “voting members of Council” was made by Mary Senter and accepted by Carrie Erlin and Melissa Holtzman.

Motion: Amendment proposed to make the 7 days issue for response to electronic communication into 14 days for all forms of communication was made by Hans Bakker, seconded by Fayyez Hussain. Motion defeated, no aye votes or abstentions recorded.

Friendly amendment by Steve Carlton-Ford to broaden motion the 7 days for a response to all forms of communication accepted by Carrie Erlin and Melissa Holtzman.

Discussion of various aspects of the motion followed.

Final motion to read:

“Given the events at the mid-annual and since, Council should vote on amending the constitution/bylaws so that there is a mechanism in place to remove elected members.

[to be placed in Constitution Article VIII: Nominations and Elections]

Section 4: A Council member, whether elected or appointed, may be removed by a majority vote of the voting members of Council upon a finding of fact that:

- a. The Council member has substantively failed to complete their function or duties as described by the Constitution and/or By-laws of the NCSA; or
- b. The Council member has failed to complete tasks as assigned or directed by a majority vote of Council; or
- c. The Council member's actions directly conflict with the stated purpose and objectives of the NCSA; or
- d. The Council member's actions, whether intentional or not, become disruptive to the operations and functions of the NCSA as an organization.

Motion: for a finding of fact or to remove a Council member requires a majority vote of the voting members of Council and is to be brought upon motion by a voting member of Council. If a finding of fact is made that a, b, c, or d apply, then a motion may be made by a voting member of Council to remove the member in question from their position on Council. Once a member is removed, a new member may be appointed to that position by a majority vote of Council. Motions for a finding of fact and/or to remove a Council member may be made at a meeting of Council or via electronic communication between Council members. If a motion under this section is brought via electronic communication rather than at a face-to-face meeting of Council, the member whose actions are in question has seven (7) days to formulate a response to any motion for a finding of fact and a vote on either the finding of fact or the member's removal from Council cannot be held until those seven (7) days have expired.”

After further discussion, the question was called.

Motion carried with no nays and or no abstentions recorded.

Profession, Freedom and Responsibility – Fayyez Hussain newly appointed chair. Suggestion was made that a newly revised charge for this committee should be written.

Public Policy - a chair needs to be named, and one point was raised for this committee to consider about state requirements for certifying social studies teachers. Michigan, for example, doesn't even allow sociology to be taken and isn't in the required preparation for certification.

Publication Policy – Kent Schwirian will remain as chair

Public Relations – Susan Alexander remains as coordinator.

Race, Ethnic and Gender Equality – Tom Calhoun is newly appointed chair but remains to be confirmed by President Larry Nichols.

Scholarly Achievement Award – Steve Scanlon remains as chair.

Student Paper Awards – Carollette Norwood is staying as chair

North Central Student Sociology Conference – Gail McGuire

Yinger Award – Bob Shelley remaining as chair

Teaching Section-Melinda Messineo stays on as chair

Sociological Focus – Gustavo Mesch remains as editor, unable to attend New Council meeting.

Conference Coordinator -Joyce Lucke reported on hospitality suite; also on the attendance of a service dog at the meetings this year. Next year's meeting is in Pittsburgh, 2013 in Indianapolis and 2014 in Cincinnati. There are 16 teachers attending the high school workshop on Friday this year. She also previewed this year's t-shirts.

Old Business – Joyce Lucke presented the 2 proposals from hotels in Indianapolis. One is outside the city just off Route 70; parking would be free and room rates would be \$109/night. Other location is downtown, \$129/night with parking charges. **Motion** by Anna Linders, seconded by Melissa Holtzman, to sign the contract with the Crowne Plaza downtown hotel. Motion carried, with no nay or abstention votes recorded.

No other old business was put forward.

New Business – President Larry Nichols called for any new business

Motion: Fayyez Hussain brought to Council the motion referred from the Business meeting, made by Larry Reynolds, second by Susan Alexander, that the NCSA strongly condemns the politicians in the state of Ohio [and the states of Indiana, Michigan, and Pennsylvania] amended by Susan Alexander and accepted by Larry Reynolds who are attempting to wage class warfare on the working peoples and public sector employees of these states. Fayyez Hussain and the committee met after the Business meeting and removed the word “Republican” from the motion

Nichols proposes a friendly amendment to reword the amendment to read: The NCSA strongly condemns the attacks on workers’ rights and on public education in the states of Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Pennsylvania. The amendment was accepted by Alexander on behalf of herself and Reynolds, who empowered Council to act. Motion carried, with 2 opposing votes, 1 abstention recorded.

Conference coordinator contract: A contract proposal to renew Joyce Lucke’s services for one year May 2011 – April 2012 was received. **Motion** made by Barbara Denison, second by Melissa Holtzman to renew at the fees specified in the new contract with the deletion of and changes as amended. Discussion followed stressing the positive experience of Lucke’s professional efforts with several of us this year. Motion carried with no nays or abstentions recorded.

Motion by Barbara Denison, second by Betsy Ross, to extend Susan Alexander’s contract to a one year length with terms remaining the same. Motion carried unanimously.

Steve Carlton-Ford moved to adjourn, second by Betsy Ross, motion carried. 11:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Jones Denison
NCSA secretary