

Minutes
NCSA New Council Meeting
April 15, 2012
Pittsburgh, PA

Present: Steve Carlton-Ford (president), Susan Alexander, Todd Callais, Bob Carrothers, Jen Carter, Barbara Denison, Donna Giuliani, Natalie Haber-Barker, Rachel Kraus, Anna Linders, Melinda Messineo, Gustavo Mesch, Larry Nichols, Carolette Norwood, Mary Senter, Lissa Yogan, Conference Coordinator Joyce Lucke

Call to order at 9:05 am, President Steve Carlton-Ford presiding.

After introductions around the table, President Carlton-Ford moved on to address the agenda.

He announced the Mid-annual Council meeting will be October 5, 2012 and after considering other locations, it will remain in Bowling Green OH. That location still seems to be the best centralized place for the diverse locations of our council members.

Next, Carlton-Ford called upon 2012-13 VP and Program Chair Todd Callais to discuss next year's program. Callais announced the theme, "In Defense of Theory." Callais spoke briefly to the composition of the program committee and the plans for the program. Carlton-Ford spoke to the importance of communications amongst Council and the association members generally.

Conference Coordinator Joyce Lucke gave us the details on our accommodations in Indianapolis for 2013. She mentioned lots of additions of restaurants, shops and other attractions immediately outside the Crowne Plaza Union Square, our conference hotel, due to the Super Bowl this past Winter.

Carlton-Ford and Callais are working on the plenary speaker but have no firm commitment yet.

Callais spoke to a working deadline of September 15 for session organizers; Alexander spoke to getting the spring newsletter out in 2-3 weeks from the conclusion of this meeting so information she receives on the program will be appreciated for inclusion in the newsletter. A discussion of potentially different types of sessions followed, with mention of how some papers this year on research sessions did not have any research findings or data and were really proposals. An idea for roundtables, particularly to have a venue to discuss and provide feedback and encouragement for students' research in process, seemed to find favor. The discussion included comments on making sure "research papers" also includes theoretical papers, non-empirical papers and the overall wide range of the discipline.

The conversation about quality seemed to include all levels of participants, student, faculty and practitioner. A comment was heard about Council members being overheard complaining in public about these sorts of issues, and it was noted that this is not the professionally appropriate way for these things to be discussed. Conference Coordinator Lucke suggested

she and Callais would be working on something for the “call” to define different types of sessions and anyone with ideas on how to set expectations please email them to Callais or Lucke (who will pass them along) in the next few weeks.

Treasurer Linders reported there was “more money since Thursday’s Old Council meeting and it appears attendance and registration is up a bit. A question was raised about how many full paying professional members it takes in ratio to student members to keep us solvent and Linders reported that about two-thirds of our membership is students.

A committee discussion was introduced next by Carlton-Ford, asking for input on how to get new committee members, asking committee chairs present who needs new members, and announcing a plan to send out a call to membership for volunteers.

There being no old business brought forward, we moved to New Business.

Melinda Messineo from the Teaching Section brought a request from the ASA Section on Teaching and Learning to host their first pre-conference workshop at our 2013 meeting. This would not be a part of NCSA permanently; rather it is the start of what the ASA Section hopes to be an annual event moving around the various regionals. Discussion followed with a sense of how positive this is and we should pursue this. Melinda Messineo is the contact person and will connect with the ASA section. Carlton-Ford took the sense of the room that we affirmed this proposal and that the NCSA Teaching Section should move forward.

Carlton-Ford next addressed the suggestions for a location of the 2015 meeting, Lucke gave members of Council information on various cities; a direction to send out an RFP to Louisville KY, Detroit MI and Cleveland OH was the result. Lissa Yogan also mentioned that the Midwest Sociological Society is interested in a joint meeting in Chicago in 2016.

Nichols brought forward another item of new business speaking to the perceptions of the NCSA annual meeting’s reputation and asked if we could collect some information from not just people who attended but from members who did not attend. He also suggested maybe we include on our website and in our calls some sound bites from people commenting on their positive experience at the meeting in Pittsburgh. Discussion about some ideas related to gathering data on this topic followed.

The next business item was the renewal of the conference coordinator’s contract. Lucke was graciously excused after speaking to the key elements in the proposed contract, namely the increase of period covered to 2 years and the increase in fee to \$6,000/year. A question about how the position has been evaluated was raised, no formal performance evaluation has been performed in the 3 years Joyce Lucke has been the conference coordinator. There was ensuing discussion about the nature of communication, whether the coordinator model is the ideal model for NCSA to be using, and what the ideal contract would look like and include.

Motion: Senter moved and Linders seconded motion to empower Steve Carlton-Ford to work on language in points 1, 2, and 7 and include a point 29 on reporting throughout the year in the contract with Joyce Lucke as conference coordinator for a 2 year period, including the amendment to point #27 from VP to Executive Committee and addition of a new point (renumbered #4) on agreement page itself. Question was called. Motion carried, no nay votes or abstentions recorded.

#4 "Continuation of the current contract for the second year in contingent on the outcome of a performance evaluation conducted by the Executive Committee of Council prior to April 30, 2013.

A question was raised about the election being late this year. Several spoke to there being problems in getting the information from the nominations committee to the secretary, and also a problem finding people who agreed to run. Nichols spoke to his desire to have the election earlier, in November, this year.

We moved to discussion of the PR Coordinator's contract with Susan Alexander. Alexander had already exited the room.

Motion: Nichols moved with a second by Callais to increase the amount paid annually to \$4,000 and renew the contract with Alexander for one year. Additionally, we express our appreciation for her efforts. Motion carried with no nays and abstentions recorded.

Motion to adjourn by acclaim. Meeting adjourned 11:44 am

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Jones Denison, NCSA Secretary