

Minutes
NCSA New Council Meeting
April 7, 2013
Indianapolis, IN

Present: Lissa Yogan (president), Susan Alexander, Jacqueline Bergdahl, Todd Callais, Bob Carrothers, Barbara Denison, Scott Desmond, Leslie Elrod, Alan Grigsby, Donna Guiliani, Natalie Haber-Barker, Fayyez Hussain, Rachel Kraus, Annulla Linders, Gustavo Mesch, Melinda Messineo, Larry Nichols, Stacey Nofziger, Kent Schwirian, Conference Coordinator Joyce Lucke

Call to order at 9:09, by President Lissa Yogan.

After introductions around the table, Lissa welcomes everyone. She then stated she wished to publicly thank Steve Carlton-Ford, noting the NCSA "owes a debt of gratitude" to him for his hard work. She also related that he is interested in hearing from everyone about possible names for nominations.

A request for a list of officers and Council members to be sent to everyone on Council was made and it will be taken care of after the meeting.

President Yogan next thanked this year's program organizers: Todd Callais, Rachel Kraus, Melinda Messineo and Gail McGuire for their hard work. The program has been a big success, she noted.

Rachel Kraus gave the Vice-President's Report. She said she was happy with the way things went this year; sessions seemed well attended and the program went well. She thanked Todd Callais for his leadership. Moving on to next year's conference, she highlighted the theme "Doing Good" and encouraged involvement. Rachel Kraus next moved to outlining a proposed streamlined method for issuing a call for papers, giving several reasons. These included:

- Number of sessions proposed that are cancelled
- Number of proposed sessions that are too specific to solicit multiple submissions
- The 2-stage process pushes back the process of getting to a complete preliminary program

Moving to a 1-stage process with issuing just a call for papers, including a closed session submission option, is her proposal for addressing these potential problems. Discussion followed focusing on the pros and cons of moving to this session, and recognition was given that the streamlined process proposed is more practical. A question on where topics not listed in the general call would fall was addressed. A question on whether a submitter could pick several, or first and second choices, in submitting their paper was addressed with an affirmative response. Adding a check-off on the submission indicating a willingness to serve as a facilitator was suggested as a solution to finding facilitators for sessions. The idea of placing abstracts online prior to the meeting was affirmed.

Motion: Stacey Nofziger moved to change current call for papers from a 2-step process to a 1-step process utilizing topic guidelines to inform sessions created by the Program Committee and allowing submission of closed sessions by organizers. Bob Carrothers seconded the motion. Motion carried, no nays or abstentions recorded.

President Yogan asked if there was a Local Arrangements chair for Cincinnati yet, and encouraged the University of Cincinnati people present to help identify someone early.

The Publication Policy Committee chair Kent Schwirian went next. He thanked Gustavo Mesch for all his work on the journals. He has moved us ahead, Kent Schwirian mentioned, in his term as editor. The search for a new journal editor has already moved to circulate information in various locations and there are some names under consideration. Steve Carlton-Ford, Bob Shelly, Gustavo and Kent Schwirian comprise the editor search committee.

President Yogan publicly thanked the committee for their hard work.

Anna Linders gave the Treasurer's Report. She stated that going into the conference we were in "very good shape" with membership about steady and registrations increased from the previous year. She once again stressed the need to inform people on the program, particularly students, that presenters need to be **members** as well as pay the registration fee. A discussion of the "group" rate for students for an institution followed. **Motion to accept Treasurer's Report made by Bob Carrothers, seconded by Stacey Nofziger. Motion carried, no nays votes or abstentions recorded.**

Motion: Barbara Denison moved, Bob Carrothers seconded, to raise the institutional one-payment rate to \$150 for undergraduate students. Motion carried, no nays votes or abstentions recorded.

The Teaching Section report was given by Melinda Messineo, stating the Pre-Conference workshop sponsored by AKD and the High School Workshop both went well. The High School Workshop has already been "made a go" for next year and planning is underway. President Yogan spoke to the positive benefits from the high school workshop. She also mentioned they may seek some external sponsorship for the high school workshop next year. There was an excellent attendance at the section meeting.

Student Section had no current report, Alan Grigsby noted although he and Jen Carter are in dialogue about several issues. The Twitter opportunity was a success. Alan Grigsby mentioned the student section reception was a success, and he shared ideas on finding a different location and time in the program for the student reception.

Aida Tomeh Committee – no report.

Applied and Public Committee report was given by Natalie Haber-Baker, who reported her strategy to go to session with applied work being presented and recruit members was successful. She talked about possible session topics for next year, including a thematic idea inviting community agencies in the Cincinnati area to come in and present on their activities in the community.

Melinda Messineo mentioned since there was no Schnabel Award given this year the Teaching Section is considering inviting a previous award winner from before the address was institutionalized. That idea was received affirmatively.

Gustavo Mesch was recognized to report on *Sociological Focus*. He shared information from a report he received from our publishers, Taylor & Francis. Institutional subscriptions have increased about 40% since they became the journal's publishers. He discussed our "impact factor" which the publisher is working to increase. Since we've been working with Taylor & Francis the journal has gone online. It was noted the publisher highlighted our journal at ASA. A question was raised on how to get our journal indexed in *Sociological Abstracts*.

Community Colleges Committee report was given by Donna Guiliani, who said the “meet and greet” was lightly attended. There was good discussion held about hiring, with positions openings increasing at the community college level. One request they had was to someone with graduate students who would update the community college contact list. Sharing resources across regionals and from ASA was mentioned. She then brought up the attacks on community colleges by state legislatures, Michigan for example.

A comment was raised to consider creating a fund to help with travel costs to NCSA. President Yogan noted we will come back to this topic at the mid-year meeting.

Equality and Inclusion – no report.

Finance Report from Kevin Christiano noted that it was not that long ago we were doing poorly, financially, so it is gratifying to hear Anna’s report that we are doing well. Membership has risen since 2010; it has remained steady over the past year but we have increased the percentage of professional members. Our registrations at meetings have increased. He reminded us that we are well situated to be able to pay our expenses; however we are only 1 or 2 disasters away from being back in a position of “fiscal scare” so prudent fiscal responsibility is important. Kevin Christiano also mentioned he would serve an additional year as we transition to a new treasurer.

Membership report was given by Bob Carrothers who said he would work to get information out about the increasing strength of NCSA.

Nominations report – no report.

The Profession, Freedom and Responsibility Committee report was presented by Fayyaz Hussain, who said there are 3 things he will look at for the mid annual meeting. The first is the community college issue, the issue of property rights of on-line courses being taken away by the university, and the problem of increasing numbers of non-tenure track faculty positions. He also mentioned the idea to schedule a session on professional responsibility.

Public Relations – Susan Alexander reported she is getting short articles for the newsletter and turnaround time is about 2 weeks from now. At the same time the website will be updated, so about 3-4 weeks from now the new newsletter, updated website and so on will be available. An email is sent to the membership at that point.

Scholarly Achievement Award – Larry Nichols is now chair. He wants to look at what other regional associations are doing and asked for volunteers.

Student Paper Awards – chair is now Todd Callais.

Yinger Award – no report given.

The NC Student Sociology Conference – Gail McGuire wasn’t present but continuing discussion of meeting the needs of both the NCSSC and the larger conference will be ongoing.

Conference Coordinator Joyce Lucke – We had sponsors for this year’s meeting: Routledge, Taylor & Francis, and AKD. We tried to be a bit greener. Things seemed to go well. A question was raised about gathering feedback on the conference.

Old Business: The discussion of how to divide up publicity/communication activities carried over from the Old Council meeting was brought forward. President Yogan said she felt there needed to be a gathering of information; she needed to read the contracts of the various people, the Constitution and By-Laws, talk with people involved, and bring this to the mid annual Council meeting. No objection was raised, so we moved on.

New Business: The topic of location for the 2016 meeting, including whether we want to meet with the MSS, was brought forward. Several pros and cons were shared. Issues raised included:

- Chicago isn't in our region so to go there without partnering with MSS is out of our region
- We lose institutional memory and ethos when we partner with MSS
- People enjoy going to the bigger meeting and to Chicago
- There's a good synergy in a joint meeting

Motion made by Barbara Denison to go to Pittsburgh in 2016, seconded by Anna Linders. There were 3 aye votes, 4 nay votes and 3 abstentions. Motion failed.

Motion made by Stacey Nofziger, seconded by Bob Carrothers to join MSS in 2016 for a joint meeting. There were 4 aye votes, 2 nay votes and 4 abstentions. Motion carried.

President Yogan mentioned that electing officers in the next election will need to maintain focus on the work involved in a joint meeting.

Mid-Annual Meeting will be October 11th at Bowling Green, OH.

Other new business focused on the discussion of providing projection in every room. While this can't be resolved today, President Yogan stated, she wanted to bring this topic forward. This conversation will go forward to the mid annual.

Another piece of new business brought by Joyce Lucke is an offer from the hotel to consider the benefits financially of meeting here in 2017.

Motion by Barbara Denison to negotiate to meet in Indianapolis in 2017, seconded by Bob Carrothers, Motion carried, no nay or abstention votes recorded

Meeting declared adjourned by President Meeting adjourned at 12:08 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Jones Denison, NCSA Secretary