

**NCSA Mid-year Council Meeting  
Dublin, OH  
Friday October 14, 2016 9:00 am  
Minutes**

**Present:** Debra Swanson (President), Annulla Linders (President-Elect and Soc Focus Editor), Melinda Messineo (VP), Rachel Stein (VP-Elect), Lisa Hickman (Treasurer), Rachel Kraus (Secretary), Monique Gregg (Council Member-at-Large), Michelle Bemiller (Council Member-at-Large), Jeff Seymour (Membership Chair), Mellisa Holtzman (Teaching Section/Schnabel Award Chair), Fayyaz Hussain (Profession, Freedom and Responsibility Chair), Scott Desmond (Scholarly Achievement Chair), Kathleen Piker-King (Aida Tomeh Chair), Chad Menning (Applied and Public Sociology Chair), Robyn White (Publication Co-Chair), Danielle Lavin-Loucks (Public relations Coordinator), Joyce Lucke (Conference Coordinator)

President Deb Swanson called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM

Introductions were made around the room. Deb reminded everyone in attendance that elected officers can vote. Appointed positions do not vote. She offered our thoughts and prayers to Brendan Mullan's daughter who was in a car accident.

The minutes from the 2016 old and new council meetings in Chicago were moved and seconded to be accepted with the month changed to March. Both sets of minutes were approved unanimously.

**President's Report:** Deb Swanson reported that work on the conference is going well. She and VP Melinda Messineo have been communicating throughout the year. The 2017 conference dates are March 31-April 1. February 27 is the deadline to make reservations in our hotel block. The theme for the 2017 meeting is Peace in a Time of Polarization. Deb shared with us that when her daughter is pulled over by a police officer, she calls Deb so Deb can hear what is happening. Bruce Keith is the keynote speaker. He approaches sociology as a dynamic, rather than primarily historical, field, so he encourages sociologists to be proactive. He is a past president of the NCSA. Proposals for sessions will be accepted until December 9. Annulla and Debra reviewed the bi-laws and reiterated that it is the President-Elect who makes committee Chair appointments. Deb reported that our two contract positions (Joyce and Danielle) have been/will be confirmed. Finally, Deb reported on the pre-conference workshop. Indiana will donate \$1,000 for the future Faculty program.

**Vice President's Report:** Melinda Messineo reported that she is soliciting support for the pre-conference workshop from AKD. The theme of the workshop is Reflect, Regroup, Renew, which asks us to reexamining our research, teaching, and service activities mid-career. The workshop will last from 12:00-5:00 PM the Thursday before the conference. There is a minimal fee for the workshop. Melinda expressed some concern that the workshop may not be well attended because prior attempts to reach out to post-tenure faculty have not been popular. Melinda is looking for co-facilitators, so please let her know if you are interested. Also, please let Melinda know ASAP of any special programing requests/needs.

**Discussion began regarding contingency faculty.** Robyn White and Michelle Smith have discussed issues surrounding contingency faculty multiple times. About 70% of all college and university faculty are contingent. This is a particularly large issue for community colleges. The question was posed whether we could have community college/adjunct targeted sessions at the conference. Perhaps we can list those sessions in the program so they can easily be identified (Joyce agreed). Would it be possible to have a community college mini-conference in the future? Joyce mentioned that IUPUI has an office dedicated to adjunct faculty. FACET has a yearly annual conference for non-tenure-track faculty that she used to attend. Deb added that perhaps a mini conference could also be the Thursday before our regular conference days, similar to the pre-conference workshop. Anna added that the Eastern Sociological Society have designated sessions for community college faculty, and she has friends who attend these sessions and find them helpful. The NCSA has tried to reach contingent faculty through mailings, but we have been less successful. Robyn reported that in Chicago, the breakfast was well attended (about 20 people), but mostly by MSS members. She also asked if we could record some sessions and make them available later for people who don't have the institutional resources to attend conferences. Jeff added that membership creates a spreadsheet with community colleges. But, it's more difficult to find contact information for contingent faculty on community college websites. Melinda asked that we record in the minutes that the NCSA council affirms our support for pursuing contingent faculty issues, programs, and sessions.

**Discussion began regarding a program app used at the 2016 meeting in Chicago.** This meeting was a joint meeting with MSS, so it was a very large meeting. People really liked the program app. Deb and Joyce are looking into the cost of using a program app at the NCSA for future meetings. However, it might be a little early for us to start using the app given our size. The cost may be prohibitive since we aren't as large as the MSS. As the prices come down over time, it may be more feasible for us. It currently costs \$1500 for 200 downloads. Danielle mentioned that at her university, a student may be able to develop a very basic app that we could use for free. Joyce suggested that since it's a student project, it may be less fancy and very scaled down, which is reasonable for our needs.

**Treasurer's Report:** Lisa Hickman reports that we have money. Conference bills are paid. We have a little extra money in our PayPal account. We have around \$28,000 overall. We have five investment funds in our Vanguard accounts. They have been difficult to work with. Due to changes in the law, our funds would have been liquidated if we didn't move our money to federal money market accounts. Overall, our finances and investment funds look good.

**President-elect's Report:** Annulla Linders reports that the 2018 Theme will be Crime, Punishment, and In/Justice. Victor Rios will be our keynote speaker. Deb discussed that our Finance Chair and Local Arrangements positions are currently vacant. Joyce receives a lot of information from the visitors bureaus, so past year's local arrangements people put together restaurant lists and attractions. The people who sit at the registration desk are typically Joyce, the treasurer, sometimes another council member, and a graduate student assigned to help with the registration desk. Monique Gregg volunteered to help with local arrangements. Joyce suggested that Monique doesn't have to spend a lot of time on this position. A quarter of a page of recommendations may be enough. Deb, Melinda, and Anna will

look into putting together a finance committee. Annulla discussed the importance of diversifying council and the conference. One of her graduate students commented “It’s so white.”

**Teaching/Schnabel Award Report:** Mellisa Holtzman reported. All she needs for a Schnabel nomination is a name, and Mellisa will contact the nominee. She has a goal to increase the number of nominees. Melinda and Fayyaz are the other two committee members. The materials that the committee typically collect from a nominee are their CV, statement, and teaching philosophy. The portal for nominations is currently open on the website. The teaching section plans for the 2017 conference are moving along well.

**Student Section Report:** Sam was not present. Joyce reported information from the survey that was sent out. We had a 48% response rate. Joyce sent Chad, Mellisa, and Sam the names of people who self-identified for their sections. Joyce asked that everyone have awardee information to her by January (except for the student paper competition). Mellisa asked if she should move the Schnabel Award nomination date up. The Scholarly Achievement Award committee has a deadline for nominations of October 15 so they can contact the winner before the end of the Fall semester.

**Aida Tomeh Distinguished Service Award Report:** Kathleen Piker-King reports. The call for nominations has gone out. To date, no nominations have been received. Joyce said that all of the awards are set up on our website in the same way except for the student paper award. Melinda moved and it was seconded that the deadline for all of the awards (except the student paper competition) be October 15. The Scholarly achievement award has already gotten around 30 nominations and a few Schnabel nominations have come in.

**Applied and Public Sociology Report:** Chad Menning reported. Through a survey, Chad learned that about 39% of responders identify as applied sociologists or do applied work. To serve this group, it may work better to have conventional presentations. He wants to have two panels on applied sociology (one with problems and concerns and the other with the media). There was some discussion of a meet with greet with community college faculty. Chad will talk with Michelle. Joyce suggested Chad may be able to have a room to share with the community college group with light refreshments. This can be a reception hosted by both committees. The University of Indianapolis has a MA in Applied Sociology, so we may want to reach out to them.

**Nominations/Elections:** Rachel Kraus reported for Brendan Mullan. Rachel read the slate of candidates put together by Brendan, Fayyaz, and Rachel. The council moved and seconded that we approve the slate of candidates. The motion passed unanimously.

**Profession, Freedom and Responsibility Report:** Fayazz Hussain reported that the committee has two responsibilities: to help our community enjoy freedom. He reported that a professor at MSU was suspended after a student taped one of his lectures and sent it to Fox news. There is an increasing number of non-tenure track faculty. The second responsibility of the committee is to organize sessions

and invite panelists. For the 2017 meeting, he has arranged for Melinda, Jay Howard, and Brendan to serve as panelists.

**Publication Policy, Journal *Sociological Focus* Report:** Annulla Linders reports there are special issues in the works with various editors. We now publish 5 articles rather than 4 articles per issue. This change does not take us close to our page limit with Taylor and Francis. The issues are online about 3 months before they go to print. She mentioned T and F's use of "IFlow." The journal has a lot of money. Annulla just began her second term as editor.

**Public Relations Report:** Danielle Lavin-Loucks reports. We have about the same number of listserv subscribers. She asked about developing a relationship with SSSP where we post items about our groups in each other's newsletters. The newsletter will go out later this month. We now have 652 Facebook followers (up from 590 in January). Job postings don't get as many hits. Our highest number of hits was around 1,700. Danielle asks about any guest blog posts to put on our webpage. She asked for a camera she can borrow to take pictures for the 2017 meeting. Robyn volunteered to help take pictures. Also other people who take pictures may be able to send some pictures to Danielle. Send Danielle anything you would like to be included in the newsletter. Danielle requested a blurb for the 2018 keynote speaker. Monique will send her information about restaurants and other local attractions.

**Scholarly Achievement Award:** Scott Desmond reports. There are 6 committee members: 3 for the book division and 3 for the article division. Scott is very grateful to his committee members for their hard work. This year 15 articles and 14 books were nominated, which is comparable to last year. He originally expected more articles than books, but for the past two years, the number of nominations of each has been about the same. There is a three year time frame for the award, so for 2017, anything published in 2014-2016 is eligible. Vast majority of nominations are from 2016. Not all nominations make a final cut because they don't fit the criteria for the award. He likes to do an author meets critic session with the award winner.

**Student Paper Award:** Joyce Lucke reported that the deadline is January 9.

**Student Saturday:** Alan will be in touch with Melinda and Joyce about forms. People can submit now, but Joyce doesn't expect many submissions until December. Anna says it's a scheduling challenge to put all of the students in sessions on a single day. Proponents say that having students present on Saturday means they do not have to miss classes on Friday and they can potentially stay in the hotel one night, which saves money.

**Conference Coordinator's Report:** Joyce Lucke reports.

**2016 Joint MSS meeting:** The 2016 fiscal year ended well with the joint conference. We paid for 25% of the conference because we had 25% of attendees. We made money on the meeting. Our registration fees matched MSS's registration fees, which are higher than ours. We came away with \$17 K, so we did not need any *Sociological Focus* funds for 2016. We can use those funds to cover technology for our 2017 conference. Everything went well.

As Brendan said in Chicago, the people who were involved were great to work with. Starting a year and a half early also helped ease the planning process. Brendan wanted the 2016 conference to be a partnership, and it was. As Bob said in his final report since Lauren isn't there anymore so we don't know who will be in those positions for our next potential joint meeting. If we do another joint meeting with MSS, we should start the planning process at least two years ahead of time. Our membership did drop a little, which we always suspect because it happens in the past. We retained more of our membership than what we had lost in the past.

**2017 Meeting:** All portals are up and running except the student paper competition. On the conference page, there are various cells for undergrads, preparing future faculty, etc. We can add more cells like community college or applied if we would like. Fayyaz asked about the difference in MSS and NCSA membership fees. There is a \$10 membership fee difference and the registration fee difference is greater. But, MSS student fees are \$2 lower than ours. The proposed budget for the 2017 meeting is based on numbers from 2015. The proposed budget includes adding \$5 to registration fees. We talked about this increase 2 years ago, and we are still cheaper than some other organizations. MSS is \$110/\$140 advanced registration and on site. We average 400 people at our conferences, but Joyce budgeted for 375 so if we do get around 400, that's profit for us. Melinda moved to increase registration \$5 for everything offsite and onsite for all levels of registration. Moved and seconded and passed anonymously. Annulla doesn't want to raise rates for students. Chad wonders if we can raise the fees in preparation for a future purchase of a program app. Melinda hesitates to use cushion. Onsite registration for students can be lowered back down. It's been around 5 years since we have raised registration rates. There is a small concern if we will have the meeting space to accommodate some of the receptions/gatherings that have been discussed at this meeting.

**Other items:** Everyone who is Chairing an award committee will have access to the google docs/forms shortly.

**2018 Meeting:** We have a theme and speaker so we can put that information and a description in the program to help promote the 2018 meeting.

**2019 Meeting:** approval to proceed with RFP process and bring options to council in March. Joyce will start with the Hyatt that we were at the last time we were in Cincinnati.

**2020 Meeting:** Currently, we don't know where we will be. Cleveland is a possibility but we want to know what is going on with the storefront where we were last time. There are other hotels, but they are not in the center of town and more toward the convention center. We don't need to submit RFPs for Cleveland until next year.

**2021 Meeting:** Grand Rapids, MI has only one hotel that can accommodate the size of our group, so we have to think about them earlier than other cities that are bigger and have more hotel options. We are considering the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel April 8-11 2021 (Thursday-Sunday) \$149 room +15% tax rate for up to 4 people. They are also offering us 3 staff rooms and free internet in the sleeping rooms. We are waiting on food and beverage minimum. We put in a 175 room block, which is small and conservative for us. \$9 K for food and beverage is an estimated maximum for food and beverage. We will ask for a

discount on AV and are willing to consider a \$10,000 food and beverage minimum, which we would probably use anyway for coffee in the mornings.

**2022 Meeting:** Perhaps Chicago.

**2023 Meeting:** Don't know yet

**2024 Meeting:** Columbus

**Duties of Elected Officers:** Michelle Bemiller reports. Michelle asked people who have been/are in positions about the responsibilities/expectations of those positions and to make any recommendations for changes to the descriptions in the bi-laws. She contacted people who have been in the positions during the previous three years. There have been a lot of modifications to the submission process, which results in changes to some of the duties of some elected officers. Jeff reported that there are no membership committee members. He believes the Membership Chair doesn't need to be elected. There's only one other association (the mid-south) that has an elected membership Chair. The other regional associations appoint someone and there is no committee. Our membership is stable so perhaps we do not need a membership Chair. The Conference Coordinator maintains membership lists that she can use to reach out to various segments of the membership. Discussion ensued about changing bi laws or not and adding an operating manual with the details that are currently in the bi-laws. We have been violation of the bi laws for a number of years. Joyce suggested we could write new bi laws, but then we would need to submit those changes to the state. Deb asked Michelle to keep going with this project. Perhaps we can check with other organizations regarding the details of their bi-laws versus having operating manuals. Perhaps we can have another report at the 2017 Old Council meeting. If we discuss potential changes at that meeting and approve the changes, we can place the changes on the 2017 ballot.

**Old Business:** Melinda reports for Brendan. Brendan is working on the archives with Todd. We will follow up with Todd regarding progress. The 2024 centennial committee is Fayyaz, Brendan, and Rachel Kraus. We will follow up with Brendan.

**New Business:** Jeff asked if NCSA could use a calendar that would include all of our various deadlines. Joyce mentioned that we have a google drive account that the award nominations come through. She can set Jeff up with access to a google calendar. Melinda talked about an ASA minority fellowship program that is co-sponsored by almost all of the regional sociology associations, except for us and two others. She asked if we can be represented. Joyce discussed a widget on our Facebook page and website where people can sign up for our newsletter.

It was moved and second that we adjourn. We adjourned at 12:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rachel Kraus (NCSA Secretary)