

Minutes
NCSA New Council Meeting
April 9, 2014
Cincinnati, OH

Present: Matthew Lee (president), Dina Banerjee, Jacqueline Bergdahl, Steve Carlton-Ford, Bob Carrothers, Barbara Denison, Scott Desmond, Leslie Elrod, Alan Grigsby, Donna Guiliani, Natalie Haber-Barker, Lisa Hickman, Fayyaz Hussain, Danielle Lavin-Loucks, Annulla Linders, Brendan Mullan, Larry Nichols, Lissa Yogan, Rachel Stein, Conference Coordinator Joyce Lucke

Call to order at 9:18 am, Matthew Lee presiding. After introductions around the table, President Lee reported first of all that the results of an ad-hoc committee looking at publications and publicity which Joyce will present in her report. After announcing theme for 2015 Matt Lee commented on the overwhelming success of this conference. Some discussion followed on the rate of no-shows, the scheduling of sessions, the possibility that some showed up and presented but didn't pick up registration materials (so they may not have paid) and other attendance/paid registration issues. It was mentioned that we tell people they have to pay registration by a deadline (March 1) but we don't actually police it; it was also pointed out we would be out of synch with the discipline. Only ASA has the clout to enforce such a restriction. Conversation mentioned counting the attendance in each session; Barbara said she would volunteer a student to count attendance next year if someone else could bring a student also. It seems 2 people could handle this. We also identified we were trying to address 2 different but related issues of presenters/facilitators not showing up but also attendance at the sessions and want to address gathering info for both issues. Matt summarized by directing whether Joyce had sufficient data to generate a report on the no show issue at the mid-year council meeting in October. We will revisit this issue at the midyear council meeting.

Matt Lee also reported on the success of the special reception for the ASA section on Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity in creating a good networking opportunity. He invited anyone in a similar group who wants such an opportunity on the program to reach out to him. He is also working on a Local Arrangements chair for Cleveland, also a chair for the NCSSC and for the Yinger Award committee. Lissa Yogan is working on several people with interest in the NCSSC. Moving on, Matt mentioned considering strategies for strengthening the organization and aspirational goals we should set and if anyone wishes to add to that conversation let Matt know and we will talk more about that at midyear council meeting.

Anna Linders, vice president, shared next that things went well although recognizing the issues raised above. A brief discussion of the reasons surrounding no cash bar was held. It was also recognized that University of Cincinnati is a great contributor of members and students who attend and we would like to reach out to those universities in Cleveland to involve them more thoroughly. A request for some sort of signs or flags to identify the topics in roundtable sessions was made. Any ideas you have for next year please get them to Anna Linders.

President-elect Brendan Mullan shared his thoughts on NCSA and discussed how it is not sufficient to maintain stability and equilibrium but rather we need to move forward. He says he

plans to “stand on the shoulders” of the previous office holders. He liked the “morning after” session idea with the Useem speaker and hopes we can incorporate that into the program in the future. One program idea he would like to suggest is “author meets critics” sessions.

Matt Lee raised the issue of the journal not being listed in the Social Sciences Index and he said he would work through the process trying to get us back in the Index. Brendan Mullan mentioned that there is an air of vitality around *Sociological Focus*.

Vice president elect Bob Carrothers said he was looking into streamlining how to submit a closed session in the current system; he also commented on seeing less of the “unfinished” type of work that had been a lingering problem which is a positive step. It was commented that anecdotally we heard people seemed more aware of typing their work

Treasurer Leslie Elrod thanked Shippensburg University and University of Cincinnati for bringing students to help out at registration. We had about 425 registering people (discounting the student groups) by her preliminary numbers. She also commented that in the group registration there seems to be some confusion that this is for undergraduates only, and it is not membership which presenters need to pay also. This caused some problematic conversations and we agreed better communication is necessary. Leslie Elrod also suggested we consider an all-inclusive fee membership plus registration to streamline this. Joyce Lucke commented with a different online registration system. Lissa Yogan added a supporting comment to how the new website will help with these issues. Leslie was thanked with a round of applause for her work.

Conference coordinator Joyce Lucke added her thanks and appreciation for Rachel Kraus and her program team for their great work in the success of this year’s conference. She suggests we need a new registration system, she also says we need a new gateway to reduce the costs (she and Leslie Elrod have talked about options), and this year’s registration with the envelope packets ran very smoothly. She talked about how we are using all available meeting space of the hotel in Cleveland and, since our attendance has been increasing, we may find rooms and spaces quite full. Matt Lee expressed our appreciation for the expertise Joyce brings and she was appreciated by a round of applause.

We moved to the Teaching Section. Jackie Bergdahl reported good attendance at the breakfast and the Teaching section’s presentation (this year by Jay Howard). It was discussed that the presentation will be published in the journal. Only 3 future faculty certificate applications submitted so far but there may be more submitted later. There was suggestion to identify a book and announce it now, to have everyone read it before next year who is interested, and then have a session on the program. There was also a suggestion of recognition of membership in the Teaching Section on registration – like a ribbon for the name badge. Self-identifying membership in the Teaching Section on the registration would be an easy addition, Leslie Elrod said. Jackie Bergdahl also asked that the electronic call for submissions for awards be continued and Lissa Yogan said she could still handle that.

Student Section chair Alan Grigsby commented he had a few ideas he will discuss with Anna and Joyce and bring to the midyear Council Meeting, and he wanted to thank Joyce and Rachel and the program committee for their support of the Student Section.

Matt Lee thanks both section chairs. He then moved to the action items under Old Business. First, he said that Bob Carrothers' ideas for the job description for the membership chair will be handled by an ad hoc committee and information brought to the midyear Council meeting. Larry Nichols discussed the idea of NCSA involvement in the regional associations' publication efforts in *The American Sociologist* and posed the question of how we can benefit from the example of the Pacific Sociological Association's experiences in growing their membership and participation? Matt Lee pointed out this could be highlighted on the new website and an email blast or something sent to draw attention to it. Larry Nichols commented on Barbara Denison's observations that a recent visit to the Eastern Sociological Society left her **very** disappointed in the quality of the sessions and praising the high quality of NCSA annual meetings in comparison.

Moving to the item concerning cost of projectors Matt Lee acknowledged we would have that conversation at the midyear meeting but it is clear it was the right thing to do and "there's no going back." He also called on anyone to suggest people who may be interested in taking photos at 2015 meeting, preferably for free. The website revision, he said, is in progress and the mock-ups look good. The ad hoc committee members working on this were pleased and it seems it will be ready in about 2 weeks to have a final review by Danielle Lavin-Loucks, the ad hoc committee and Council before it goes live. Joyce Lucke added comments addressing the interest and need for more communication with the membership and how the new website can address this and consolidate some efforts. Along with other ideas she mentioned above, she says we likely need a new hosting platform and we should consider moving to Adobe Business Catalyst. Matt Lee will work with the website designer currently working on it (Fred), and Joyce Lucke and Anna Linders on this.

The location of the midyear meeting and date has been settled as Akron OH on Friday, October 10, 2014 from 9 am – 3 pm.

The contracted paid positions were discussed next (asking Joyce Lucke and Danielle Lavin-Loucks to excuse themselves). Lissa Yogan had handled an ad hoc committee to discuss these positions, and she handled the required evaluation process for Joyce Lucke in her position. Lissa Yogan reported she's received positive feedback and no concerns at this point, but she solicited any other comments from Council. It was mentioned Joyce Lucke shows such high commitment to the organization and how her efforts over the years she has been with us have shown a steady improvement; that she shows professionalism and dedication to NCSA. Lissa Yogan also asked for and received consensus that moving to a three year contract is warranted. **Motion by the Barbara Denison seconded by Alan Grigsby that the President's office of NCSA enter into negotiations with Joyce Lucke for a three year contract with an increase in at least the 2nd year to reflect our appreciation for her dedication and commitment to NCSA. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Barbara Denison, seconded by Matthew Lee for NCSA to offer to Danielle Lavin-Loucks a one year contract as Public Relations Coordinator with rates and duties as specified in the report submitted from Lissa Yogan and reflecting the Constitution and Bylaws and with the position working in coordination with Membership Chair and treasurer; position to be evaluated yearly. Motion passed unanimously.** A discussion followed on what the stipend for the PR Coordinator position should be. Several advocated for the

amount to remain \$4000 instead of the proposed \$3000; the workload will be different in content but Lissa Yogan thinks it will be same in time commitment and some feel that amount has been budgeted at \$4000 so the consensus of the group informed Matt Lee and Lissa Yogan in deciding to offer Danielle Lavin-Loucks \$4000.

Motion to adjourn by Bob Carrothers seconded by Lissa Yogan at 12:10. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Jones Denison, NCSA Secretary

DRAFT