

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

Present: Lissa Yogan (president), Dina Banerjee, Jacqueline Bergdahl, Bob Carrothers, Kevin Christiano, Barbara Denison, Scott Desmond, Leslie Elrod, Alan Grigsby, Donna Guiliani, Natalie Haber-Barker, Fayyez Hussain, Rachel Kraus, Matthew Lee, Annulla Linders, Larry Nichols, Stacy Nofziger, Bob Shelly, Kent Schwirian, Conference Coordinator Joyce Lucke

Call to order at 6:15 pm, Lissa Yogan presiding.

Motion by Jacqueline Bergdahl, second from Anna Linders to approve the mid-annual council meeting minutes as corrected (Joyce's contract is for 2 years). Motion carried, no nays or abstentions recorded.

After introductions around the table, President Yogan led us in a brief summary of her report. One area of focus is the revamping of the publicity coordinator position and the updating of the website. The various tasks of the position as held by Susan Alexander have been uncoupled; a new website design will be implemented after the conference by a student connected with Matt Lee, and the publicity coordinator position has been accepted by Danielle Lavin-Loucks. Ideas were shared on making website and announcements visually similar

The conference coordinator position is typically reviewed, and the contract is up this year; Lissa has solicited some feedback and the group responsible for completing this process has begun their work.

President Yogan recognized several outgoing committee chairs: Kevin Christiano as outgoing Finance Committee Chair – new chair will be Lisa Hickman, Bob Shelly as outgoing Yinger Award Committee Chair and no new chair named yet, and Kent Schwirian as outgoing Publications Committee Chair – new chair will be Steve Carlton-Ford. Additionally, Gail McGuire is stepping down as NCSSC chair and some suggestions would be discussed.

Matt Lee gave us some highlights from his president-elect report, including the theme for next year of "New Visions of Human Flourishing" and the Useem speaker will be Dr. Layli Maparyan.

Vice president Rachel Kraus reported the intention of her lengthy report to serve as a documentation of "best practices" as we move the program process forward in new directions. Anna Linders as incoming VP can add to, and further develop this record of the program development process. Action items proposed by Rachel that we discussed

- Posters can be decided year by year as situations and trends change; we don't need a mandate.
- Guidelines for presentations should emphasize positive presentation skills like rehearsing beforehand.

- People with Macs generally know to bring their own cords/adapters so we will continue to provide PC connections only.
- Post-conference survey developed last year will be passed along to the next year.

Lissa expressed on behalf of Council what a great job Rachel has done this year and Council expressed their appreciation with applause.

Vice president elect Anna Linders said she was very appreciative of being vp-elect when Rachel was vice president. Her report gives further information.

Treasurer Leslie Elrod reported 355 registrations at this point which is a very good showing heading into the meetings. Other points raised in her report show the strengths of our finances and points where we may wish to take action. President Yogan mentioned how

Teaching Section – Jackie Bergdahl reported we did not organize a high school teachers’ conference workshop this year and she only received 1 inquiry. The New Council and the Teaching Section may want to discuss whether this is something whose time has come and gone. It was suggested that the place of sociology in the state standards in the different states varies and may make a difference on the level of interest. ASA is interested in and moving towards setting up programs for high school teachers. A question was asked about perhaps having a session on the sociology content in the MCATS starting in 2015.

Student Section – Alan Grigsby reports organizing 2 sessions and thanked Jen Carter for her assistance. He felt preserving institutional knowledge and practices from year to year is important. Alan suggested there should be an “advice to students” session each year; Lissa indicated the NCSSC should be directed to organize this type of session each year in connection with the Student Section.

Committee Report:

- Aida Tomeh Distinguished Service Award – this year awardee is Kathy Rowell
- Applied and Public – mission and goals of committee noted in report, Natalie Haber-Barker said. Suggestion to try and contact people in appropriate agencies where meeting will be held
- Community Colleges – Donna Guiliani reported completing her compilation of community college sociologists. Suggestions are to focus on Ohio next year, Barbara Denison said she’d supply the western PA contact info for community colleges, and that the Membership Chair can help with this.
- Equity and Inclusion Committee – Dina Banerjee brought before Council the issue of defining “minority student” and how many awards. **Motion: Stacy Nofziger moved with second by Leslie Elrod to give one Butler Jones award of \$400 cash with registration and membership paid. Motion carried with nay votes recorded. Motion: The annual Butler Jones Award should go to a deserving African-American student made by Anna Linders, seconded by Matt Lee. Motion carried with nay votes recorded.**

The process by which the award is to be decided will be set by the committee in time to be publicized for the 2015 meeting.

- Finance Committee – Kevin Christiano made several suggestions, including saving money to build up a surplus fund and presenting an operating budget.
- Membership – Bob Carrothers will bring his action item to New Council.
- Nominations/elections
- Profession, Freedom and Responsibility – Fayyez Hussain reported on faculty incident at MSU and a forum on this occurrence is scheduled during the conference
- Publication Policy – Kent Schwirian reported contract with Taylor & Francis going smoothly, journal running fine
- *Sociological Focus* – Anna Linders reported on the journal's operations. She mentioned that *Focus* isn't indexed in Social Science Citation Index; it was said it isn't in Sociological Abstracts the past 3 year either. Anna will investigate this
- Public Relations – The report will be emailed to everyone; Lissa wanted to be sure we recorded that we want to express to Susan our deep gratitude for all the work she has done over the past year. A round of applause was heard for Susan.
- Scholarly Achievement Award – Larry Nichols suggested there should be a set timeline for the award process. The due date of Feb 1st for identifying/notifying the award winner was decided.
- Student Paper Awards – Todd's report was received. Lissa solicited more readers for the student papers
- NCSSC – Gail McGuire wants to step down and Lissa has reached out to someone.
- Yinger Award – Bob Shelly reported on need for contact information from nominator and that there were only a few nominees.

Conference Coordinator's report – Joyce Lucke reported we have filled our room block which is the largest room block in at least 6 years. There are some also some perks – for example 10% off parking for hotel guests, free internet, internet in meeting rooms. Request to have the index list people's sessions by session numbers in next year's program was noted. Also fresh logo now available – Lissa asked Joyce to send it to all officers. Joyce thanked Rachel, saying it was great to work with her.

There is no old business.

Under new business we discussed briefly some standardized structure for giving awards; it will be discussed at the New Council. Next, Larry Nichols addressed the regional associations' issue of *The American Sociologist* in considering what is the role of the regional associations, how do we reflect on ourselves, and so on. Lissa commented and asked do we want to do some reflective sessions, do an issue of the journal? Matt Lee and others spoke in favor.

Motion to adjourn by Stacy Nofziger, second by Barbara Denison. Meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Jones Denison, NCSA Secretary