

Minutes
NCSA Old Council Meeting
April 9, 2015
Cleveland, OH

Present: Matthew Lee (president), Dina Banerjee, Jacqueline Bergdahl, Todd Callais, Bob Carrothers, Barbara Denison, Scott Desmond, Leslie Elrod, Alan Grigsby, Lisa Hickman, Fayyez Hussain, Danielle Lavin-Loucks, Annulla Linders, Alan McEvoy, Brendan Mullan, Larry Nichols, Kathleen Piker-King, Lynn Ritchey, Jeff Seymour, Rachel Stein, Lissa Yogan, Conference Coordinator Joyce Lucke

Call to order at 6:35 pm, Matthew Lee presiding. Introductions were made around the table.

Motion by Anna Linders, second from Bob Carrothers to approve the Mid-year Council meeting minutes from October 10, 2014 in Canton as written. Motion carried, no nays or abstentions recorded.

President Lee moved on to his report. He listed several action items on the agenda which is where he began. Clarification of possible discrepancies in the Mid-year Treasurer's Report has not happened yet, but seems to be necessary in order to build a budget. Once Treasurer Leslie Elrod was able to come in to the meeting, it was clarified that we were slightly in the "black" for the two years being discussed (prior two years, but that without the money added to the conference from *Sociological Focus* to support the conference it may have been tight or we may have gone into the "red." Joyce Lucke pointed out that the revenue from the conference in 2014 once all conference expenses were accounted for would have been about \$1300 short. However the money transferred from *Focus* was already into the operating budget. It was agreed that without the *Focus* money we would have \$10,000 less in the current account. Leslie Elrod pointed out we should do better this year now that our non-profit status has been reinstated; we are paying less without the taxes charged on services. We also are paying less percentage on our new registration system. Both of these things are serving us better financially. It was also mentioned by the *Focus* editor that it is appropriate for the journal to support the organization, which the assembled group agreed. It was agreed that it is good principle to develop a budget. The finance chair, treasurer and past president Matt Lee, with conversation from Joyce Lucke will bring a report and proposed budget to the Mid-year Council meeting in October 2015.

Second item is the need to fill a vacancy for Student Section Chair. **Motion** by Matt Lee to authorize the incoming president to appoint a Student Section chair for one year in the instance of failure to elect a Student Section chair this past year. Motion seconded by Brendan Mullan. Motion carried, no nays or abstentions recorded.

Finally, Matt Lee asked us to consider an NCSA statement on laws and policies discriminating against LGBT persons. This has potential impact on our annual meeting planned for Indianapolis for 2017. He reported that although Illinois has a similar law to Indiana, LGBT is a protected class in Illinois so our joint meeting in 2016 with MSS seems unchanged. Indiana has no such protection. The Crowne Plaza Hotel where we would be staying has issued a nondiscrimination statement and Indianapolis local and county government has passed protected class legislation. Likewise, Joyce Lucke says many municipalities surrounding Indianapolis have passed protected class legislation.

Motion: President Matt Lee moved, second by Alan Grigsby, to adopt the "NCSA Statement on Laws and Policies Discriminating against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Persons"
(Adopted April 9, 2015)

WHEREAS the discipline of sociology involves the study of human commonalities and diversities; and

WHEREAS sociology recognizes, accepts and values human diversity; and

WHEREAS some states and local municipalities have laws which permit the exclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people from civil rights protection;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the North Central Sociological Association will henceforth consider not signing a contract for any of its annual conferences in any state or municipality which has such laws or policies discriminating against lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered persons at the time of the signing the contract. If such laws or policies are enacted after the signing of the contract, Council will call a special meeting to discuss the possibility of relocating the annual conferences.

Motion carried, no nays or abstentions recorded.

Moving on to the Vice President's report, Anna Linders thanks Bob Carrothers and Jackie Bergdahl for all their hard work. One point Anna Linders felt New Council may wish to discuss having all the undergraduate students all on Saturday as a scheduling constraint. It was mentioned that perhaps spreading them out would be good but it was also brought up that keeping the students on one day was structured to keep the students' costs down.

Treasurer Leslie Elrod says "we're solvent" which is a good thing. The Taylor and Francis item was money being sent to the wrong account but it has been corrected. With regard to the more than \$300 in bank charges it has been determined that the best action is to close the account and open a new one which has been done.

A question about membership was raised: is it correct to read the historical membership data to show a significant drop of approximately 100 for the joint meeting in Chicago with the MSS? Discussion followed which made the points that

- The figures don't add up in the treasurer's report but membership does goes down at the joint meeting
- We will lose less members hopefully this year with the new registration system
- It seems there is a bigger drop in student than in professional members, and students are transient

A discussion of how the website registration system doesn't break out membership and registration followed, and the people involved (program chair, treasurer and conference coordinator) will talk and bring their thoughts on this to the New Council on Sunday.

Brendan Mullan started his president-elect report highlighting the joint meeting in Chicago with MSS for 2016. He has been very pro-active and held many meetings and consultation with counterparts at MSS. Brendan highlighted the theme of "Inequality, Injustice and Intersectionality" and mentioned that more information is in this year's program. He emphasized that the joint NCSA/MSS meeting is the second largest sociology meeting after the ASA in the US.

Brendan Mullan continued with his report, focusing on his goal to personal reach out to chairs of departments at the Big 10 universities in our region. He has pursued this, and will continue this endeavor throughout the year. Next, he referred to the goal of investigating the NCSA archives and establishing the state as well as the location of our archives. He also mentioned approaching ASA about more exposure of the regional associations with ASA, and reaching out to the other regional associations' presidents.

Moving on to the vice-president elect's report, Bob Carrothers raised once again the concern expressed at Mid-year Council meeting that we would be "bulldozed" by the MSS. Bob says nothing could be further from the truth and things are going well. He also thanked Anna for help proofreading the research sessions.

The Teaching Section report from Jackie Bergdahl announced Leslie Elrod is this year's Schnabel Teaching Award recipient. The breakfast is on the schedule as usual for Saturday morning, Melinda Messineo's Teaching Award presentation is on Saturday

The Student Section chair Alan Grigsby thanked everyone on Council with whom he has served, stating that being on Council has been an excellent professional experience. He also volunteered to help transition the next person. It was mentioned that the Facebook page for the students

The Aida Tomeh Award report was given by Kathleen Piker-King who stated the committee met electronically and that this year's recipient is Barbara Denison.

No report was received and no one was present for the Applied and Public Committee.

The Equality and Inclusion Committee chair Dina Banerjee reported the guidelines for the new Butler Jones Award were published; however in this inaugural year no applications were received. The committee also organized a panel on this year's program on the Ferguson events and implications. Various ways

The Finance Committee report by Lisa Hickman said she was focused on thinking about planning a budget which is now a task to be undertaken so all else is good.

Membership chair Jeff Seymour expressed his interest in expanding his duties; he has updated the departments' chairs contact list and that will go to the Public Relations Coordinator. A brief discussion followed on promoting our joint conference in Chicago at the ASA this summer in Chicago.

Lissa Yogan reported on Nominations and Elections, saying the only problem this year was having only one candidate for vice president but given Melinda Messineo as such a strong candidate she didn't perceive it was a problem. A conversation about how to entice more people to run for vice president followed, with good ideas shared about how to explain the job to those who may be early, relatively, in their career.

Profession and Freedom chair Fayyaz Hussain reported the committee has organized a session on profession and freedom in the classroom

Anna Linders, editor, reported on the journal *Sociological Focus* says things are great. She commented on sometimes having trouble finding reviewers, but she also mentioned contacting Council members and getting good responses with reviewer suggestions.

Public Relations chair Danielle Lavin-Loucks said that website traffic peaked right before the meeting and about 7% of the people clicking on the website are new viewers. She asked people to let her know what committee, or information on the website they'd like highlighted. Conversation followed on the pros and cons of taking the program down off the website a week or so before the conference and not having it available online until after the conference. There were a number of suggestions and it is hoped the incoming vice president along with the program committee and conference coordinator consider these. A hearty round of thanks for Danielle was expressed.

Scholarly Achievement Awards chair Larry Nichols reported a small committee of 3 this year; this is the second year with 2 possible awards (book and article) now being awarded. The committee agreed on an article award but not on a book award so the latter will not be given. One suggestion for this and other awards was to send out an email to Council if submissions are insufficient and ask Council to suggest/solicit nominations. Another suggestion was to remind us of past discussions on how to increase nominations/submissions was to streamline the processes, and to start the conversation at the New Council meeting jotting down some names and bring any concerns on generating nominations to the Mid-year Council meeting. Accepting nominations starting at the meeting for next year and then checking at the Mid-year meeting on the state of nominations may hopefully increase nominations.

Student Paper Awards Committee chair Todd Callais reported the work of the committee was completed, and the competition is stable. He will have suggestions at the New Council meeting.

Alan McEvoy reported on the student conference which has 11 sessions with 44 presentations. He reports the quality of the abstracts received was quite good. One question was how to accommodate documentary film submissions from the undergrad students in the future as several were rejected this year given no was to set up and include such presentations in the future. Alan requested more faculty attend the undergraduate sessions.

Yinger Award chair Lynn Ritchey said there were no submissions and no award to be given this year. The Yinger Award was part of the earlier conversation on increasing submissions to awards.

Moving to the Conference Coordinator on the agenda, Joyce Lucke reminded us about the parameters of her communications vs. communications from the PR coordinator. She reported on some key items:

- the virtual book exhibit for this year
- report form on podium for each convener at each session to collect data on session attendance
- there's a new student networking event Saturday morning sponsored by Taylor & Francis and highlighting the WVU new PhD program
- we will be using MSS local arrangements coordinator in Chicago in 2016
- deadlines for submissions for next year will be much earlier due to joint meeting

Old business: None

New business: None.

Motion: Lissa Yogan, second by Leslie Elrod to adjourn. Motion carried, adjournment at 9:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted to Council (for the last time),
Barbara Jones Denison, NCSA Secretary