

\*DRAFT\*

NCSA Old Council Meeting  
Chicago, IL  
Wednesday, March 23, 2016

Present: Matthew Lee, Brendan Mullan, Robert Carrothers, Leslie Elrod, Michelle Bemiller, Sam Mindes, Jeff Seymour, Mellisa Holtzman, Michelle Smith, Lisa Hickman, Anna Linders, Lynn Ritchey, Alan McEvoy, Chadwick Menning, Robyn White, Joyce Lucke

**President Brendan Mullan** called the Old Council Meeting to order at 1:48 pm. Introductions followed.

**President Brendan Mullan** asked for a motion to approve the Mid-year Council Meeting minutes. Motion to approve by Anna Linders, seconded. Motion carries with no nays or abstentions recorded.

**Presidential Report:** Brendan Mullan reported on his duties as president over the past year (e.g. he appointed Matt Lee to chair the nominations committee; He asked Fayyaz Hussain to introduce him at his presidential address; he wrote his presidential address, he will preside over business meeting, etc.). He then offered praise for Joyce Lucke and Bob Carrothers – they attended many meetings in an effort to organize this conference and it appears to be off to a great start.

Brendan reported briefly on NCSA's two paid positions – Public Relations (the contract has been renewed; Danielle Lavin-Loucks is doing an outstanding job) and Conference Coordinator (Joyce Lucke is currently in year 1 of a 3 year contract).

Brendan reminded council that at the mid-year meeting he had proposed two new special initiatives 1) the NCSA archive project (archives are in raw format at OSU) and 2) planning for 100 year celebration (8 years from now). He noted that he had underestimated the time these initiatives would take, they are not where he would like them to be, and he would like to continue working on them as past-president.

**Vice President Report:** Bob Carrothers noted that the graduate student paper award winners were inadvertently left off of the program so they were added to a presentation he is presiding over on Friday.

Bob reported on the submission process. He said Meeting Savvy worked well. The only glitch was it was listing roundtables as one big session, but that was easily resolved. Paper organizing was accomplished via a central committee (typical of NCSA's approach) and Volunteer Session Organizers (VSO's) (typical of MSS's approach). This worked well and he encouraged NCSA to use this method again.

He apologized to Alan McEvoy about a decision to place all undergraduate papers into roundtables. This was done to prevent undergraduates from getting lost among PhDs, but he

acknowledged neither Alan nor council had any input in that decision and it was contrary to our practices in recent years.

Bob noted that despite intending not to adjust the paper submission deadline, it had to be moved to allow for increased submission numbers. Rough numbers for the conference are as follows: 1239 participants; 274 NCSA members pre-registered; 650 papers submitted papers, 65 undergraduate student papers. Sessions are 90 minutes long, rather than 75, with 15 minutes between sessions, and there's no scheduled lunch break.

AV at the conference was expensive but manageable because of aggressive costs negotiations. There is also an app for smartphones that has the entire conference program on it. MSS paid a discounted rate of \$800 for it this year (normally \$1000 per year). It is probably out of NCSA's price range for next year, but it may become an expectation for future meetings. It could cut down on the need for printing the program.

Bob noted that MSS was very easy to work with. There was no "steamrolling" from them. Everything was very smooth and wonderful. He noted, however, that two of the people that were so easy to work with this year will be gone if we partner with MSS again in 2019. MSS would like to do another conference with us if we are interested.

Joyce pointed out that if we want to do 2019 with MSS we should decide by our mid-year meeting. Brendan concurred and encouraged the joint conference. Discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of the joint meeting and the degree to which it disrupts NCSA practices. We lost 2-3 dozen memberships (registered with MSS accidentally).

**Treasurer Report:** Leslie Elrod reported that we don't yet know expenses for this conference. It is too soon. She noted that membership is probably lower due to the joint meeting.

**Teaching Section Report:** Mellisa Holtzman asked for feedback regarding the essay requirement currently on the Future Faculty and Professional Development certifications. Pros and cons were discussed and Mellisa noted she would ask members for their sentiments at the Teaching Section breakfast on Friday. She also suggested changes to the nomination process for the Schnabel Award. In 2017, she suggested we move to an online submission format that will eliminate the need for nomination letters and allow for self-nominations. The teaching section chair would then solicit supporting documentation from all nominees. Pros and cons were discussed and again Mellisa noted she would ask members for their sentiments at the Teaching Section breakfast on Friday.

**Student Section Report:** Sam Mindes noted that the bylaws require that he establish a five member committee but he has not been about to accomplish that yet. He did, however, establish a 3-person committee for next year. He suggested that it might be helpful to have a past chair that continues on the committee so that there is some overlap and institutional memory across committees.

He said there is a student outing on Friday and he encouraged people to attend. He also created a document on sessions that might interest students. Perhaps NCSA should formalize this as a task

of the student section chair and have it sent to students in advance. Sam also suggested that adding a student section newsletter might be useful as well. Joyce noted that she could send email blasts just to students quite easily.

Next year there will need to be an election of student section chair. Joyce suggested that because Sam is rebuilding the student section, it could be useful for Sam to provide the incoming chair with notes on what was done, who was talked to, what decisions were made, etc. Brendan concurred.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

- Brendan Mullan reported on the Aida Tomeh Distinguished Service Award winners (because Kathleen Piker-King absent). The winners were Anna Linders and Steve Carlton-Ford.
- Chad Menning of the Applied and Public Committee reported that the survey from fall suggested many members identify as applied sociologists. Thus, NCSA should continue to consider adding an Applied section for members (although too early to do so currently). For these meetings he organized 2 closed sessions for applied work. He intends to monitor attendance at the applied sessions and report back to council.

Discussion ensued regarding a possible name change for the committee (or section if it is added). Perhaps something about social justice, public sociology, etc. because applied seems to be an old term. Joyce noted that it would be possible to ask people to self-identify an interest in applied work on the membership forms. It might also be useful to contact schools that have applied MA programs – Jeff said he could get Chad that list.

- Michelle Smith of the Community Colleges Committee noted she is currently a committee of one but she would like to expand the committee numbers. She will be overseeing a breakfast meeting on Saturday and will look for other ways to recruit affiliated with community colleges. She noted that a particular challenge is that NCSA members have not been self-identifying at members of a 2-year school (current membership data has only two NCSA members listed as affiliates of 2-year schools). There was discussion over why that might be the case (e.g. regional/satellite campuses may not conceive of themselves as community colleges or 2-year schools). Perhaps NCSA needs to change the language used to describe the schools served by this committee. Michelle also noted she planned to look at other regional associations to see how they are interacting with membership from 2-year colleges. She hopes to draw on successful models from other schools to get individuals from 2-year or regional campuses more involved with conference.
- Wanda McCarthy of the Equity and Inclusion Committee noted that she is still in the process of building the committee (she has 1 member other than herself). Her work, thus far, has focused on building the committee back up.
- Lisa Hickman of the Finance Committee reported that investments are solid and the organization is in good financial shape.

- Matt Lee of the nominations committee thanked Bob and Barbara for their assistance with creating the slate for this year's election.
- Jeff Seymour of the Membership Committee passed out a document with a link to data he has compiled for every school in our region. He encouraged others to make use of these data. He is currently in the process of creating rosters for schools in our region (with graduate programs, community colleges, etc.). He plans to do a time series analysis of membership over time, but right now just has 2015 data. He will report back to council at the mid-year meeting.

Jeff also suggested that NCSA consider amending the bylaws on the membership position because many of the functions of the membership chair are now handled by the conference coordinator and the public relations person. He suggested that perhaps the membership chair should no longer be an elected position. Brendan, thus, asked Michelle Bemiller (at-large council member) to consider possible revisions to the bylaws and report initial ideas to council in October.

- Robyn White of the Publications Policy Committee reported that she's had "nothing to do" given that Anna agreed to be editor of Sociological Focus for three more years and the contract with Taylor and Francis continues automatically so long as neither NCSA nor Taylor and Francis say "no" by Dec. 31. Robyn said she is considering fielding a survey of members to find out how many are reading the association's publications (newsletter and journal).

Anna Linders, Editor of Sociological Focus, noted that she was happy to serve for another three years. She said the journal now posts articles online three months before they appear in print (this helps with citation index numbers). The journal also now has a solid backlog of articles, so she will publish five papers per issue from here forward. Brendan noted that the journal appears to be on an upward trajectory and that it is in good hands with Anna at the helm. Anna noted that the move to Taylor and Francis was good for the journal. Finally, she noted that the journal will have some special issues upcoming.

- Alan McEvoy of the Undergraduate Student Papers Committee reported that undergraduate papers were organized into roundtables for this meeting. He encouraged NCSA members to attend roundtable sessions so students have an audience to present to. Alan also noted this was the end of his two year term but he is willing to serve again.
- Lynn Ritchie of the Yinger Lifetime Achievement Award Committee reported that the committee had two nominees and Thomas Calhoun was chosen as the recipient. The other nominee will be reconsidered next year.

**Conference Coordinator Report:** Joyce Lucke reiterated what Bob said about working with MSS. She also noted that the app used by MSS may not be cost effective for NCSA yet but that within next 5 years we may need it so we should start to investigate and plan for it now. We

must also consider that it doesn't currently allow for demarcation of some information (e.g. award winner lists), it may fundamentally change the nature of our archives, and it can help people avoid registering and paying for conference because they could download the program in advance without going to registration desk.

Joyce also noted that the joint conference creates "black holes" in our credit history and that can make contracts with other hotels difficult.

### **New Business**

For the good of the order of announcements:

- Joyce is always willing to send information out to membership (she has attendee and member lists back to 2013)
- Danielle handles the list-serv for members. This is another effective way to contact membership.

Matt offered thanks to the individuals who were cycling off council – Bob and Leslie. He also offered thanks to Brendan for being President.

Meeting adjourned at 4:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mellisa Holtzman for Rachel Kraus (NCSA Secretary)