

NCSA New Council Meeting Minutes
Indianapolis, IN
Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 9:00 AM

Present: Debra Swanson (Past President), Annulla Linders (President), Melinda Messineo (President-Elect), Rachel Stein (Vice President), Mellisa Holtzman (Vice President-Elect), Lisa Hickman (Treasurer), Rachel Kraus (Secretary), Chien-Juh Gu (Council Member), Shaonta Allen (Student Section Chair), Jeff Seymour (Membership Chair), Tamika Odum (Teaching Section Chair), Robyn White (Publications Policy Co-Chair), Chad Menning (Applied and Public Sociology Chair), Danielle Lavin-Loucks (Public Relations), Joyce Lucke (Conference Coordinator), and Bruce Keith

President Annulla Linders called the meeting to order at 9:11 AM.

We went around the room introducing ourselves and saying a little bit about how we were involved in the 2017 conference.

The Program Committee offered special thanks to Joyce for her work.

Bruce Keith thanked Debra and Joyce for assisting with his participation in the meeting. He also recognized the people working at the registration table for their work. Debra thanked Bruce for his participation. Bruce will share his talk with *Sociological Focus*.

Chad Menning commented that the structuring of applied programs seems to be really popular.

President Annulla Linders reported the theme and Useem speaker for the 2018 conference. She mentioned it has been awhile since the NCSA had a conference theme that focused on the study of crime. We will be in a new hotel in Pittsburgh. Debra and Annulla are working to fill a few more vacant committee Chair positions on council. They plan to fill these positions before the mid-year meeting in October.

Vice-President Rachel Stein reports that the 2018 Program Committee met this morning. They set the following dates for deadlines: December 8 for paper submissions, January 10 for undergraduate paper submissions, January 12 for undergraduate and graduate paper competitions? A few roundtables were added to the program. We may have the option of roundtables in Pittsburgh depending on our space in the hotel. We want to streamline the registration process to hopefully reduce registration issues.

- She notes that the author-meets-critics session didn't have a good turnout and that may be because of the time. She recommended that the session be in a different time slot in future programs.

Past-President Debra Swanson reports she will put together a slate for the next election. We want more diversity on council and to bring in new people. She asked council to consider people to nominate. The number one thing we need is people who take responsibility. She reiterated the two year committee Chair rotation that is mentioned in our Constitution. It is the President-Elect who is supposed to make the committee Chair appointments.

President-Elect Melinda Messineo reiterates working on filling the few vacant committee Chair positions. She is thinking about a theme for 2019 and will have more information at the mid-year meeting.

Vice-President Elect Mellisa Holtzman will communicate with Rachel Stein about the position.

Treasurer Lisa Hickman reports that we have money. There are some bills she needs to pay after the conference. We had trouble with Paypal during the conference, so she doesn't know exactly how much money we brought in. Although our attendance is a little lower this year, we will most likely break even. If we don't, we can use some money from *Sociological Focus*, especially since we haven't needed to rely on the journal funds in recent years.

Public Relations Coordinator Danielle Lavin-Loucks reported on the newsletter and webpage.

- We are missing some photos from some of the 2017 student paper competition winners. There was some discussion about whether paper winners needed to be present to receive the award (we typically don't enforce this rule). The undergraduate paper winners were in undergraduate research sessions. Different place winners receive different monetary amounts. There was some discussion about how these amounts should be awards and not reimbursements. Anna suggested we change the language from reimbursement to award.
- Please send pictures from the conference to Danielle. She especially wants candid photos.
- Joyce has photos of Pittsburgh from the CVB.
- Anna recognized the quality of Danielle's newsletters.

Jeff Seymour discussed membership. He says it doesn't feel like the committee contributes much to council since we are at a good place with membership. There was some discussion about who keeps the membership list and who needs access to a current membership list.

- Melinda reiterated that our conference attendance is down by about 25% this year.
- Anna points out that undergraduate students frequently come and go as they graduate and may leave the region and/or academia.
- About 1/3 of our membership are faculty. We discussed perhaps targeting more faculty to boost a more stable core of members.
- Joyce suggested that since Jeff has a list of all of the universities in our region, he can reach out to the sociology departments and encourage people to get involved (and get their students involved) in the NCSA.
- It was discussed whether we should mail letters to sociology departments and whether we should include some kind of gift in the envelope (drawing from research on persuasion and the norm of reciprocity).
- Robyn W. suggested we could target those liberal arts schools that have a history of bringing students, such as St. Mary's. We had a discussion about encouraging our friends at regional institutions to participate in the NCSA and bring their students. For 2018, our meeting will not overlap with the MSS. It was also suggested that we target departments that may have used Victor Rios's research in various capacities.

Applied and Public Sociology Chair Chad Menning reminded us that the section is NOT only for people who are outside of academic. It is for academics and non-academics alike who share interests in applied and public sociology.

Melinda Messineo discussed the pre-conference workshop and said that AKD may sponsor a pre-conference workshop again. We are interested in partnering with AKD again. We discussed the timing of the workshop on a Thursday afternoon can be prohibitive for some people.

Conference Coordinator Joyce Lucke reports on the meeting.

- In previous meetings, we've had around 400 attendees or more. This year, we had around 300.
- We discussed whether we keep track of no-shows. Joyce mentioned the forms that she leaves in the breakout rooms for session conveners to fill out about no-shows and number of people in attendance. Not everyone fills out a sheet, but we do receive some.
- We printed 350 programs and had 55 leftover. The printer always prints a few more than necessary.
- Paypal wasn't working well during our conference, but we used registration forms to get people registered.

We took a 10 minute break at 10:20 AM.

We mentioned that the 2019 meeting will be in Cincinnati.

Melinda Messineo mentioned that 100 people downloaded and used the socio app. We discussed whether the app was cost effective and if we would need to continue printing programs. It was mentioned that some people like writing and highlighting in printed programs. We would like to have a "notes" page in the program. It was reported that we spend about \$2000 to print the programs. Some people had trouble getting wi-fi so they weren't able to download the app. There was some discussion about whether being able to download a conference program would enable people to not register for the conference. ASA has a code that people need to obtain in order to view an online program. They get the code when they register. However, the ASA app has automatic updates so the app can run slow. Anna suggested that at some point we may have to move to an app as technology advances. The donation for the app was for this one year.

We discussed IU's interest in sponsoring our Future Faculty Program and how we may want to restructure the program. Deb will follow-up with Brian at IU. Mellisa suggested that how they restructure the FFP will influence how the 2018 meeting is structured.

Shaonta is communicating with Sam about the Student Section and the bi-laws. She wants to put together a committee and asked for a list of students from Lisa. We discussed the student reception. We do have a budget and date and time for that. The Student Section Chair hosts that event. Students may also want to gather informally away from the conference. Anna encouraged Shaonta to arrange a few sessions that serve the interests of students and to stay in contact with Rachel S. and Mellisa.

We discussed the appointments of Committee Chairs and members. Anna mentioned that our bi-laws state the Chair positions are two year commitments, but we have had some Chairs that have served in the same position for a longer period of time. There has been some uncertainty when a Chair's term ends. We discussed that in general it can be good for council to rotate positions. Some exceptions would be people who have a special tie to a committee, such as Kathleen Piker-King's connection to the Aida Tomeh committee. We would like to diversify NCSA council and its representativeness. What can we do to serve the faculty and students in our region? Anna suggested we consider many areas of diversity including, but not limited to race/ethnicity, institution, gender, etc. Rachel K. suggested we may try to organize a few sessions with "big names" in the conference cities to perhaps draw attendance from more institutions. Tamika talked about targeting different types of groups who may be interested in participating in different sessions surrounding various aspects of diversity.

Joyce and Danielle left the room while council reviewed their performance. Council decided to offer both Joyce and Danielle new contracts.

Council discuss preliminary dates for the mid-year meeting. Typically we meet on the second Friday in October. In 2017, this date is October 13. A few people are not available on that date. We discussed Friday, October 6 as a possibility. This date also did not work for everyone. We are considering October 20th. The date for the mid-year meeting will be finalized.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:04 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rachel Kraus (NCSA Secretary)