

**NCSA Old Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Indianapolis, IN**  
**Thursday, March 30 at 5:30 PM**

Present: Brendan Mullan (Past President), Debra Swanson (President), Annulla Linders (President-Elect and *Sociological Focus* Editor), Melinda Messineo (Vice President), Rachel Stein (Vice President Elect), Lisa Hickman (Treasurer), Rachel Kraus (Secretary), Michelle Bemiller (Council Member), Sam Mindes (Interim Student Section Chair), Mellisa Holtzman (Teaching Section Chair), Jeff Seymour (Membership Chair), Scott Desmond (Scholarly Achievement Chair), Chad Menning (Applied and Public Sociology Chair), Robyn White (Publication Policy Co-Chair), Danielle Lavin-Loucks (Public Relations), and Joyce Lucke (Conference Coordinator).

President Debra Swanson called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

There was a motion to approve the minutes from the mid-year meeting after typos are corrected. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

President Debra Swanson discussed her report.

- She shared IU-Bloomington's desire to run the Future Faculty program during the NCSA in Pittsburgh. IU-Bloomington would help finance the program. Mellisa Holtzman asked if the program costs a lot of money. Debra responded that typically the program does not cost a lot of money. Joyce mentioned that costs mostly come from paper copies and if we were to use the app for the program (costs associated with downloading the app). Joyce also mentioned that we have to meet and food and beverage minimum, but we would meet that anyway. The mentoring round robin session that involves food would be a cost. The concern was expressed that the incoming NCSA Teaching Section Chair does not have a lot of NCSA experience so it might be challenging for a new person to work with IU-Bloomington. Anna suggested we talk with IU-Bloomington about what they have in mind for their running the Future Faculty program. Deb mentioned it would be an all-day event for their graduate students. **DEB WILL FOLLOW UP AND REPORT BACK AT THE MID-YEAR MEETING.**
- She mentioned the theme for the conference and Bruce Keith as the Useem speaker.
- She highlighted an intergroup dialogue session that will take place on Saturday at 2:00 PM and a session on how to talk to our students about sensitive topics.
- She discussed a two year rotation for our Committee Chairs to give more people the opportunity to be involved in leadership positions.
- She mentioned that a picture in the program as part of a notice of Jay Weinstein's passing is not of Jay Weinstein. Council discussed what to do with the page. The page has ads that Ball State and West Virginia Universities paid for, so it was decided that the page would remain in the program, but an announcement would be made at the business meeting.

Vice President Melinda Messineo discussed her report.

- She is excited about the program and thanked the Program Committee. She thanked Alan M. for his work on the undergraduate sessions and Chad M. for his work with the applied section.
- She mentioned we have about 245 people who have registered and about 145 presenters who have not registered. She mentioned that there are other regional meetings occurring during the same weekend.
- She mentioned that the next program committee may want to revisit the roll of poster and roundtable sessions. She mentioned that poster sessions don't work well for the NCSA and we do have sound roundtable sessions (projects in early stages).
- AKD helped pay for the Socio app. We still have paper programs. The cost of the socio app was about \$750 this year. It will probably increase to \$1,000 in the future.

President-elect Annulla Linders mentioned the theme for the 2018 conference: Crime, Punishment, and In/Justice. She announced Victor Rios as the Useem speaker. He will not receive an honorarium, but will have his trip paid for.

- She mentioned some new additions to Committee Chair positions, such as Pam Koch, and mentioned that she is working to fill a few remaining open Chair positions.

Treasurer Lisa Hickman reported that we have money. She will have a better sense of how much money the conference brought in after the conference has ended.

Chair of the Teaching Section and Schnabel Award Committee Mellisa Holtzman presented her report.

- There are 13 teaching related workshops and panels.
- She mentioned the mentoring future faculty round-robin event. Faculty are stationed at different tables to talk about different aspects of faculty life, such as negotiating the first job offer, the interview, and different types of jobs at different schools. Students can bring their CVs for feedback. IU and AKD helped sponsor the round robin event.
- She announced Danielle Lavin-Loucks as the Schnabel award winner. The number of nominations was higher than in the past. She encouraged re-nominations. People could nominate online and then the committee would ask for nominees' materials.
- She mentioned the teaching section breakfast. The applied and community college sections will be meeting in the same room at the same time as the teaching section.
- She announced Tamikia Odum as the new teaching section Chair and she will work with Tamika during a transition period.

Chair of the Student Section Sam Mindes mentioned that the new Chair (Shaonta Allen) will be at the conference later. He may stay on the committee to help Shaonta learn about the position.

Debra Swanson announced the Aida Tomeh Distinguished Service Award winner as Brendan Mullan.

Chair of the Applied and Public Sociology Committee Chad Menning announced that there are four related sessions and the shared breakfast.

Membership Chair Jeff Seymour inquired about whether the position should continue to be elected. The issue was moved to the New Council meeting. Anna mentioned that the elected positions demonstrates we have a commitment to the membership. Joyce mentioned that since 2009, our membership has been increasing.

Chair of the Nominations Committee Brenda Mullan said the election went smoothly.

Co-Chair of Publications Robyn White said we will be looking for a new editor in the next couple of years. Please let her know if anyone is interested or can suggest a possible new editor.

- Anna mentioned *Sociological Focus* has received a few more submissions. The journal had two special issues. One special issue was on black social movements, which got a lot of hits. Editors for other proposed special issues were not very responsive. If anyone is interested in editing a special issue, please let Anna know.

Public Relations Coordinator Danielle Lavin-Loucks reported that we have over 700 likes on Facebook. Most come from our Ohio and Indiana membership.

- Please send any items for the newsletter to her. She focuses on photos, awards, and a general synopsis of the conference. The newsletter comes out in April, so it's a fairly quick turn around after the conference.
- A local paper wants to promote our book award.

Scholarly Achievement Award Chair School Desmond reported that the committee received 16 nominations for the book award. The winner is Undocumented Fears and there is an author-meets-critic session on Saturday at 3:30. There were 14 nominations for the article, and the winner is Robert Carley. Robert is presenting on Saturday morning.

Chair of the Student Saturday program Alan McEvoy stated that we have ten undergraduate research sessions with a total of 42 students presenting. Everyone who wanted to present was accepted. He thanked Joyce for her assistance with room scheduling.

Debra Swanson announced Kathleen Pike-King as the winner of the Yinger Award.

Conference Coordinator Joyce Lucke reported.

- Our attendance is a little down, which is somewhat expected given the competing conferences going on during the same weekend. So, this conference will be a little smaller than what we've had in recent years. If everyone shows up, we will have around 375 in attendance, which is about 75 lower than our highest attendance.
- The number of people pre-registering is also down. 245 have pre-registered.
- Lisa and she can use some help at the registration table.
- She discussed the last minute addition of the announcement of Jay Weinstein's passing in the program.
- She discussed the socio app. The app was created by several graduate students at Purdue University. Although the app was created in Indiana, it is used all over the country. We have a scaled down

version of it since not all of its features are helpful for us. We can use the app to connect and share digital information with each other. Shaking the phone with the app on it will help us connect with people and download their contact information. Using the app cuts down on the need for business cards. We will get various announcements from the app starting in the morning of the first conference day. On Saturday, two of the developers will be at the conference to see how the app is working out for us.

Council Member-at-Large Michelle Bemiller has been working on our bi laws and constitution and examining the various job descriptions. The ASA model has a constitution separate from bi laws. Michelle distributed some changes based on the data she gathered from people who have served in the various positions (she her report). WE WILL DISCUSS THESE CHANGES AT THE MID-YEAR. MICHELLE WILL TALK WITH MONIQUE GREGG. Deb Swanson thanked Michelle for her work.

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Secretary Rachel Kraus