



MID-SOUTH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
Minutes of Executive Council Meeting
Wednesday, October 22, 2008, 2:00 pm
Holiday Inn, Huntsville, Alabama

Present were:	Keith F. Durkin	President
	Carl L. Bankston, III.	Past-President
	Sahadeo Patram	Secretary-Treasurer
	Kimberly A. Davies	President-Elect
	Shirley Rainey	Vice-President
	Larry D. Hall	Vice-President-Elect
	Timothy B. Gongaware	Editor, Forum
	John Lynxwiler	Editor, Sociological Spectrum
	Mark Konty	Chair, Committee on the Profession
	Dana M. Greene	Chair, Committee on Minorities
	Tina Deshotels	Chair, Committee on Membership

Not Present were:

Nancy J. Finley	Chair, Local Arrangements Committee
Jackie A. Eller	Coordinator, Stanford Lyman Memorial Committee
Rhonda Evans	Chair, Committee on Women
Obie Clayton, Jr.	Hotel Contract Negotiator
Kathy A. Smith	Co-Chair, Committee on Small & Community Colleges
DeMond S. Miller	Co-Chair, Committee on Small & Community Colleges

By Invitation (Incoming Officers)

Jamie P. Baird	Secretary-Treasurer
Ollie G. Christian	President-Elect

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the President, Dr. Keith F. Durkin at 2:00 pm. The President welcomed Executive Council Members, including Incoming Officers, to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of February 2, 2008 were approved.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REPORTS

President's Report

The President thanked Sahadeo Patram and emphasized how he couldn't thank him enough for his leadership, professionalism dedicated service to the MSSA during the past decade. Also he expressed appreciation to Dr. Kimberly A. Davies for a wonderful job as program chair organizing this year's meeting. The President reiterated the need to increase attendance at the annuals meeting and the imperative to meet the contractual minimum room nights requirement and avoid serious financial penalties. The President also noted the challenges in getting qualified members to accept nominations for elected offices. He urged Executive Council members to encourage their colleagues consider running for office..

The report was accepted.

Past-President's Report

The report from the Past-President, Dr. Carl L. Bankston was deferred and would be taken together with that from the Budget Committee.

Report from the Vice-President

The Vice-President, Dr. Shirley Rainey, reported there were four (4) papers for the Graduate Student Paper Competition.

There were four contestants that participated in the 2008 Graduate Student Paper Competition. The participants and their paper titles are as follows: Angela Abott from MTSU, " The Thin Line: Mental Health and Workforce Participation of Single Mothers on Welfare"; Yu Tao, Georgia Institute of Technology, " The Earnings of Asian Engineers in the United States: The Effect of the Origin of the Highest Degree"; Jennifer Cunningham, Tuskegee University, "A Survey of Risk Behaviors Associated with Human Papillomavirus among African American female college students in Alabama"; and Kristi M. Fondren, from Mississippi State University, "Sport and Stigma: Negative Recruiting and Institutional Identity of Ole Miss".

The winning paper was "The Thin Line: Mental Health and Workforce Participation of Single Mothers on Welfare" by Angela Abott.

The Vice-President expressed her appreciation of the services by members of the review committee.

The report was accepted.

Report from the Vice-President-Elect

The Vice-President-Elect, Dr. Larry D. Hall, reported that two (2) papers were received for the Undergraduate Student Paper Competition. They were both Samford University students. The papers were:

“Attitudes Towards AIDS: The Influence of Education and Feelings About Homosexuality.” Haley Heckman.

“Removing the Veil: Religious Identification’s Influence in Gender Roles.” Jeanne Cross.

The first place award and certificate was given to Jeanne Cross.

The Vice-President elect thanked the MSSA members who served as judges of the undergraduate papers.

The report was accepted.

Report from the President-Elect/Program Chair

The President-Elect/Program Chair, Dr. Kimberly A. Davies, thanked everyone who helped being the 2008 program together and especially those on the board who were timely in getting information to her. She thanked Dr. Steve Picou and Dr. Roma Hanks for funding election mailings this year; Nancy Finley and her committee for all they have done to make this conference so much better; Kim Smith and the ASU Public Relations Department for designing the cover of the program, and Lynda Lotz for proofing. Printing of this year’s program was paid for by the Augusta State University Foundation Funds. The Association actually had a net of \$1,050.00 from the program, the result of three and a half pages of advertising. The plenary address had to be changed to Thursday to accommodate the speaker’s schedule. Council congratulated Dr. Davies for producing an excellent program.

The report was accepted.

Secretary-Treasurer’s Report

The Secretary-Treasurer reported that the Association remains in reasonably good financial health. Current assets as of October 17 were \$105,987.16. The assets are in the following accounts:

Capitol City Bank – CD-OFA		\$43,951.02
Capitol City Bank – OFA		\$ 8,875.89
Capitol City Bank - Reserve Fund Account		\$ 1,108.62
Capitol City Bank – RFA-CD		\$ 5,275.00
Spectrum Petty Cash-UCF		\$ 796.54
SUB-TOTAL		\$60,007.07
Stanford M. Lyman Memorial Scholarship Fund		
Lyman MSF Account	\$ 4,648.62	
Certificates of Deposits	\$41,331.91	<u>\$41,331.91</u>
TOTAL		<u>\$105,987.60</u>

The Association is again facing possible financial hardships due to weather and the national and global financial crisis. We negotiated with the Holiday Inn Huntsville and obtained partial waivers of our contractual obligations. The association will not be penalized for failure to meet room night's requirements. There will be a deficit of approximately \$7,310.00 in financing this year's meeting activities. The shortfall in revenue is the result of very weak annual pre-registration (81). The association will be able to meet the shortfall in revenue from reserve funds accumulated over the past nine years.

The above figures do not include the plenary speaker incidental expenses and the cost of preparing the various awards and certificates. Those expenses were pre-paid prior to the preparation of the financial statement..

The Association cannot expect to avoid contractual obligations in the future and steps should be taken to ensure that all contractual obligations are financed from current revenues. To achieve these objectives the Association should try to retain current members and recruit new ones. Also, there were suggestions to consider increases in fees for registration, sponsoring undergraduates and the banquet. There was background information given about member registration from the last few years. The suggestions on increase in registration fees was deferred to the meeting on Friday, Oct. 24, 2008.

There were comments made to make sure that MSSA members are listed as members when they make hotel reservations.

Council thanked the Secretary-Treasurer for successfully managing the finances of the Association.

The report was accepted.

Report from the Editor, *Sociological Spectrum*

Dr. John Lynxwiler reported that Pia Aliperti was named the Managing Editor at Taylor & Francis and continues as the contact person for *Sociological Spectrum* in Philadelphia.

The *Sociological Spectrum* article of the year award for 2008 was made to Jason Ulsperger and David Knottnerus for their article "The Social Dynamics of Elder Care: Rituals of Bureaucracy and Physical Neglect in Nursing Homes" (*Sociological Spectrum* Volume 28, Number 4:357-388).

Between Oct. 2007 and Oct. 2008, *Spectrum* received 61 manuscripts. The journal's current rate of acceptance is 33 percent. In addition, the *Spectrum's* Impact factor increased from .198 in 2006 to .525 in 2007.

The *Spectrum* web page was up and running..

Six members of the *Sociological Spectrum* Editorial Board that would be completing their 3-year term as of Dec. 31, 2008. The Editorial Board would discuss replacement nominations at the MSSA 2008 *Spectrum* Board meeting.

Sara Neuenschwander was recognition for her hard work as managing editor of *Sociological Spactrem*. Along with managing the journal she completed her M.A. thesis and obtained university funding for her PhD. degree.

The report was accepted.

Report from the Editor, *Forum*

There were no issues of *Forum* this year because of insufficient information. The Editor, Dr. Timothy Gongaware, reported that information from the Local Arrangements Chair was sent the membership via list serve.

There were suggestions to move *Forum* to the format of a blog? This suggestion was consideration, but tabled for discussion at the meeting, Friday, Oct. 24, 2008.

The report was accepted.

Report from the Coordinator, Stan Lyman Memorial Scholarship Committee

The Chair, Stanford M. Lyman Memorial Scholarship, Dr. Jackie Eller, was unavoidably absent. A written report was submitted and presented by Dr. Carl L.

Bankston, III Dr. Bankston, III. will announce the winners of the Stan Lyman Memorial Scholarship at the banquet, Oct. 23, 2008.

There was discussion on procedures presented on SLM Scholarship for inclusion as an Appendix to the Operations Manual. Some members felt that the term of service for the Coordinator (four years) was inconsistent with the three years for other appointed members (Secretary-Treasurer and Editors of Sociological Spectrum and Forum). The Secretary-Treasurer reminded members that the Constitutional amendment which added the Coordinator of Sociological was approved by Council at its meeting of February 2, 2008 was consistent with that in the proposed addition to the OPM. Council could not agree on how to proceed on this matter and it was decided that the Constitution amendment be reviewed.

The report was accepted.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report from the Chair, Committee on the Profession

The Chair, Committee on the Profession, Dr. Mark Konty, reported that he has put together a packet of all of the Job Postings and will have it with the book exhibits. He also reported that two members on his committee of ethics asked to postpone their meeting, so they have yet to meet.

The report was accepted.

Report from the Chair, Committee on Women

The Chair, Committee on Women, Dr. Dana M. Greene, reported for Dr. Rhonda Evans who was not present. Dr. Greene reported that they are working on the mentorship caucus and they are going to add graduate students.

The report was accepted.

Report from the Chair, Committee on Minorities

The Chair, Committee on Minorities, Dr. Dana M. Greene, reported that the committee was drafting a statement of purpose. Applications will be given out at the banquet and they have pledged monies, but \$700 has not been received.

The report was accepted.

Report from the Chair, Site Selection Committee

The report was deferred until Friday, Oct. 24, 2008 until the report from the Hotel Negotiator was given.

Report from the Chair, Committee on Membership

The Chair of the Membership Committee, Dr. Tina Deshotels, presented that the goal is to encourage non-renewals to come back to the fold, current members to stay, and increase members from new populations. The strategies were presented to complete these tasks.

The report was accepted.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report for the Chair, Stanford Lyman Distinguished Book Award.

Dr. Thomas C. Calhoun, Chair of the Committee, reported that two nominations were received for the Stanford M. Lyman DBA award. One of the nominations was not eligible because the author was not a current member of the Association. The committee decided that the book authored by DeMond S. Miller and Jason D. Rivera **Hurricane Katrina and the Redefinition of Landscape**. 2008. Lanham, MD. Lexington Books, fitted the criteria for the award and recommended, with the exception of one abstention, that the award be given to the two authors.

The abstention was based on whether an award should be made when there was only one eligible nominee or only a certificate of achievement be given.

Council unanimously agreed that when there is only one nomination and the book meets all criteria for the award, the award must be given to the author(s). Council also agreed that the practice of presenting plaques to joint authors of a winning nomination be continued.

The report was accepted.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.