



MID-SOUTH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Executive Council
October 21, 2015
Fall Meetings

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| Present: | Anita Bledsoe-Gardner | President |
| | DeMond Miller | President-Elect & Chair of Nominations |
| | Ruth Chananie | Secretary-Treasurer |
| | Tim Gongaware | Past President |
| | Shelly McGrath | Vice President |
| | Earl Wright II | Chair, Committee on the Profession |
| | Melissa Powell-Williams | Chair, Committee on Women, Gender & Sexualities |
| | Nicola Davis-Bivens | Chair, Committee on Small & Community Colleges |
| | Tina Deshotels | Forum Editor |
| | Brian Hinote | Spectrum Co-Editor |

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order by President Anita Bledsoe-Gardner at 3:51pm.

MOTION to accept Minutes from the virtual online Midwinter Meetings 2-21-15, 4-15-15, and 5-5-15
M/S/P

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REPORTS (see also written reports)

President's Report: (President Anita Bledsoe-Gardner presented, also see written report)

- Announcement that Earl Wright II is resigning from his position as Chair of the Committee on Professions. Greg Harris will replace him in this position.
- Toni Sims-Mohammed has resigned from her position as Chair of Small & Community Colleges. Nicola Davis-Bivens will replace her in this position.
- The MSSA lifetime membership category has been approved and is being distributed.
- We are expecting approx. \$3k in advertisements and donations for the 2015 conference.
- Suggest we keep a patron's list so we can ask again in the future for donations.
- Perhaps we need a formal category for patrons, and to make it easier for them to donate on the online registration site.

M/S/P

Past-President's and Webmaster's Report: (Past-President and Webmaster Tim Gongaware presented, also see written report)

- Tim Gongaware is resigning from his position as Webmaster. Earl Wright II will replace him in this position.

M/S/P

President Elect's Report: (DeMond Miller presented, no written report)

- [Sec-Treasurer's note: DeMond Miller and Shelly McGrath volunteered as co-chairs of the 2015 Programming Committee after the previous president-elect's resignation. After discussion and thanks, DeMond Miller was selected as standing President-Elect].
- DeMond was able to obtain free printing of the conference programs, banquet tickets and programs, and other forms for MSSA. The council expressed their sincere appreciation for the cost savings.
- He stated that the new theme for next year's conference (per Shirley Rainey-Brown, incoming President-Elect) was included in the banquet program.
- He stated that Anita's practice of sending personal invitations to attend the President's Reception via snail mail and in the conference bags was a great idea and should be continued.
- He also echoed Dennis Peck's suggestion that a standing Program Committee should be formed, chaired by the current President-Elect.

M/S/P

Secretary-Treasurer's Report: (Ruth Chanie presented, also see written report)

- Council thanks Anita for going above and beyond in soliciting donations to MSSA for this conference.
- Earl asked about purchasing projectors for MSSA's use at conferences. He estimated we would need to spend \$2500 for a minimum of 4 projectors. Discussion ensued. Vote to be held at Saturday's meeting under new business.
- Ruth argued for the need for new technology to improve email communications and the submission abstract process.

M/S/P

Vice President's Report: (Shelly McGrath presented, also see written report)

- Shelly reported that four papers were submitted for the graduate student paper award, and that the judges were still deliberating. She will share results in time for the awards banquet.
- The one undergrad paper contestant will present in the graduate session.

M/S/P

Committee on Women, Gender, and Sexualities Report: (Melissa Powell-Williams presented, also see written report)

- Committee members are excited and pleased with the new committee name.
- There is a desire to update the mission statement to be more inclusive, and the committee will work on that this year.

M/S/P

Committee on Small & Community Colleges Report: (Nicola Davis Bivens presented, also see written report)

- Nicola has flyers to advertise for the caucus meeting on Thursday in order to generate attendance.
- She would like to plan a panel or round-tables specific to small and community colleges for next year's meetings.
- Ruth agreed to send her a list of members/registrants who had indicated interested in the caucus.

M/S/P

Spectrum Editors' Report: (Brian Hinote presented, also see written report)

- Spectrum is doing well and has 5 new board members.
- Taylor & Francis will do an email blast to promote this year's award-winning article.
- Hard-copy subscriptions are much lower than last year. Ruth explained that the number of subscriptions is directly related to the number of conference registrants/attendees.

M/S/P

Forum Editor's Report: (Tina Deshotels presented, also see written report)

- Tina stated that she is enjoying the Forum editor position. She especially enjoys interviewing members and ex-members regarding their memories of MSSA.
- She asks that the Spectrum editorial board help proof and edit the newsletter.
- She would like to form an ad hoc committee to further improve the depth and quality of the newsletter, with a three-prong focus on teaching, research, and service sections.

M/S/P

Committee on the Profession's Report: (Earl Wright II presented, also see written report)

- Earl stated he was resigning his position after the banquet due to other obligations, and recommended that his replacement do more as chair of this committee.
- He also added that we need to be more mindful of our fiscal decisions as a board, specifically relating to previously agreed-upon hotel contracts.

M/S/P

Committee on Nomination's Report: (DeMond Miller presented, also see written report)

- DeMond will complete the tasks of the Committee on Nominations during the conference, and will forward the nominations to incoming Chair Erin Rider.

M/S/P

New Business:

Patron's Category: There was a motion to establish a new category of membership entitled "patrons" in order to make it easier for donors to contribute without becoming official members or registering for the conference. Ruth agreed to ask Brad of MeetingSavvy to include this category in the online registration site.

- **M/S/P**

Research Network: DeMond motioned that we approve the creation of a research network in the MSSA, which is described as "a self-sustaining...standing body of scholars within the MSSA" that would cost the association nothing yet strengthen participation (see paper handout for more details).

- **M/S/P**

There was no further old or new business. Anita adjourned the meeting.



MID-SOUTH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Executive Council
October 24, 2015
Fall Meetings

| | | |
|----------|-------------------------|---|
| Present: | DeMond Miller | President |
| | Shirley Rainey-Brown | President-Elect |
| | Anita Bledsoe-Gardner | Past-President |
| | Ruth Chananie | Secretary-Treasurer |
| | Shelly McGrath | Incoming Secretary-Treasurer |
| | Melissa Powell-Williams | Chair, Committee on Women, Gender & Sexualities |
| | Nicola Davis-Bivens | Chair, Committee on Small & Community Colleges |
| | Lauren Norman | Chair, Committee on Membership |
| | Gregory Harris | Chair, Committee on the Profession |
| | Ray Von Robertson | Chair, Committee on Minorities |
| | Dennis Peck | Hotel Negotiator |

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order by President DeMond Miller.

Issues Discussed:

Hotel Negotiator discussion: Dennis Peck brought up some important issues regarding hotel contracts.

- Most crucially, he reminded the council that we need to keep our program schedule in line with the existing and relevant hotel contract in order to meet contract obligations. If we choose to change the way we do things, we need to notify the hotel negotiator well in advance.
- He also asked the council to think deeply about the 2020 contract, which Ruth agreed to send to the council in order to include new members.

Hilton Honor points: Anita and DeMond discussed ways to use any honor points accrued by officers.

- Anita suggested the points be held and managed by the Secretary-Treasurer and to possibly use them to help finance the hotel negotiator's travel expenses.
- Dennis suggested that instead, the points be used to help the Secretary or Treasurer if and when the position is split.
- After discussion, it was agreed that the points should be used to somehow benefit the organization, and not the individual who accrued the points.
- A draft of OPM changes for this needs to be created and voted on.

Transition of Secretary-Treasurer: Anita moved to appoint Shelly McGrath to replace Ruth Chananie as the new MSSA Secretary-Treasurer, effective February 2016 at the midwinter meetings, which would conclude Ruth's 3-year term. **M/S/P**

Increase in Fees: DeMond motioned to increase membership fees by \$5 across the board.

- Shelly pointed out that while most institutions will reimburse registration fees, they will not do so for membership fees.
- Ruth pointed out that we had recently increased membership and registration fees. Also, she expressed concern especially about sponsored undergrads, whose fees were doubled just recently.
- In a friendly amendment, Shelly suggested we increase all registration fee categories by \$10 except sponsored undergrads. **M/S/P**

No-shows: DeMond raised the issue of persons who are scheduled to moderate a session, and/or present a paper (or multiple sessions & papers), who cancel at the last minute before the conference.

- It was discussed and agreed that this presents a hardship for the organization.
- Ideas were shared about solutions. Gregory suggested that we update or add to written policies in the OPM regarding professionalism, including how to handle no-shows, and professionalism in interactions during meetings. Anita agreed to help Gregory draft proposed changes/additions to the OPM.

Lifetime Memberships: Shirley Rainey-Brown strongly encouraged all members of the executive council to purchase lifetime memberships to MSSA. Discussion followed and it was agreed that this was an excellent goal to strive for.

There was no further business. DeMond adjourned the meeting.