



**MID-SOUTH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION**  
**Minutes of Executive Council Meeting**  
**Saturday, February 24, 2007**  
**Riverview Plaza Hotel, Mobile, Alabama**

Present were:	Carl L. Bankston, III.	President
	Thomas C. Calhoun	Past-President & Chair, Budget Committee
	Sahadeo Patram	Secretary-Treasurer
	Keith F. Durkin	President-Elect & Program Chair
	Kimberly A. Davies	Vice-President
	Shirley Rainey	Vice-President-Elect
	Mark Konty	Chair, Committee on the Profession
	John Lynxwiler	Co-Editor, <i>Sociological Spectrum</i>
	Timothy Clark	Chair, Committee on Nominations
	Kathy A. Smith	Co-Chairs, Committee on Small and Community Colleges
	DeMond S. Miller	Chair, Committee on Minorities
	Dana M. Greene	Hotel Contract Negotiator
	Obie Clayton, Jr.	Chair, Local Arrangements Committee
	Larry D. Hall	Chair, Stan Lyman DBA Committee
	Amy Chasteen-Miller	Volunteer Assistant to the Secretary- Treasurer
	Jamie A. Baird	
Absent were:	David A. Gay	Co-Editor, Sociological Spectrum
	Jackie A. Eller	Coordinator, The Stanford M. Lyman Memorial Scholarship Committee
	Herman "Doc" Gibson	Chair, Committee on Membership
	Timothy B. Gongaware	Editor, <i>Forum</i>

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by the President, Carl L. Bankston, III., at 7:45 am. The President thanked Executive Council members for attending the meeting. He noted that Jackie Eller, David A. Gay, Herman "Doc" Gibson and Timothy B. Gongaware were unable to attend.

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings of October 25, 27 and 28, 2006 were approved.

## **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REPORTS**

### **President's Report**

The President reported that the 2006 Annual Meetings in Lafayette, Louisiana were very successful. He noted, from the 2006 financial report, that the Association was in excellent financial health. He expressed his appreciation to the Secretary-Treasurer for doing an excellent job. The President, however, noted that there were two matters that needed serious and urgent consideration.

The first, and most important, was finding a replacement for the Secretary-Treasurer, Sahadeo Patram, whose third term ends on December 31, 2007. The President noted that the Secretary-Treasurer would complete nine years as Secretary-Treasurer in December 2007. The President reported that his efforts to find a replacement candidate was unsuccessful. The President sought advice on this issue. The following suggestions were made:

1. Solicit past-president, retirees, and past officers to take on the responsibilities of Secretary-Treasurer.
2. Separate the position of Secretary and Treasurer.

The other matter of concern was membership level. The President noted that the Association had an excellent core of membership but felt that we need to expand membership beyond the current level of approximately 250 (including student members). He felt it would be helpful to target active, energetic graduate students since this cadre was a good source of long-term active membership. He also believed that more recruitment efforts should be directed towards faculty and students in Small and Community Colleges. Executive Council agreed and directed that the issue(s) be referred to the Membership Committee & Committee on Small and Community Colleges for action.

The report was accepted.

### **Past-President's Report**

The Past-President, Dr. Thomas C. Calhoun noted that the 2006 annual meetings in Lafayette were very successful. He sent a letter to the Lafayette Convention Center/Visitors Bureau thanking them for the assistance provided to the Mid-South Sociological Association during the meetings. Letters of thanks were also sent to the Local Arrangements Chair and Past-Presidents for their support in making the meetings in Lafayette a resounding success..

The report was accepted.

### **Report from the Vice-President**

The Vice-President reported that the call for Graduate Student “Paper of Distinction” Award was ready for distribution. The call would be sent to Dave Witt, our Webmaster, for posting on the website. The call would also be sent to MSSA listserv. She planned to send the call to every graduate program in the MSSA member States in order to encourage wider participation in the graduate paper award.

The report was accepted.

### **Report from the Vice-President-Elect**

The Vice-President-Elect, Dr. Shirley Rainey, reported that she would send out an announcement about the Undergraduate Paper competition encouraging participation by region institutions. The Vice-President-Elect informed Council that she would seek volunteers to serve as judges for the competition by March 15, 2007. She would coordinate both the competitive and non-competitive paper sessions and provide a report to the Program Chair, Dr. Keith Durkin, no later than September 14, 2007.

The report was accepted.

### **Report from the President-Elect and Program Chair**

The President-Elect and Program Chair reported that his “Call for Session Organizers” was going well. So far, he had nineteen (19) Paper and five (5) Panel sessions.

The report was accepted.

### **Report from the Secretary-Treasurer**

The Secretary-Treasurer reported that the annual meetings in Lafayette, Louisiana were extremely successful. Membership room night pickup was 390. Estimated expenditure (\$17,950.00) was lower than actual expenditure (\$15,755.39) by \$2,194.61. That saving resulted from lower than anticipated expenditures on the banquet, materials and supplies, postage and mailing, Secretary-Treasurers travel, etc., and the fact that the Association did not have to pay facilities fees. Some of the savings previously mentioned were, however, offset by higher expenditures on the receptions, program printing and copying, and coffee breaks. The over budget expenditure in those areas, except program printing and copying, resulted from the higher than expected number of members present at the meeting.

On the income side, the picture was even rosier. Actual income (\$25,303.27) exceeded estimated income (\$18,150.00) by \$7,153.27. Viewed against the actual expenditure (\$15,755.39) on the annual meeting, retained revenue from the annual meeting was \$9,547.88. The retained revenue resulted from the increase in registration fees and Dr. Carl L. Bankston’s

highly commendable effort in getting advertisements from publishers for the meeting program.

Analysis of income and expenditure on administrative activities of the Association for 2006 included two accounts – Minority Fund & the Stanford Lyman Scholarship Fund – which were not in the original budget. The two accounts were included to reflect realized overall income (\$16,396.68) and actual expenditure (\$10,857.72) on administration for the year 2006. Actual income (\$16,396.68) exceeded estimated income (\$13,450.00) by \$2,946.00. That was due mainly to contributions to the Minority & Lyman funds (\$850.00) and interest (\$1,728.90) on investments in CDs from the Stanford Lyman Scholarship Fund. On the expenditure side, actual expenditure (\$10,857.72) was lower than the estimated (\$13,500.00) by \$2,642.28. The main reason for that was lower than expected membership recruitment and renewal in 2006.

Overall, total income in 2006 (\$41,700.15) exceeded expenditure (\$26,613.11) by \$15,087.04.

Total assets at December 31, 2006 were \$98,987.07. The assets were in several accounts. Approximately 90.6 percent of the assets were in Certificates of Deposit (OFA-CD \$41,659.87; RFA-CD \$5,000.00 & Stan Lyman – CD \$42,830.85). The Certificate of Deposits accounts were expected to earn approximately \$4000.00 in interest in 2007.

The Association was now well placed financially to meet any possible expenditure which may arise from the attrition clauses in the current and future hotel contracts. However, it was essential that the annual budget reflect and realize annual retained earnings of \$2,000.00 - \$2,500.00. That idea was reflected in the budget submitted for fiscal year 2007.

The 2007 budget projected income at \$16,250.00 and expenditure at \$14,950.00 for administrative activities. Projections for the annual meeting were \$23,200.00 and \$22,350.00 for income and expenditure respectively. Projected retained earnings were \$2,350.00. Those estimates could be realized. But, the Association should consider the following:

Increase membership from 250 (Regular 165 and Student 85) in 2006 to 300 (Regular 200 and Student 100).

Attract more donations from members and outside sources.

Aggressively seek advertisements from publishers and others to offset cost of printing the annual meeting program.

Increase the cost of the banquet.

Increase membership attendance and participation at annual meetings, and encourage participants to stay at the annual meeting hotel site.

Increase membership dues

The above suggestions would help the Association to achieve and sustain budgeted objectives in ensuing years.

The Secretary-Treasurer expressed thanks to the Executive Council and all MSSA members, for the cooperation and support he received in discharging his responsibilities as Secretary-Treasurer.

The Report was accepted.

### **Report from the Co-editors, Sociological Spectrum**

The Co-editor's report was presented by Co-editor, Dr. John Lynxwiler. The Co-editor reported that three (3) new members were added to the Editorial Board. The new members were:

Amy Chasteen-Miller - University of Southern Mississippi  
Shirley Rainey - Austin Peay State University  
Kenneth Tunnell - Eastern Kentucky University

The former editor of the journal, Dr. DeAnn M. Kalich, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, was added as an Ex-Officio member .

The 2006 *Sociological Spectrum* article of the year was awarded to Professor Kyong Hee Chee (Texas State University, San Marcos) for her paper "Community Mobilization in the Context of Population Aging" (Vol. 26 , No. 1:85-113).

The Editorial Board met with Ms. Concetta Seminara-Kennedy, Managing Editor, Social Sciences Journal, Taylor & Francis, Inc. Ms. Seminara-Kennedy presented the 2006 Taylor & Francis Publisher's Report to the Board. Overall the report was positive.

The 2006 YTD subscription counts had exceed the totals from 2005 (452 v. 441).

The Web of Knowledge impact factor for *Sociological Spaecrum* had increased between 2004 and 2005:

2004 - .206 - 74/90 in Sociological category

2005 - .422 - 57/90 in Sociological category.

Taylor and Francis would take steps to include *Sociological Spectrum* in the Criminal Justice Abstract. Also, T & F agreed to place an advertisement for the journal in the Southern Sociological Society meeting program (April 11 - 14 in Hotlanta).

Seventy manuscripts were processed during the 2006 calendar year with the following outcomes: 20 accepted for publication; 20 rejected; 5 outstanding revise & resubmit and 34 under review.

Manuscript processing was on schedule. The special issue on “Consequences of Hurricane Katrina,” edited by Dr. Duane Gill, was scheduled for Vol. 27, No. 5.

The editorial office has incorporated the Central Article Tracking System (CATS) into the editorial process

Plans were proceeding to transfer the spectrum webpage and links from ULA@lafayette to UCF by the end of the spring semester.

The report was accepted.

### **Report from the Editor of *Forum***

The editor of *Forum*, Dr. Timothy Gongaware, was not present because of transportation difficulties. He requested, through the Past-President, that members email their reports to him for inclusion in the next issue of *Forum*.”

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Report from the Chair, Budget Committee**

The Chair of the Budget Committee, Dr. Thomas Calhoun, reported that the books of the Association were examined and found to be in order. He urged Council to examine and act on the suggestion in the report by the Secretary-Treasurer.

The report was accepted.

### **Report from the Program Chair**

Report from the Program Chair, Dr. Keith Durkin, was presented in his report as President-elect.

### **Report from the Chair on Site Selection**

The Chair of the site Selection Committee, Dr. Carl Bankston, informed Council that the site selection report would be presented by the Hotel Contract Negotiator, Dr. Obie Clayton.

### **Report from the Chair, Committee on the Profession**

The Chair, Committee on the Profession, Dr. Mark Konty, informed Council that the Committee would sponsor a panel session on “Faculty/Administration Conflicts in the Academy. He was seeking faculty who were recently involved in Faculty/Administration conflicts to participate in the session.

The committee was working to ensure that job postings were current and up-to-date. Dr. Rainey, the past Chair, informed Council that she would assist Dr. Konty in getting material posted on the website.

The report was accepted.

### **Report from the Chair, Committee on Women**

The Chair, Committee on Women could not attend the meeting. No report was presented.

### **Report for the Chair, Committee on Minorities**

The Chair, Committee on Minorities, Dr. Dana M. Greene reported that the committee took the following decisions:

Not to merge with the Women's Caucus.

Consider reviewing the Minority Caucus Mission Statement to make certain that the group was inclusive of **ALL** groups who were under-represented in both the mid-South region and nationally.

Nominated Dr. Ollie G. Christian for the position of President-Elect.

The Minority Caucus initiated a fund-raising drive for the Minority Caucus Scholarship Fund. At the meeting \$1,250.00 was pledged.

Council congratulated Dr. Greene on her efforts.

The report was accepted.

### **The Co-Chairs, Committee on Small and Community Colleges.**

The report of the Co-Chairs, Ms. Kathy Smith and Dr. DeMond Miller, was presented by Ms. Kathy Smith. Ms. Kathy Smith informed Council that the Committee was continuing its efforts to attract more Small and Community Colleges to become involved in activities of the Association. She requested that members of EC assist her in obtaining a list of S&CC in the Mid-South Region.

The report was accepted.

## **Report from the Chair, Committee on Membership**

The Chair of the Membership Committee was not present. A report, sent by email, to members of the Executed was accepted. The report stated that the Committee continued to make strong efforts to positively impact increasing participation in MSSA. Members from previous years who had not renewed membership were contacted in an effort to bring as many of them back into the Association.

## **Report from the Chair, Committee on Nominations**

The Chair, Committee on Nominations, Dr. Timothy W. Clark presented a detailed report on his efforts to get the slate of candidates for the 2007 elections. The members on his committee involved in the process were:

Dr. Dennis Peck, University of Alabama  
Dr. Shanta Sharma, Henderson State University  
Dr. Obie Clayton, Jr., Morehouse College  
Dr. Marianne Fisher-Giorlando, Grambling State University  
Dr. Gary Steward, University of Central Oklahoma  
Dr. Mark Scarbecz, University of Tennessee College of Dentistry  
Dr. Earl Wright, II., Texas Southern University  
Dr. Timothy Gongaware, University of Wisconsin @ La Crosse.

The five open positions for the upcoming elections were: President-Elect, Vice-President-Elect, Chairs of Committee on Minorities, Membership, and Nominations.

The list of nominees were:

President-Elect:	Olli G. Christian, Kimberly A Davies
Vice-President-Elect:	None at the time
Minorities:	Francis Staten, Dana M. Greene
Membership:	David Burley, Tina Deshotel, Andy Austin
Nominations:	Carolyn Pevey, Nicole T. Flynn

Dr. Clark sought approval of Executive Council to extend the call for nominees for Vice-President-Elect from March 1, 2007 to March 31 2007. The request was approved.

The Secretary-Treasurer informed Council that he would send Dr. Clark a spreadsheet with the membership status of each nominee to ensure compliance with MSSA's constitutional requirements for candidate's eligibility.

The report was accepted.

## **Report from the Coordinator, Stanford M. Lyman Scholarship Committee**

The Coordinator of the Committee, Dr. Jackie A. Eller was absent because of family health matters. No report was available.

## **AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Report from the Chair, Local Arrangements Committee**

The Chair, Local Arrangements Committee, Dr. Larry Hall, presented plans for the 2007 MSSA meetings. The plans included:

Solicit financial support for the reception of the Local Arrangements Committee.

Recruit volunteers for to help with registration.

Prepare materials (name tags, local restaurant guide, and guide to local attractions for distribution to meeting registrants.

Develop plans for audiovisual equipment for presenters.

Dr. Hall proposed to have a central “help desk” (a real person) with “local restaurant guide” and notebook with samples menu. The help desk would offer directions to eating and entertainment venues in downtown and “Causeway/bayway” areas.

Executive Committee thanks Dr, Hall for his excellent plans.

The report was accepted.

### **Report for the Hotel Contract Negotiator**

The Hotel Contract Negotiator, Dr. Obie Clayton, Jr., informed Council that contract agreements were negotiated and finalized to 2010. He would begin looking at contracts for 2011 and beyond in all areas of the Mid-South including Atlanta.

The report was accepted.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Secretary Treasurer Incentive - Update**

Executive Council at its meeting on October 27, 2006 agreed to provide the Secretary-Treasurer an annual amount of \$1,200.00 for incidental expenses. That incentive was in addition to the payment for travel and hotel expenses to the Winter and Annual meetings (existing condition).

The Secretary-Treasurer recommended that implementation of the incentive provision be deferred until the 2007 budget was considered.

The Secretary-Treasurer reported that funds were available and provision for the incentive was included in the 2007 budget.

Council noted that implementation of the incentive provision was approved with the acceptance of the 2007 budget previously submitted.

The President, Dr. Carl Bankston, informed Council that, even with the additional incentive, his call for Secretary-Treasurer was unsuccessful. He promised to renew his efforts and report back to Council at the October 2007 meeting.

### **Forum Editor**

The President informed Council that Dr. Timothy Gongaware had accepted the editorship of Forum. He requested that EC members send their reports to Dr. Gongaware for inclusion in the next issue of Forum.

### **Review of the Constitution and Operations & Procedures Manual**

Council noted that the review was outstanding.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.