



MID-SOUTH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
Minutes of Executive Council Meeting
Wednesday, October 24, 2007
Riverview Plaza Hotel, Mobile Alabama

Present were: Carl 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 Professions
John Lynxwiler	Editor, Sociological Spectrum
Rhonda Evans	Chair, Committee on Women
Timothy Clark	Chair, Committee on Nominations
DeMond S. Miller	Co-Chair, Committee on Small & Community Colleges
Dana Greene	Chair, Committee on Minorities
Timothy B. Gongaware	Editor, Forum

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the President, Carl B. Bankston, III., at 2:00 pm. The President thanked the members for attending. He noted that the following members were on their way to the meetings but had not yet arrived at the hotel: Drs. Jackie Eller, Obie Clayton, Jr., Larry Hall, and Amy Chasteen Miller. The following member was unable to attend the meetings: Kathy A. Smith.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY, 24, 2007

The minutes of the meeting of February 24, 2007 was approved.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REPORTS

President's Report

The President reported that the preparations for the Annual Meetings had gone very well, under the direction of The President-Elect Keith F. Durkin and Dr. Larry Hall, Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee. The President that Dr. Timothy Clark had done an excellent job as Chair of the Nominations Committee.

The President informed members of Council that the logo used by the Association had not been adopted as the official logo of the Association. The logo was introduced by Dr. Thomas Durant, Jr., in 1996-97. The logo was formally adopted. The President, however, noted that he had difficulties obtaining a high resolution version and suggested that the Association look into making a version that can be readily transferred and copied for official business.

The President reported that he had not been able to find a replacement for the Secretary-Treasurer. He would be working closely with the incoming President to find a suitable candidate.

The Secretary-Treasurer volunteered to continue on a year-to-year basis until a replacement is found. He informed Council that he spoke with two potential candidates (Drs. Kowalski and Reyha) and encouraged them to submit their applications for the position to the incoming President.

The report was accepted.

Report of the Past-President and Chair of the Budget Committee

The Past-President & Chair of the Budget Committee, Dr. Thomas C. Calhoun, commended Council for their efforts in making the Annual Meetings a successful. He reported that the books of the Association were examined and found to be in order.

The report was accepted.

Report from the Vice-President

The Vice-President, Dr. Kimberly A. Davie reported that five (5) papers were submitted for the Graduate Student Paper Award. The reviewers of the papers were: Drs. Marianne Giorlando-Fisher, Nicole T. Flynn, Mark Konty, Shanta, Sharma, and Dawood Sultan. One of those listed submitted no reviews.

The Paper of Distinction was awarded to Jacob Travis Walker, Mississippi State University, for his paper on "County Level Suicide Rates and Social Integration: Urbanicity and

its Role in the Relationship.”
The report was accepted.

Report from the President-Elect

The president-elect, Dr. Keith F. Durkin, informed Council that the theme of the 2007 conference “Celebrating the Sociological Imagination”. There were approximately 265 participants in 57 sessions. Dr. Erich Goode (SUNY-Stony Brook) would deliver the plenary address.

The President-elect thanked the Secretary-Treasurer, Sahadeo Patram, and the Program Chair, Dr. Larry Hall for all of their hard work in making the 2007 Annual Meetings a success.

He suggested that the President and President-elect should work closely together. That would facilitate the duties of Program Chair, since she/he would have a better understanding of the challenges they are facing when planning for the Annual meetings.

The report was accepted.

Report from the Vice-President-Elect

The Vice President-Elect reported that six student papers were submitted to the Undergraduate Student Paper Competition in 2007. The papers and contributors were as follows: Monesca Smith’s, paper was “The Blacker the Berry: Colorism in African American Student Lives”; K.Bratt Ott’s, paper was “Considering the Use of Hurricane Katrina as a Pretext to Close New Orleans’ Charity Hospital and Privatize Louisiana Public Health Care Delivery”; Elizabeth A. Ladner’s paper was “Infatuation at Midnight; Rachael Jackson Huddleston’s paper was “Boys Will Be Boys (Or Girls)””; Matthew R. Rook’s paper was “Goffman’s Dramaturgical Perspective and the Social Unity of the Facebook: A Case of Virtual Impression Management”; and Brandon Moss’s paper was “Impact Mortgage Brokers Have on Foreclosure Rates Within Low-Income and Minority Community Areas in Chicago”. Each participant presented their papers at the Undergraduate Paper Competition session on Thursday at 12:45-2:15 p.m. The session was attended by approximately 22 people. Dr. Ollie Christian did an outstanding and superior job as the Discussant for this session. Those who attended the session asked very provoking questions to each student participant as well as to the discussant, Dr. Christian.

The participants were provided a certificate of recognition at the Annual MSSA Banquet, October 25th, 2007 for their participation in the paper competition. The First Place Winner was Ms. Monesca Smith for her paper on “The Blacker the Berry: Colorism in African American Students’ Lives”.

Special thanks to the judges of 2007 MSSA's Undergraduate Student Paper Competition: Dr. Paul Leslie, Greensboro College, Dr. Dana m. Greene, North Carolina Central and Dr. Ollie Christian, Southern University.
The report was accepted

Report from the Secretary Treasurer

The Secretary-Treasurer reported that the Association was in reasonably good financial state. Current assets were currently \$105,817.00 held in several accounts and distributed between the Mid-South Sociological Association Accounts and the Stanford M. Lyman Memorial Scholarship Accounts:

Mid-South Sociological Association:	\$61,675.90
Stanford M. Lyman Memorial Scholarship:	<u>\$44,791.95</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$105,817.85</u>

Pre-registration (139) matched last year's figure (140). Ninety-seven (97) banquet tickets were prepaid. The Association committed to 100.

Hotel room reservations this year was at 387. That was very good. The Association would not be required to pay attrition charges.

While those figures suggest that we are doing fine, estimated expenditure on the Annual Meetings (\$18,388,00):

Hotel Expenses:	\$13,000.00
Plenary Speaker	1,500.00
Program Printing	2,500.00

would exceed current realized income (\$12,240.00) by \$6,148.00. That deficit might only partially be reduced by onsite registration and anticipated donation of \$1,000.00 from Ohio Northern University.

The report was accepted.

Report from the Editor, *Sociological Spectrum*

The Editor of Sociological Spectrum reported that the Concetta Seminara-Kennedy, the Associate Editor at Taylor & Francis, Inc., resigned her position. Rachel Zawarda, a Taylor & Francis associate would be presenting the 2007 report on *Spectrum* at the editorial board meeting.

The *Sociological Spectrum* 2007 article of the year was awarded to Ivy Kennelly for her article “Time off as Economic Capital: Thwarting the Traps of Segregated Occupational Fields.” *Sociological Spectrum*, Volume 27, No. 2:183-205.

Between October 2006 through October 2007, *Spectrum* received 80 manuscripts (12 of these were submitted to the guest editor of Volume 27-06). Of this total, 22 have been accepted for publication, 11 have been returned as Revise & Resubmit, 20 were rejected, and 27 currently are under review.

The final totals for all of last year (i.e., January – December, 2006) were as follows: 79 manuscripts were processed for 2006 (including those submitted for special issue 26-06); 20 were accepted; 5 received a revise & resubmit; 20 were rejected; and, 34 ended the year under review.

Volume 27 met all of the publication deadlines set by the publishers. Issue 27-5 was originally scheduled to be the special issue on the *Social Consequences of Hurricane Katrina* edited by Duane Gill; however, reviewer delays resulted in the special issue being moved to 27-06. It was originally planned that Issue 27-06 would be mailed to MSSA members 2-3 weeks before the Mobile meetings; however, publication delays shifted this deadline by a couple of weeks. .

Manuscript processing for Issues 28-01 & 28-02 is on schedule with 28-03 nearing completion.

In July, the Editorial Board voted to approve a special issue on “The Sociology of Religion in the 21st Century.” The proposal was submitted by Christopher Ellison (University of Texas at Austin) and Darren Sherkat (Southern Illinois University). The call for papers has been publicized in the Section on Sociology of Religion meetings which were held in conjunction with the ASA meetings this past August in New York. The call for papers has also been publicized on the SSS list serve, in the MSSA program, and the current issue of *Spectrum* 27-06. Last week, the guest editors indicated that they had received 20 papers and the reviews were on schedule. The deadline for submissions is January 1, 2008. The special issue is scheduled to appear in *Sociological Spectrum*, Volume 28-5 (August 2008 delivery).

Six members of the *Sociological Spectrum* Editorial Board will complete their three-year terms as board members on December 31, 2007. The Editorial Board would discuss and vote on replacement nominations at the MSSA 2007 *Spectrum* Board meeting.

The report was accepted.

Report from the Editor, *Forum*

The Editor of *Forum*, Dr. Timothy Gongaware, reported that the 2007 issue was sent out to members in mid-Spring with reports from all of the committees, including important of

meeting date and deadlines. The Editor informed Council that he has decided to publish two issues of Forum annually. The first issue, after the annual meetings would include comments from the President and highlights from reports by members of the Executive Council. The Spring issue would include thought from the President and articles from Executive Council members & Chairs of Standing Committees about the aspirations and goal we have set for the future of the Association.

Council was very impressed with his vision and gave him full approval to proceed.

Report from the Coordinator, The Stanford M. Lyman Memorial Scholarship

The Chair of the Stanford M. Lyman Memorial Scholarship, Dr. Jackie L. Eller, had not yet arrived at the hotel. Council was aware that she was on route and deferred her presentation to Thursday, October 25, 2007.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report from the Chair, Budget Committee

Report submitted previously under the report from the Past-President and Chair, Budget Committee.

Report from the Chair, Committee on the Profession

The Chair of the Committee on the Profession, Dr. Mark Konty reported as follows:

The Committee solicited and collated job postings within the Association. Copies of these were then made available to the membership. All of the packets were taken by Friday. Next year the Committee would distribute more copies.

The Committee intends to explore the production of a guide to graduate programs within the association. The guide will be made available at the annual meetings. Graduate programs may feature their program in the guide for a nominal fee. All proceeds will pay for printing costs and if any money is left over it will be used for a student-centered social event.

The Committee is reconstituting the ethics committee. The initial charge of the committee will be to review the Association's ethics rules. David LoConto will serve as the Ethic's Committee chair.

The report was accepted.

Report from the Chair Committee on Women

The Chair of the Committee on Women, Dr. Rhonda Evans, reported as follows:

The issue of the mission of the th Women's caucus remained unresolved.

The Committee decided that it was not in the best interest to merge the committees on Women and Minorities.

The Chair in consultation with the MSSA webmaster, Dr. David Witt developed a tentative layout for a support forum for women in academia.

The Committee agreed that participation of male colleagues, who are concerned about women's issues and support the growth of female participation and leadership within MSSA, were elcomend and encouraged in both the Women's Caucus and the Committee on Women.

Report from the Chair, Committee on Minorities

The Chair, Committee on Minorities reported that the Committe raised approximately \$2,600.00. She informed Council that her Committee decided to make no awards in the current year because procedures for distribution have not yet been clearly established. The Committee would be working to establish procedures for implimentation in 2008.

Report from the Co-Chair, Committee on Small & Community Colleges

The Co-Chair, Committee on Small and Community Colleges, Dr. DeMond Miller reported that the Committee would engage in the following activities to promote membership in the MSSA and Committee participation.

- Make every effort for each of its members to invite their local community college sociology/social and behavioral sciences faculty to join MSSA and attend the meeting.
- The Each-I-Bring 1 or 2 faculty and students campaign. Encouraging more registered participation in the MSSA by using the Each 1 bring 1 or 2 campaign. Each member would encourage colleges to attend and take personal responsibility for bringing a new member or 2 to the conference and remind them that with a full membership a faculty member can bring a student to the conference at a reduced rate. (coordinate this activity with the Membership Committee)
- Locally Huntsville: DeMond Miller has agreed to undertake the duties of contacting all of the Small and Community Colleges in the Huntsville area and engaged them in hopes of their active participation in the 2008 meetings.

- A general committee survey would be used to understand the needs of small and community colleges. The survey would address their needs, concerns, and how the MSSA and The Committee of Small and Community Colleges can better serve the needs of this group.
- Targeted Workshops. The goal of the Small and Community College Committee will sponsor a workshop on teaching on-line course, panel sessions and academic sessions that are related to pedagogy, the transition from 2 year-to 4 year colleges.

The report was accepted.

Report from the Chair, Committee on Membership

The Chair, Committee on Membership was not present at the meetings. A written report was sent to the Secretary-Treasurer. The Secretary-Treasurer informed Council that the report indicated that the Committee had made strong efforts to increase membership and participation at the annual meetings.

Report from the Chair, Committee on Nominations

The Chair, Committee on Nominations reported the th nominations process was very difficult. Members submitted nominations without clearing with their nominees their willingness to serve. Membership participation in the elections process as very poor.

The outcome of the elections returned the following winners:

Kimberly A. Davies	President-Elect
Larry Hall	Vice-President-Elect
Nicole T. Carr	Chair, Committee on Nominations
Tina Deshotels	Chair, Committee on Membership
Dana Greene	Chair, Committee on Minorities

The report as accepted.

Report on Site Selection

The report on site selection was deferred to Saturday, October 27, 2008

Old Business

- A. Incentive to attract a Secretary-Treasurer was revisited. Council decided to have this matter shelved. It would be reconsidered at the Winter meeting in 2008.
- B. Review of duties and responsibilities of Executive Council members and Committee Chairs was still outstanding.

New Business

- A. Membership Dues. Dr. Mark Konty was charged with preparing a report on this for consideration at the Winter 2008 meeting.
- B. Increase cost for banquet tickets was deferred for consideration at the Winter 2008 meeting.
- C. Dr. John Lynxwiler was appointed Editor of Sociological Spectrum.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Minutes of Meeting of October 25, 2008

Report from Coordinator, Stanford M. Lyman Memorial Fund

Dr. Jackie Eller reported that no applications were submitted for the award in 2007. She made the following suggestions:

1. Advertise more broadly and sooner
2. Increase the number and size of awards in 2008.
3. Change the criteria to include M.A. Theses as well as Ph.D dissertations

Dr. Eller informed Council that the guidelines for submission of an application would be rewritten to include a clearer statement of the breadth of Stan Lyman's work.

She intends to advertise the award on numerous listserves such as SSSP, SSSI, and other related disciplines. She would also secure advertisements in Spectrum and Forum.

The report was accepted.

Report from the Chair, Local Arrangements Committee

The Chair, Local Arrangements Committee submitted a detailed report of arrangements made for the members during the course of the meetings. Council expressed appreciation for the efforts. The Secretary-Treasurer also thanked Dr. Hall for the assistance he received at the registration desk.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am.