



**MID-SOUTH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION**  
**Notes of Executive Council Meeting**  
**Saturday, February 21, 2009, 8:30 am**  
**Hilton Lafayette, Lafayette, Louisiana**

Present were: Kimberly A. Davies  
Jamie P. Baird  
Ollie G. Christian  
Larry Hall  
John Lynxwiler  
Timothy Gongaware  
Jackie Eller

Rhonda Evans  
Carl L. Bankston

Absent Were: Obie Clayton, Jr.  
Mark Konty  
DeMond S. Miller  
Dana M. Greene  
Tina Deshotels  
Kathleen Handy  
Keith Durkin

President  
Secretary-Treasurer  
President-Elect & Program Chair  
Vice-President  
Co-Editor, Sociological Spectrum  
Vice-President-Elect, Editor, Forum  
Coordinator, Stanford M. Lyman Memorial  
Scholarship, Chair, Nominations Committee  
Committee on Women  
Chair, Stan Lyman DBA Committee

Hotel Contract Negotiator  
MSSA Surveys  
Co-Chair, Committee on Small & Community College  
Chair, Committee on Minorities  
Committee on Membership  
Local Arrangements Committee  
Past-President & Chair, Budget Committee

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by the President Kimberly Davies at 8:30 am. The President welcomed and thanked the members for attending. The following members could not attend the meeting: Keith Durkin, Dana Greene, Tina Deshotels, Obie Clayton, Jr., and DeMond Miller

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 22, 24 & 25 2008**

The minutes of October 22, 24 & 25, 2008 were approved.

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Report from the President**

The President, Dr. Kimberly Davies, thanked those on the Executive Council that is working hard for the betterment of the Association. She also noted that the morning sessions and the last day of the Annual meeting was not well attended.

The report was accepted.

### **Report from the Past-President**

The Past-President, Dr. Keith Durkin was unable to attend the meeting. No report was submitted

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

The Vice-President, Dr. Larry Hall, informed Council that he is lining up judges for the Graduate Student Paper. He would ask David Witt to update the website about the competition, ask Tim Gongaware to run a request in Forum and would contact Directors of Graduate studies at the 13 state region for MSSA. Jackie Eller has a list of directors of graduate programs and it is being updated.

The report was accepted.

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

The Vice-President-Elect, Dr. Timothy Gongaware, informed Council that he intended to pursue the following course of action:

1. The deadline for the Undergraduate Paper Competition has been set for June 1, 2009.
2. I'll make decisions on the committee composition once I get a better idea how many papers will need to be reviewed.
  - a. My intention is to draw on those professors at universities which only offer an undergraduate degree with the hope of encouraging more participation from them.
3. An announcement of the competition has already gone out in the recent issue of *Forum*, will go out in the next issue and will go out to our listserv.
4. Any suggestions on other avenues for putting out the call are appreciated.

The report was accepted.

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

- Thus far there are fifty-six papers sessions, seven panels, five roundtables and one AKD workshop, there was discussion of having a session on strategic planning/student learning outcomes and the construct of online classes
- Update on fundraising and from the proposals of institutions for program ads, the program should pay for itself
- Recruitment of Southern U. students, there were 27 to join MSSA
- Kathleen Handy is working diligently on local arrangements
- Calls for papers was extended until Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>, Deadline for members to submit papers April 28, Organizers submit information to Program chair by May 28, Preliminary program late July or August
- Letters will be sent out in April for former MSSA presidents requesting financial support
- The subject of changing or including Social Science in the MSSA name was discussed

The report was accepted.

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

The Secretary-Treasurer, Ms. Jamie P. Baird, circulated a financial report for fiscal year 2008, budget analysis for 2008, Balance Sheet as at December 2008, Income and expenditure for fiscal year 2008, and Budget for fiscal year 2009. The Association remains in reasonably good financial health. Total assets at the end of 2008 were \$106,521.50. The assets were held in 7 different accounts. The major portion of assets was in the Operating Fund CD Account (\$46,126.00) and in the Stanford Lyman CD Account (43,027.29). The Income and Expenditure Statement for 2008 showed Income at \$28,596.55 and Expenditure at \$27,820.06. Realized ordinary net income for 2008 was \$776.49.

The Secretary-Treasurer informed Council, on the basis of the projected budget for 2009 that expenditure would exceed income by approximately \$1, 900.00. This was because the budget was produced conservatively due to the economy and budget cuts at our member institutions. The deficit could grow if participation and registration in Lafayette doesn't meet levels from the past. There was discussion after looking at the budget that the expenditures wouldn't exceed income because of the proposed amounts for the Program.

After looking at the financial reports it was decided that at each Mid-winter meeting that a decision would be made on whether we would award 1 or 2 recipients for the S. Lyman scholarship.

The report was accepted.

#### **Report from the Editor, *Sociological Spectrum***

The Editor, *Sociological Spectrum*, Dr. John Lynxwiler submitted notes on *Sociological Spectrum* for production year 2008. Fifty-one manuscripts were processed with the following outcomes: 12 accepted for publication, 9 outstanding revise and resubmit, 21 rejections, and 9 under review. 28:5 is a special issue Religion, co-edited by Christopher Ellison and Darren Sherkat. Issues 29-1 and 29-2 have been completed; Issue 29-4 is on schedule. This is Sara Neuenschwander's last year as managing editor.

The report was accepted.

#### **Report from the Editor, Forum**

1. An issue of MSSA Forum that included a call for session organizers, calls for paper competitions, scholarship competitions and such was put out in January.
  - a. Membership Chair Tina Deshotels is having her committee use the issue as a means of contacting departments in our region in the hopes of increasing membership and/or awareness of the organization and what it does.
2. Another issue of *Forum* will be released once the call for papers is issued
  - a. It will be formatted to allow a reader to quickly scan the sessions, session organizers and their emails.
  - b. It will then direct readers to the website for additional session organizer contact information.

The report was accepted.

#### **Report from the Coordinator, The Stanford Lyman Memorial Scholarship**

1. Updating email list for graduate program directors to encourage submissions – will send next week and resend both the first and end of summer.
2. Will once again add our advertisement to organization websites and newsletters. Let me know of any you think will be a good resource. It was included in *Forum*.
3. Please encourage submissions from your universities as last year the submissions came only from FL and TX.
4. I am in process of filling the scholarship committee – will keep you updated.
5. What about the coordinator? The minutes were unclear about whether you wanted this to be elected or not. The P&P say we advertise, ask for letter of interest, and the council appoints for 4 years. **(resolved)**
6. There was agreement to change application wording to “at any stage of proposal approval”

The report was accepted.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Budget Committee Report**

The Chair of the Budget Committee, Dr. Keith Durkin, was not present so the President, Dr. Kim Davies reported about the books of the Association. There was a question about the S. Lyman scholarship account and the dormancy fee, the Sec.-Treas. will research and report back to the E. C. via email, otherwise the books were in order.

The report was accepted.

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

The Chair, Committee on the Profession, Dr. Ana-Marie G. Wahl, was not present. No report was submitted.

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

The Chair Committee on Women, Dr. Rhonda Evans, reported:

#### **2008 Women's Caucus Meeting:**

The 2008 Women's Caucus meeting was not widely attended, with approximately only 7 to 8 people present. Dana Green chaired the meeting in Rhonda Evans' absence. The abbreviated agenda included selection of a nominee for President to be support by the Women's Caucus in the 2009 MSSA election.

#### **Slate of Nominees for the 2008 MSSA Election**

President Elect: Dana Green

### **Female Participation in the 2008 MSSA Conference Programs**

In the 2008 program, there are a total 43 sessions. Twenty-one of these sessions were organized or presided over by a female. There are a total of 126 papers being presented and 73 of these had at least one female author. Of the 85 single author presentations, 49 were female. On the 41 presentations with two or more authors, there were a total of 24 female authors

The report was accepted.

### **Report from the Committee on Minorities**

The Chair, Committee on Minorities, Dr. Dana Greene wasn't present, but the report was sent.

1. The Minority Caucus had a very productive discussion at the Annual Meetings in October, 2008. During our discussions, we reviewed the contributions to the Minority Fund over the past three years. While pledges are up, fewer people are actually "making good" on their commitments. As a result, during 2007-2008, the monies in our Minority Fund increased, but did not match or exceed the monies raised during the 2006-2007 AY.

To this end, the group discussed ways in which monies could be raised to support the scholarship fund, while still recognizing the problems facing many (including our members) as a result of our bad economy and recession.

2. The Caucus would like to fund increasing numbers of students from HBCUs at future meetings. Drafts of the Application for funds are under revision and will be made available to faculty application in advance of the October, 2009 Annual Meetings.
3. The Minority Caucus also decided to support the nomination by the Women's Caucus of Dr. Dana M. Greene for MSSA President-elect. Dr. Greene accepted the nomination.
4. Dr. Shondrah Tarrezz-Nash was nominated to be Chair of the Minority Caucus. She declined the nomination.
5. The Caucus would like to see more sessions at upcoming meetings on racial and ethnic issues in the MSSA region. Several members offered to organize such sessions.

The report was accepted.

#### **Report from the Chair, Small & Community Colleges**

The Chair, DeMond Miller was not present. No report was submitted.

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

The Chair, Committee on membership, Dr. Tina Deshotels, was not present but a report was sent.

The Membership Committee has been working diligently to increase membership and participation in the MSSA this year. We worked on contacting those who did not renew their membership from the previous year hoping to get them to renew. We hoped to bring as many of these non-renewals back into the fold as possible.

The committee is working on compiling an accurate listing of all sociology departments in our members' states. We obtained a partial list from ASA and are adding to this. From this list we sent emails, and mailings of forum as well as flyers.

I would like to raise the issue of departmental memberships as a way to increase membership. For some universities, departments are reimbursed for memberships but not individuals. Departments have contacted me and been willing to pay for each of their individual faculty members' membership but only as a lump sum.

The report was accepted.

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

The Chair, Committee on Nominations, Dr. Jackie Eller, reported:

President Elect:

Xiaohe Xu [xu@soc.msstate.edu] – MSU  
 Greene, Dana M [dgreene@NCCU.EDU] – NCCU\*  
 Earl Wright – Texas Southern

Vice-President Elect:

Carol Thompson – TCU  
 Vicky MacLean – MTSU  
 Earl Wright – Texas Southern  
 Jeremy Porter -- Rice

Chair of Committee on Minorities:

Chair of Committee on Membership:

Tina Deshotels – JSU\*  
Chair of Nominations:  
David LoConto – JSU  
Ana-Marie Kinnel

Nominations committee:

I am in process of choosing members of the nominations committee. Notes on nominations – As it seems nominations are not readily forthcoming, it is my intention to solicit “nominations” by calling people directly, but I request that each of you today make a nomination for these positions. I also sent an email to the membership once again soliciting nominations.

David Gay, UCF

\*Have agreed to run for the position.

The report was accepted.

### **Report from the Chair, Site Selection Committee**

The Chair, Site Selection Committee, Dr. Keith Durkin, was not present. No report was submitted.

## **AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

The Chair, Local Arrangements Committee, Dr. Kathleen Handy, report was given by Dr. Ollie G. Christian. Dr. Christian asked Carl Bankston, III to be the book exhibitor coordinator and he accepted, Sec-Treas. will send him the contact information for Francis & Taylor.

The report was accepted.

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

The Hotel Contract Negotiator, Dr. Obie Clayton, Jr., was not present. The Secretary-Treasurer reported on his behalf.

The MSSA has contracts with the following Hotels:

Year	City	Hotel	Dates	Price
2009	Lafayette	Hilton	Nov. 4-7	\$112.00
2010	Baton Rouge	Holiday Inn	Oct. 13-16	\$101.00
2011	Little Rock	DoubleTree	Oct. 25-30	\$118.00
2012	Mobile	Renaissance	Oct. 26-30	\$135.00
2013*	Atlanta	Holiday Inn		
2014	Mobile	Renaissance	Nov. 5-8	\$145.00
2015*	Atlanta	Holiday Inn		
2016	Huntsville	Holiday Inn		

\*I am in negotiations with the Holiday Inn in Atlanta and will have their bid by Wed. of next week. If prices are out of our range, we have Jackson, Ms. as a backup and I will get this to you.

The report was accepted.

### **Report for the Stan Lyman Distinguished Book Award**

There is a request for nominations that has been sent out. There are some committee members. Also, should edited volumes be eligible.

The report was accepted.

### **Report for the MSSA surveys**

The Chair, MSSA surveys, Dr. Mark Konty, was not present. No report was submitted.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. The use of Paypal this year and continue to pursue other methods for other years was not accepted. Pursue Paypal, look at cost of minimum balance of another bank account, pursue other methods approved. Discussion about the possibility to piggy-back on ASA for payments, talk with Jean Shin and Carl will talk with Stephanie at the Southern Sociological Assoc. Then there was the question of the cost for zoomerang?
- B. The duties and responsibilities of Chairs of committees please email reports.
- C. Jackie will try to find information on S. Lyman coordinator time of service, if not found this will be voted on at the Annual mtg. Nov. 2009

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Winter meeting be done another way than before, not approved. The face to face meetings serve a purpose, after discussion & due to hotel obligations we will still have winter mtgs.
- B. Survey monkey is \$200 a year. It was approved if John couldn't use survey monkey through his institution that we would purchase it for 2 months at \$19.95 per month.
- C. Dept. membership (lump sum for dept.), there would have to be 5 members or more and the cost would be \$40.00 per membership. This is to be put on the agenda for Nov. meeting. How many do we have per Dept?
- D. Should edited volumes be eligible for S. Lyman Distinguished Book Award, there hasn't been in the last few years. The decision was to stay as it is for now with sole author because the call has been sent out.
- E. Sec-Treas. will send an email to David Witt with minutes from Oct. 2008 meetings and combine committee reports into one document and send them, this is to update the website.
- F. After discussion about Sociological Spectrum, John will not need MSSA support, he will have institutional support

**The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm.**