



MID-SOUTH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Executive Council Mid-Year Meetings
Friday, February 15, 2013, 7pm
Saturday, February 16, 2013, 9am
Holiday Inn: Atlanta Capitol Conference Center, Atlanta, GA

Friday, February 15, 2013, 7pm

Present:	Earl Wright	President
	Mark Konty	Past President
	Tim Gongaware	President-Elect
	DeMond Miller	Vice President
	Tom Calhoun	Chair, Committee on Minorities
	Jackie Eller	Chair, Committee on the Profession
	Brian Hinote	Co-Editor, Spectrum
	David Knottnerus	Chair, Stan Lyman Memorial Scholarship Committee
	Ruth Chananie-Hill	Interim Secretary-Treasurer (via Skype)

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order by President Earl Wright at 7:00pm

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

This was a special meeting called to discuss the financial situation of the MSSA. President Wright and Past President Konty presented information regarding the state of MSSA's financial assets, records, and current expenses, gathered from their trips to Atlanta prior to this meeting.

Discussion of Finances

- President Wright met with Former Sec-Treas Patram at Atlanta Capitol Bank
- Going through boxes from former Sec-Treas Baird discovered copies for 6 CDs
 - 3 had been accounted for and we had the original documents which had been stored in the safety deposit box
 - 2 were cashed out over the past 4 years (one in 2009, one in 2011)
 - 1 had been unaccounted for and is now in the totals
- What was recouped from the bank accounts is as follows
 - Lyman CD#1 \$38,586.23
 - Lyman CD#2 \$ 7,630.60
 - MSSA CD#1 \$25,151.41
 - MSSA CD#2 \$ 6,015.46
 - Savings Acct \$ 106.51
- Additionally, we are in possession of 2 checks to the MSSA
 - 2013 1st Quarterly payment from T&F \$1125.00

- Check from Mississippi State \$300.00
 - 3 Individual checks for 2013 Membership \$115.00
- Our total assets at this point are:
 - \$79,030.21
- In the box of materials was also a copy of all the checks sent in for the 2012 conference and 2013 membership.
 - The total of all those checks is \$12885.00
 - At this point it does not appear that any of those checks were cashed.
 - It's possible that there are not copies of all the checks, but the numbers are close to what we estimate attendance to be.
- 2012 Payments from Taylor & Francis
 - January 2012 check deposited into the Capitol bank accounts
 - The quarterly payment checks from March 9, June 8, Sept. 11 as well as two donation checks for the conference given in October, we deposited into a USAA Federal Savings Bank Account.
 - We will either through conversations with former Sec-Treas Baird or through a lawyer, look to see what happened to those funds.
- Pres. Wright will be opening new accounts in Wells Fargo.

MOTION TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION to discuss organizational finances and personnel issues related to the Secretary-Treasurer

- **M/S/P** (unanimous)

MOTION TO RETAIN LAWYER FOR AMOUNT OF \$5K: Past Pres. Konty recommends Omar Rice, located in Atlanta, as a good choice. After discussion, there was agreement to retain a lawyer, although which one was left open.

- **M/S/P** (unanimous)

MOTION TO ALLOCATE UP TO \$10K TOWARD FULL EXTERNAL LEGAL AUDIT FOR COST: Discussion on whether to spend \$5k on an unofficial audit or \$10k on a credentialed, official audit. EC agreed that the full and credentialed audit was necessary.

- **M/S/P** (unanimous)

DISCUSSION: Past Pres. Konty suggested that we separate the Secretary-Treasurer position into two positions, in order to have more than one person accountable for distribution of monies. After some discussion, Dr. Jackie Eller put forth the following temporary measure as a motion. Discussion of requiring two signatures on large checks ensued, although the amount was not decided. (checks over \$1k?) Dr. Tom Calhoun asserted that we need to set up one account with sub-accounts. Pres. Wright agreed to look into that at Wells Fargo.

MOTION TO HAVE ALL MEMBERS OF BUDGET COMMITTEE HAVE ACCESS TO FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS: All members of the budget committee, Past President, President, President-Elect, and Secretary-Treasurer, will have access to all MSSA bank accounts and/or sub-accounts. Pres. Wright to set up a business account with Wells Fargo tomorrow (2/16/13).

- **M/S/P** (unanimous)

OUTSTANDING BILLS: Discussion of what bills MSSA has outstanding currently, and which should be paid ensued. President Wright to pay the bills unless otherwise specified. The following motions were proposed and voted on:

- MOTION TO PAY MOBILE HOTEL BILL EXCLUDING ATTRITION, which should be negotiated. Included in payment would be food, beverages, taxes, tips, equipment, and services rendered at 2012 meetings. (approx. \$9k)
 - **M/S/P** (unanimous)
- MOTION TO PAY TAYLOR & FRANCIS FOR 2012 SPECTRUM ISSUES (\$3,092)
 - **M/S/P** (unanimous)
- MOTION TO PAY 2012 LYMAN SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS (2 X \$1,000 = \$2,000)
 - **M/S/P** (unanimous)
- MOTION TO PAY SPECTRUM EDITORS: Discussion ensued – Brian wants all extra T&F funds (\$4,500) over and above actual operating costs to go to MSSA for now. It was agreed that all T & F monies would be sent directly to an MSSA account and Brian and Kevin would send receipts to the Sec-Treas and be reimbursed as needed
- MOTION TO REIMBURSE PAST PRESIDENT KONTY: (\$20) This was taken care of through a \$20 donation to MSSA made by Dr. Thomas Calhoun
 - **M/S/P** (unanimous)
- MOTION FOR PRES. WRIGHT TO BE REIMBURSED \$300 FOR TRAVEL
 - **M/S/P** (unanimous)
- MOTION TO PAY TAYLOR & FRANCIS FOR 2013 SPECTRUM ISSUES: It was estimated that the payment would be around \$4,000. The main point of this motion was to approve payment of whatever the fee is.
 - **M/S/P** (unanimous)
- MOTION TO PAY SEC-TREASURER AS SPECIFIED IN OPM
 - **Tabled**

Meeting adjourned at 9pm to be continued at 9:00am on Saturday

Saturday, February 16, 2013, 9am

Present:	Earl Wright	President
	Mark Konty	Past President
	Tim Gongaware	President-Elect
	DeMond Miller	Vice President
	Tom Calhoun	Chair, Committee on Minorities
	Jackie Eller	Chair, Committee on the Profession
	Brian Hinote	Co-Editor, Spectrum
	David Knottnerus	Chair, Stan Lyman Memorial Scholarship Committee
	Tina Deshotels	Forum Editor & Webmaster
	Ruth Chananie-Hill	Interim Secretary-Treasurer (via Skype)
	Sahadeo Patram	Former Sec-Treasurer, special guest

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order by President Earl Wright at 9:00am

AGENDA items VII (2014 Hotel/Site Selection) and VIII (Permanent Hotel Negotiator) were tabled until fall meetings.

UPDATE ON ASSETS: Pres. Wright said he recalculated our assets and expenses, and that MSSA can pay all outstanding bills without touching the \$38k Lyman funds. After all bills paid, we will have \$857 left in operating funds, not including Lyman funds.

MOTION TO WAIT ON CONTACTING LYMAN FAMILY regarding use of Lyman funds for operating expenses

- **M/S/P** (1 opposed, no abstentions)

MOTION TO COMBINE REGISTRATION AND BANQUET COSTS: To help pay food costs, and to encourage more members to attend banquet (@ \$25 each banquet ticket). Dr. Eller commented that we should still have a way to track how many people will actually attend the banquet, so we can report these numbers to the hotel. After further discussion about students and undergraduate sponsors' funding issues, motion was split into three parts:

- MOTION TO COMBINE REGISTRATION AND BANQUET COSTS for regular/joint members (non-student)
 - **M/S/P** (unanimous)
- MOTION TO COMBINE REGISTRATION AND BANQUET COSTS for regular student/joint student members with partial subsidy (Raise fees by \$10)
 - **M/S/P** (unanimous)
- MOTION TO COMBINE REGISTRATION AND BANQUET COSTS for faculty sponsored undergraduate members, with a total sponsored cost of \$20 for each sponsored student to include banquet.
 - **M/S/P** (unanimous)

MOTION TO APPROVE DR. JACKIE ELLER AS RECIPIENT OF 2013 DISTINGUISHED CAREER AWARD: Pres. Wright nominated Dr. Jackie Eller for this award based on her many contributions to the organization and to the discipline over many years. Award to be presented at the banquet.

- **M/S/P** (unanimous)

MOTION TO ACCEPT PROPOSED REVISIONS TO OPERATIONS AND PROCEDURES MANUAL: (presented by Interim Sec-Treas. Hill; see file previously sent to EC)

- Revisions only apply to undergraduate and graduate student competitions.
- Two add'l revisions were proposed: First, to add language that requires competition participants to attend the banquet in order to qualify for the award. Second, to remove any language that requires participants to be registered at the official conference hotel.
- Motion was amended to include these revisions.
- Note: First revision was implemented. Second revision: no language was found in the OPM regarding the hotel requirement, so Interim Sec-Treas. Hill recommends that the VPs remove this language from the competition advertisement flyers. (see revised file sent to EC)
- **M/S/P** (unanimous)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REPORTS

President-Elect's Report (Pres. Elect Gongaware presented; see report previously emailed to EC):

- A/V costs included in projected budget, but we need to supply projectors
- Suggestion to draw on existing MSSA members for plenary speaker to save costs
- Kim Brackett, liaison for AKD, still working on plans for the AKD pre-conference
- September 20 was established for the MSSA conference pre-registration deadline
- Past Pres. Konty reiterated the need for us to be able to accept credit card payments. Pres. Wright agreed to look into it with Wells Fargo.
- There will be no presidential address during this year's banquet; presidential address will be scheduled separately. The banquet will include awards and will be followed by the business meeting.
- Pres. Elect Gongaware is asking for suggestions for businesses to approach to solicit advertising space in the program
 - o *The report was accepted*

Vice President-Elect's Report (Pres. Elect Gongaware presented for VP Elect Epstein, who was not present; will send report to Interim Sec-Treas. Hill):

- Undergraduate student competition flyers to go out the first week of March
- VP Elect Epstein is exploring AKD funding and support options
 - o *The report was accepted*

Vice President's Report (VP Miller presented orally; will send report to Interim Sec-Treas. Hill):

- Wants to standardize award certificates using official logo
- Wants sec-treas. to have award certificates ready for award winners at fall conf.
 - o *The report was accepted*

Spectrum Editors' Report (Co-Editor Hinote presented; see report previously emailed to EC):

- Drew EC's attention to the year 2007, when Spectrum did especially well in terms of percentile ranking amongst sociology journals; asked for input on why this was. Suggestions included the special issue on Katrina and disasters in the south; suggestions to do more special issues of broad interest.
- Asks for assistance compiling list of potential reviewers and their specialties; no such list was provided from previous editors.
- One goal is to provide timely reviewing service, which will help boost the reputation of the journal.
- Another goal is to improve attendance at the Spectrum Board meeting in the fall. Suggestions included setting the expectations that editorial board members attend; and providing specific tasks to accomplish during the meeting.
 - o *The report was accepted*

Webmaster and Forum Editor's report (Dr. Deshotels presented; see report previously emailed to EC):

- Do we want EC reports to be uploaded with links to the MSSA site? EC answered affirmative, with the caveat that uploaded reports be approved (and revised, if applicable) by the EC prior to posting.
- The Sec-Treas. will be responsible for sending all applicable reports to the Webmaster.
 - o *The report was accepted*

Committee on Membership: No report

Stanford Lyman Scholarship Committee Report (Dr. Knottnerus, chair, presented: see report previously emailed to EC):

- Discussion on standardizing submission date for all awards. After discussion, it was decided to make July 31 the deadline for all award submissions.
- David will add names of the committee members after the meeting and send the revised report to the sec-treas.
 - o *The report was accepted*

Budget Committee report (Past Pres. Konty, chair, presented orally):

- The goal is for meeting revenues to cover costs, which has not been the case in recent years.
- Need to hold the budget committee meeting *before* the first EC meeting (on Wednesday).
 - o *The report was accepted*

Committee on Minorities (Dr. Calhoun, chair, presented: see report previously emailed to EC):

- The goal is for meeting revenues to cover costs, which has not been the case in recent years.
- Need to hold the budget committee meeting *before* the first EC meeting (on Wednesday).
 - o *The report was accepted*

Committee on Nominations (Dr. Deshotels presented for Dr. Carr, who was not present; see report previously emailed to EC):

- Biggest issue is lack of nominees for President-Elect. Detailed discussion ensued, with the suggestion that the current President serve two years, if approved by vote of the membership. This would also entail the Past President and current President-Elect serve two years. Also, it would provide stability and continuity during a difficult transitional period for the organization.
- Members of the EC examined the MSSA constitution and OPM, and determined that if notice were sent out to the membership that they would be voting on the above 60 days prior to the actual elections, that would suffice procedurally.
- Pres. Wright agreed to co-organize the 2014 meetings with Pres. Elect Gongaware. Past Pres. Konty also offered to assist.
- This voting issue will be placed at the top of the election ballot.
- Dr. Deshotels will update Dr. Carr on these matters.
 - o *The report was accepted*
 - o MOTION TO PROPOSE RETAINING CURRENT PRESIDENT, PRESIDENT-ELECT AND PAST PRESIDENT IN THEIR CURRENT POSITIONS to the membership 60 days prior to the elections followed by including this proposal on the ballots:
 - **M/S/P** (unanimous)

Committee on the Profession (Dr. Eller, chair, presented orally):

- Dr. Eller stated that she wanted to consult the EC before creating a report, to determine what issues need to be addressed. She further stated that she was waiting to solicit committee members until she received more information about the nature of the issues that need attention.

- She proposes a session on general mentoring be included in the program, with the further addition of specifically focused workshops on mentoring women and minorities. Dr. Calhoun agreed to help organize.
- Discussion ensued regarding updating the MSSA ethics policies, in light of recent events. VP Miller pointed out that MSSA could be held liable for ethics violations, so we need to revise our policies to establish clearer procedures in the event of a complaint. These proposed revisions should come from the members of the committee on the profession to the EC.
 - o *The report was accepted*

Committee on Small and Community Colleges (Pres. Elect Gongaware presented for Dr. Norris, chair, not present; see report previously emailed to EC):

- Agreement among the EC that the Larry Hall award should be pursued and criteria clarified.
 - o *The report was accepted*

Committee on Women (Dr. Deshotels presented for Dr. Ross, chair, not present; will forward report to Sec-treas.):

- o *The report was accepted*

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION TO PAY BILL FOR CURRENT MID-YEAR MEETINGS' EXPENSES (\$606.01 - \$250 credit = \$356.01 outstanding):

- **M/S/P** (unanimous)

Pres. Wright informed the EC that Dr. Eduardo Bonilla-Silva (2012 plenary speaker) generously donated \$2k to MSSA, for the purpose of establishing a travel fund for undergraduate students to attend the conference.

Pres. Wright initiated discussion regarding the possibility of publishing edited readers that incorporate best papers from MSSA conferences focusing on the conference theme. This would draw additional positive scholarly attention to the organization and perhaps bring in additional revenue from sales. This would also benefit both Jr. and Sr. scholars who are MSSA members.

Meeting adjourned at 1:45pm.