



MID-SOUTH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Executive Council Midwinter Meetings
Saturday, February 15, 2014, 8:30am
Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel, Mobile, AL

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Present:	Tim Gongaware	President-Elect
	Ruth Chanie	Secretary-Treasurer
	Shelly McGrath	Vice President-Elect
	Jackie Eller	Chair, Committee on the Profession
	Claire Norris	Chair, Committee on Small & Community Colleges
	Dennis Peck	Hotel Negotiator
	Theresa Davidson	Chair, Committee on Membership
	Meredith Dye	Chair, Committee on Nominations
	Marc Matre	MSSA Archivist
	Sahadeo Patram	Former MSSA Secretary-Treasurer
	David Torrence	Presenter, Torrence Business Consulting

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order by President Tim Gongaware at 8:34am. **Since we did not have a voting quorum (only 7 out of 15 voting members present), President Gongaware will submit each motion for a vote by email to the entire Council at a later date.**

MOTION to accept Minutes from Fall Meetings 10-23-13 as is.

MOTION to accept Minutes from Fall Meetings 10-26-13 with one change:

- Ruth added that she needs to remove an extra report from the Lyman Scholarship Committee that she accidentally included in the fall minutes reports. The extra report actually belongs with these current minutes. This was approved.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REPORTS

President's Report: (President Tim Gongaware presented, also see attached report)

- Tim presented the progress toward implementing online registration. After discussion, the EC agreed that although there is an extra expense, it should be well worth it in terms of increasing memberships and registrations. We will be able to accept credit and debit cards, which is a huge plus for many. Also, the person who is building and managing our online registration has experience doing same for other sociology orgs. For these reasons, and after discussion with the EC members who were present, we decided to go with Brad Smith

of Meeting Saavy, which coordinates with Wells Fargo for money processing (see Tim's report).

- We discussed how to deal with on-site registrations. As long as the sec-treasurer has access to internet at the registration table, we can register them on the spot, or they can fill out a paper form, and we can register them later.
- Tim pointed out that we must submit a quarterly report to the online agency, or a penalty of \$25 per month will need to be paid. It will be the responsibility of the secretary-treasurer to do this.
- The race and gender categories will be updated on the new form to reflect more currently accepted choices. Vivian Carter will be asked to consult with members of the Committee on Minorities and send the results to Ruth and Tim. Katie Worman-Ross will be asked to consult with members of the Committee on Women and have the resulting categories sent to Ruth and Tim.
- The EC also discussed the new proposed membership and registration fees (see Tim's report). It was agreed that the banquet should be included with the registration fees, even for students. This would make it easier for them to be reimbursed as well as make things simpler for us in terms of recordkeeping.
- Suggested meeting registration fee changes for students are as follows:
 - o \$50 for graduate students (including banquet)
 - o \$40 for undergraduate students (including banquet)
- *The report was accepted*

Secretary-Treasurer's Report: (Sec-Treas. Ruth Chanie presented, see attached report)

- MSSA made money from the 2013 fall meetings (see Ruth's report), which is helping to offset some of the recent losses. The committee thanked Tim for all his hard work in raising funds for the Atlanta meetings.
- Ruth will send out updated 2014 budget as soon as numbers are in.
- Jackie will ask Brian for updated copy of Spectrum contract in order to keep better track of expenses and payments.
 - o *The report was accepted*

President-Elect/Program Chair's Report: (President-Elect Anita Bledsoe-Gardner not present, see attached report)

- Anita's flight was cancelled due to winter weather, so she could not be present at the meeting. Anita will arrange to visit the hotel site at a later date.
- Anita wanted the EC to discuss two items: institutional memberships and corporate sponsorships.
 - o Re: Institutional memberships – council agreed it was a possibility to look in to, as long as it is not exclusionary. For example, while specifically pursuing memberships from for-profit universities was discouraged, excluding them if they wish to become members was also discouraged. Further discussion was tabled.
 - o Re: Corporate sponsorships – discussion revolved around the pros and cons of involving corporations in MSSA's funding. General consensus was negative – council is not comfortable with non-academic advertisements in MSSA's program, but handouts in conference materials (especially from local businesses) is acceptable
 - o The general theme of both discussions was centered on how to expand membership while holding true to our mission, traditions, and integrity.
- *The report was accepted*

Vice President's Report: (Vice-President Jon Epstein not present, no report)

Vice President-Elect's Report: (Vice President-Elect Shelly McGrath presented, see attached report)

- Shelly asked the council for some suggestions on how to find judges for the undergrad paper competition – other than those whose students will be submitting papers. The EC provided her with some suggestions.
 - o *The report was accepted*

Past President's Report: (Past President Earl Wright II not present, see attached report)

- Earl, Tim and Ruth are working to complete a 501c3 application to renew/obtain a tax exemption status for MSSA. Once that is completed and approved, Earl will pursue finding liability insurance for the organization.
 - o *The report was accepted*

Committee on Nominations: (Meredith Dye presented, see attached report)

- Meredith updated the council that a few more nominees had confirmed (see update in her report). She also has a committee in place. Kim Davies will continue to facilitate the online voting site.
- All positions have nominees, and soliciting nominations at the banquet is a very good idea and she recommends that we continue that practice.
 - o *The report was accepted*

Committee on the Profession Report: (Jackie Eller presented, see attached report)

- Jackie summarized her report, emphasizing the need to revise/renew COPE (Committee on Professional Ethics), and to clarify the duties of the Chair of the Committee on the Profession. See her report for a draft of changes to the Operations and Procedures Manual.
- Jackie asked if we want to include anything in COPE regarding the publishing/working relationships between professors and students. She suggested that providing links to resources rather than specifically worded guidance would be best. Council agreed.
- We need to make COPE more visible to MSSA members. Should be in Forum? On the website?
- Jackie asked for feedback from council members on her proposed changes (see report).
- It was discussed and agreed that any reports of ethical misconduct should go first to COPE and then to the MSSA President.
 - o *The report was accepted*

Committee on Women Report: (Katie Worman-Ross not present, no report)

- Tim commented that a committee name changes is a bylaw (constitution) change and therefore needs a full membership vote, but that changes to the mission statement is not a bylaw change (see previous fall report) and can be approved by the EC.

Committee on Minorities: (Vivian Carter not present, see report)

- o *The report was accepted*

Committee on Small & Community Colleges: (Claire Norris presented, see attached report)

- Goal is to increase small and community college involvement in MSSA by 25%.
- Tim will send his list of colleges & universities to Claire to help her expand her listserv.

- Claire and Theresa will set up a MSSA Twitter account. The EC was educated that on Twitter, posts are called “Tweets” and not “Tweeters” or “Twittering.” ☺
- Jackie reported that the state of Tennessee is planning to offer free tuition to all community college students. She suggested that a session be organized to address the implications/impact of that at the fall meetings.
 - o *The report was accepted*

Committee on Membership: (Theresa Davidson presented, see attached report)

- Theresa created timeline with goals (see report).
- Theresa emphasized the importance of outgoing committee chairs to pass along information and files to incoming committee chairs so we don’t have to keep reinventing the wheel.
- Would like names of former members and others to use for recruitment back into the org. Tim will revisit the idea of MSSA paying extra for an online database as part of the online registration system.
 - o *The report was accepted*

Guest Presentation: (David Torrence, CEO of Torrence Business Enterprises presented, see “TBC Project” attached with Midwinter meeting agenda)

- David presented his proposal including a question & answer period.
- After discussion, the executive council agreed that to try out his proposed relationship with MSSA couldn’t hurt, won’t cost us anything, and might be beneficial, especially to certain of the membership.
- EC members agreed that this cooperative relationship could be a way for sociologists to help corporate America treat their employees better, ideally anyway. Could be a good outlet for applied work, peer reviewed research, opinion essays, etc.
- If we approve, there needs to be a letter from the President of MSSA laying out the plan, which is essentially periodic calls for submissions to an online blog.

Spectrum Editors’ Report (Brian Hinote not present, see attached report)

- o *The report was accepted*

Webmaster and Forum Editor’s report (Tina Deshotels not present, see attached report)

- o *The report was accepted*

Stanford Lyman Distinguished Book Award Report (David LoConto not present, see attached report)

- Tim is going to ask David when he plans to send out a call for book submissions, and what the deadline is for submission.
 - o *The report was accepted*

Stanford Lyman Scholarship Committee Report (David Knottnerus not present, see attached report)

- o *The report was accepted*

Break for Hotel Tour and Lunch. Reconvened at 1pm.

NEW BUSINESS:

Local Arrangements Committee (Marc Matre presented)

- Marc reported that there are 8 people on the local arrangements committee.
- The Renaissance will charge for internet access in meeting rooms – so we will need to decide when/where we want such group access.
- Internet access will be provided for the registration table.
- Will provide student workers for peak times at registration table to help secretary-treasurer. Ruth will provide a schedule of when the table will be open.
- Marc would like to have a good idea about meeting space/room requirements by August in order to coordinate with the hotel event planner.

Hotel Negotiator (Dennis Peck presented)

- Dennis summarized the various hotel proposals (see file with hotel proposals that was emailed to council members). He also emphasized the need to move ahead with securing contracts five years ahead, or to 2019 for now.
- After a lengthy discussion, the EC narrowed the selections for 2016 to two cities: Chattanooga, TN and North Charleston, SC. Of the three Chattanooga proposals, the council chose The Chattanooga.
- **MOTION** by Shelly McGrath to approve North Charleston, SC, Embassy Suites, as the meeting location for MSSA for 2016. Dennis Peck can go ahead to sign the contract, provided that when he visits the site in person that he finds nothing that would be problematic.
- **MOTION** by Jackie Eller that if Dennis Peck does find something wrong with The Embassy Suites in North Charleston, he can sign a contract with The Chattanooga in Chattanooga, TN for 2016.
- **MOTION** by Jackie Eller to approve The Chattanooga (Chattanooga, TN) meeting location for the 2017 Annual Meeting

Approval of 2014 MSSA Budget (tabled)

- Need to update the numbers for the 2014 conference (Anita). Once the budget has been revised and completed, the EC will do a discussion/vote to approve the budget via email.
- After discussion, EC agreed that it would be wise to include up to \$2000 annual travel funding for the secretary-treasurer, to be used only if needed. This would apply to the midwinter and fall meetings.

Online Membership and Conference Registration and New Categories for 2014 (Tim)

- **MOTION** by Tim Gongaware for approval to continue setting up an online system for collecting membership and conference information/fees.
- **MOTION** by Jackie Eller to accept Tim Gongaware's proposed changes to the conference registration categories and fees. **Friendly Amendment** by Claire Norris to increase student registration fees to \$40 for early registration, \$50 late registration or on site. Graduate students would pay \$50 for early registration, \$70 late registration or on site (all fees include banquet). Further, undergraduate students can either be sponsored by a faculty member (and therefore not have to pay membership dues), or they can choose to be members and pay student membership dues in addition to registration.

1. From:

- a. Regular Member: \$95 preregistration, \$120 late registration or on site

- b. Non-Academic: \$60 preregistration, \$85 late registration or on site
 - c. Student: \$35 preregistration, \$40 late registration or on site
 - d. Sponsored Undergraduates: \$20 preregistration, late and on site
2. **To:**
- a. Active Member: \$95 preregistration, \$120 late registration or on site
 - b. Non-member: \$120 preregistration, \$145 late registration or on site
 - c. Graduate Student: \$50 preregistration, \$70 late registration or on site
 - d. Undergraduate Student: \$40 preregistration, \$50 late registration or on site

Change to MSSA Constitution (Tim)

- **MOTION** by Tim Gongaware to propose to the membership constitutional changes regarding the description of joint member as follows:
 1. **From:** Article III. Section 8: To be eligible for Joint Membership, an applicant must be the spouse of an Active member or a Student member and must be eligible for Active membership or Student membership.
 2. **To:** Article III. Section 8: To be eligible for Joint Membership, an applicant must be the spouse or domestic partner of an Active member or a Student member and must be eligible for Active membership or Student membership.
- If approved, this would go to the membership for a vote when we do officer elections.

Changes to Committee on the Profession and Committee on Professional Ethics (COPE) (Jackie)

- **MOTION** by Jackie Eller to approve proposed changes to the OPM regarding the duties of the Chair of The Committee on the Profession as follows:
 1. **From:**
 - a. 1. The principal goal of the Committee is to contribute to the enhancement of the profession through identification of issues and interests of concern to the MSSA membership. The Chair, in consultation with Committee members, is to select an agenda of activities for the year.
 - b. 2. It is the Chair's responsibility to select Committee members, trying to achieve adequate representation of the MSSA membership. This is to include one member from each MSSA member state, where membership in these states makes it possible. No less than a majority of states shall be represented.
 - c. 3. The Chair shall organize an employment exchange and a graduate student recruitment center at each Annual Meeting.
 - d. 4. Concerns of the Committee should be chosen on the basis of:
 - i. Work done by previous committees.
 - ii. Directives of the Executive Council with respect to matters of concern to the MSSA.
 - iii. Issues emerging in the profession.
 2. **To:**
 - a. 1. [No changes]
 - b. 2. It is the Chair's responsibility to select Committee members who are also current members of MSSA, trying to achieve adequate representation of the MSSA membership while also maintaining a workable committee. This is to include no more than one member from any MSSA member state of which there are currently 13. MSSA members from non-member states are eligible for selection but the committee membership shall be a majority from member states. The committee shall be no less than five members in addition to the Chair.

- c. 3. The Chair shall work with the Editor of Forum to maintain an online employment exchange, work with the book exhibit organizer to create a book display at the Annual Meeting, and a graduate student information center at each Annual Meeting.
- d. 4. The Chair shall work with the current Program Director to establish at least one session/workshop that deals with current issues in the profession.
- e. 5. In conjunction with the website manager, the committee shall maintain oversight of relevant links to current professional/ethical dialogues, such as links that provide guidance for professor/student publishing guidelines.
- f. 6. [No changes to #4 above.]
- g. 7. The Chair presides over and is responsible for member selection of the Committee on Professional Ethics, a separate but related committee (see responsibility of this ethics committee).

ii. Adjustments to Committee on Professional Ethics (COPE)

- 1. **Motion** by Jackie Eller to approve recommendation of officers from the current Committee on Profession to serve on COPE
 - a. 2013-14 – Dennis Peck (Co-chair), Carol Thompson, Kim Davies, Earl Wright, and Jackie Eller (Chair)
 - b. 2014-15 – Dennis Peck (perhaps remaining as Co-chair), Carol Thompson, Amy Chasteen-Miller, Lin Huff-Corzine, and new Chair of Cmt. on Professions (CP)
 - c. 2015-2016 – Amy Chasteen-Miller, Lin Huff-Corzine, two newly appointed members, current presiding CP

Changes to OPM Regarding Membership Committee (Theresa)

- Theresa is going to work on her changes further and present them at the fall EC meetings.

There was no further old or new business. Meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.



MID-SOUTH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Executive Council
March 5-12, 2014
Email votes on Motions made at 2014 Midwinter Meeting

President Gongaware sent the following motions via email to the executive council members to vote on in order to achieve a quorum:

1. Previous Meeting Minutes

a. MOTION to accept Minutes from Fall Meetings 10-23-13 as is.

- M/S/P

b. MOTION to accept Minutes from Fall Meetings 10-26-13 with one change:

- Ruth added that she needs to remove an extra report from the Lyman Scholarship Committee that she accidentally included in the fall minutes reports. The extra report actually belongs with these current minutes. This was approved.
 - M/S/P

2. New Business

a. Online Membership and Conference Registration

i. MOTION by Tim Gongaware for approval to continue setting up an online system for collecting membership and conference information/fees.

- M/S/P

b. 2014 Conference Registration Categories and Fees

i. MOTION by Jackie Eller to accept Tim Gongaware's proposed changes to the conference registration categories and fees. **Friendly Amendment** by Claire Norris to increase student registration fees to \$40 for early registration, \$50 late registration or on site. Graduate students would pay \$50 for early registration, \$70 late registration or on site (all fees include banquet). Further, undergraduate students can either be sponsored by a faculty member (and therefore not have to pay membership dues), or they can choose to be members and pay student membership dues in addition to registration.

3. From:

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- b. Non-Academic: \$60 preregistration, \$85 late registration or on site
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4. To:

- a. Active Member: \$95 preregistration, \$120 late registration or on site

- b. Non-member: \$120 preregistration, \$145 late registration or on site
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c. Changes to the MSSA Constitution

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 - 3. **From:** Article III. Section 8: To be eligible for Joint Membership, an applicant must be the spouse of an Active member or a Student member and must be eligible for Active membership or Student membership.
 - 4. **To:** Article III. Section 8: To be eligible for Joint Membership, an applicant must be the spouse or domestic partner of an Active member or a Student member and must be eligible for Active membership or Student membership.
 - If approved, this would go to the membership for a vote when we do officer elections.
 - M/S/P

d. Changes to Committee on the Profession and Committee on Professional Ethics (COPE)

- i. **MOTION** by Jackie Eller to approve proposed changes to the OPM regarding the duties of the Chair of The Committee on the Profession as follows:
 - 2. **From:**
 - a. 1. The principal goal of the Committee is to contribute to the enhancement of the profession through identification of issues and interests of concern to the MSSA membership. The Chair, in consultation with Committee members, is to select an agenda of activities for the year.
 - b. 2. It is the Chair's responsibility to select Committee members, trying to achieve adequate representation of the MSSA membership. This is to include one member from each MSSA member state, where membership in these states makes it possible. No less than a majority of states shall be represented.
 - c. 3. The Chair shall organize an employment exchange and a graduate student recruitment center at each Annual Meeting.
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 - i. Work done by previous committees.
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 - iii. Issues emerging in the profession.
 - 2. **To:**
 - h. 1. [No changes]
 - i. 2. It is the Chair's responsibility to select Committee members who are also current members of MSSA, trying to achieve adequate representation of the MSSA membership while also maintaining a workable committee. This is to include no more than one member from any MSSA member state of which there are currently 13. MSSA members from non-member states are eligible for selection but the committee membership shall be a majority from member states. The committee shall be no less than five members in addition to the Chair.

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- m. 6. [No changes to #4 above.]
- n. 7. The Chair presides over and is responsible for member selection of the Committee on Professional Ethics, a separate but related committee (see responsibility of this ethics committee).
 - a. M/S/P

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- 1. **Motion** by Jackie Eller to approve recommendation of officers from the current Committee on Profession to serve on COPE
 - d. 2013-14 – Dennis Peck (Co-chair), Carol Thompson, Kim Davies, Earl Wright, and Jackie Eller (Chair)
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 - f. 2015-2016 – Amy Chasteen-Miller, Lin Huff-Corzine, two newly appointed members, current presiding CP
 - a. M/S/P

MSSA Site Selection (separate email)

1a. MOTION by Shelly McGrath to approve North Charleston, SC, Embassy Suites, as the meeting location for MSSA for 2016. Dennis Peck can go ahead to sign the contract, provided that when he visits the site in person that he finds nothing that would be problematic.

b. M/S/P

1b. MOTION by Jackie Eller that if Dennis Peck does find something wrong with The Embassy Suites in North Charleston, he can sign a contract with The Chattanooga in Chattanooga, TN for 2016.

c. M/S/P

2a. MOTION by Jackie Eller to approve The Chattanooga (Chattanooga, TN) meeting location for the 2017 Annual Meeting

d. M/S/P

End of minutes.