

**Minutes from the
Executive Council Meeting
September 14-15, 2007, Denver, Colorado**

Rick Adkisson <radkisso@nmsu.edu>

Present:

Rick Adkisson, Larry Gould, Diane Calloway-Graham, Doreen Barrie, Vic Heller, Tom Isern, Mary Brentwood, Gary Linn, Jeff Corntassel, Gilbert Fowler, Cynthia Klima, Leila J. Pratt, Irasema Caronado, Phadrea Ponds, Prabha Unnithan, Kate Herke, Jack W. Hou (Rich Greene, Saturday)

Absent:

All Present.

Friday Morning, September 14, 2007

Rick called meeting to order.

As tradition, went around the table and each member introduced him/herself. Rick extended welcome to the new Council members. Circulated minutes from the Council meeting in Calgary. Phadrea motioned to accept minutes, Gil seconded. Mary requested time to read the minutes. Rick postponed vote till after lunch

Report on the Calgary Conference (Doreen):

I got a lot of good feedback from Calgary, from the people that attended the conference that were from the University. I think what it demonstrates is that we benefited from having someone on the committee that is affiliated with the local university. I looked through the program and found at least 75 to 100 people who either presented papers or just registered for the conference. I think this is very good. There were questions about no-shows and whole panels that were canceled. I think maybe we need to tighten up on that. I know we have talked about that in the past. But people who repeatedly don't show up when they are in the program, need to be dealt with.

Larry suggested getting info of the paper presenters that have not pre-registered to the Section Coordinators. But since many register on-site, we do not want to be too heavy-handed on this. The Section Coordinators can help identify the repeat offenders. If we do this, we have to be careful as we do not want to offend people. In the past, I have written to Deans and Chairs that a certain person did not show and hence this should not appear on their resume. But I only did that after they had not shown up for a couple of years.

Gil suggested creating a list of no-shows so it will be easier to track the repeat offenders over the years.

Diane suggests that Section Coordinators state in the "acceptance" letter that you must pre-register, or you will be removed from the program.

Phadrea: That means the cut-off of pre-registration must be before the program goes to the printer. Maybe it's a matter of making the section Coordinator more responsible in getting the people in there sections to pre-register. I know I will be sending letters to remind the Section Coordinators to stress this point to the presenters in their Sections.

Rick pointed out for Calgary; visa/passport was an issue. Diane opposes penalizing the Section Coordinators as they are all volunteers.

Larry: Phadrea mentioned earlier about getting a list of authors, I can then compare with my master list of those that have pre-registered. Those that are missing, we can then inform the Section Coordinators. I don't think the system is so broken that we need to work on it that much, but I do feel Phadrea and I need to report back on what needs to be done.

There were discussions on "strategies" that may reduce such behavior, such as pay fees when submitting papers for conference presentation. Diane reminded the Council that we are talking about 19 people here, and let's not get overboard. Rick concluded by asking Phadrea to ask Section Coordinators to do a better job tracking presenters in their Section and to remind them they need to pre-register. And ask Phadrea and Larry to report back to the Council on methods of tracking.

Larry: The Calgary meeting was probably the best we've ever had, and many thanks go to Doreen. In addition, both the Canadian government and the University of Calgary stepped up, otherwise we would have been in quite a bit of trouble. I believe that the next time around attendance will be much better. The cost is higher, but we should, and need to, go back to Calgary.

Doreen raises the need to create a global directory. Larry indicated can be captured in credit card process. We weren't prepared this time, but we have an idea of how to do this now and it should not be too much of a problem.

Diane: Phadrea should present a plaque to thank the Canadian government for their support and present it at the reception in Denver.

Membership:

Larry: Membership grew. Picked many Canadians and people from the east Coast rose more, we also picked up more students. The problem we've had with students is keeping in contact with them. Actually our biggest problem is Department addresses, as we get a lot of returned mail sent to Departments.

All in all, membership is good, our problem is retaining members. A lot of our members are dying. Retaining new members is one of our main weaknesses. When a new member joins, I send them a letter welcoming them, but I don't think it's enough. Maybe we need to get the President to send a letter of welcome.

Leila: Section Coordinator should introduce him/herself at the conference and welcome the new members. Making the young faculty feel comfortable and knowing that they have a contact in their field will more likely get them to continue to come back.

Phadrea: How many new members did we pick up?

Kate: About 100 (Larry: usually on 35 in the past).

Discussion on how to recognize New Members and also to recognize old members; mostly about identifying on name tags.

Mary suggested a get-together of new members and Section Coordinators. Diane suggested a “new member orientation” 30 minutes before the welcoming reception, where someone can introduce the WSSA to the New Members, and the Section Coordinators can come and introduce themselves to the new members.

Tom: seems to point towards a, pardon the terminology, customer tagging system. We can do well with a good customer management software. Also, if I were new member, I would not like to have a tag that identifies me as one. How about something more concrete like buy a new member an extra drink.

Rick: For this year, if Larry gives me the list of Calgary new members, I will write them and welcome them back to Denver. We can also think about somewhere later on in the program to appropriately recognize and welcome the members. Do we have specific numbers of members? 500?

Larry: It's a bit more than that. We have 612 total members, and mailed to some other people that are registered for the conference but are not members. From the archives, our membership has held steady at 500-700 for a long period of time. In the 70s it was over a thousand, but during that period of time fewer people came to the conference. The Journal was the focus of the membership, not the conference. People were joining as members to get the price break for the Journal.

Financial Affairs Committee Report: Jack

Couple of years ago, after the incident with the Borderland Studies, the Council voted to establish the FAC and monitor the financial transaction of the Association. At the Fall 2006 Council Meeting, the Financial Affairs Committee recommended that the Executive Director provide a monthly financial statement (in a streamlined Excel file) to the designated Financial Monitor. This was approved by the Council and has been in practice for close to a year.

However, the implementation has not been perfect. For example, the Executive Director's financial report to the Council was supposed to be sent to the Financial Monitor two weeks before the Spring Council meeting, to allow time for the Financial Affairs Committee to examine the report. This was not implemented, and the monthly reports have been often delayed.

In light of these and other developments, the Committee recommends the following:

1. The monthly reports are due on the 15th of the following month, with the exception of the April and May reports as they may account for the bulk of our yearly transactions, and entail amendments related to Hotel bills.
2. The Executive Director's Annual Financial Report to the Council should adhere to the original resolution and be sent to the Financial Monitor two weeks in advance (even if it is a draft rather than a final form).
3. All deposits should identify a source of the payment (where did the money come from) and whether it is a one-time payment or a recurring payment.

4. Descriptions of reimbursements (especially to the Executive Director) should be more detailed, so as to be informative to the Financial Affairs Committee. For example, there two reimbursements of equal amount and identical description, one in the June report and the other in the July report.
5. In light of the improved financial situation of the Association -- largely due to the new contract of the SSJ (thanks to Jim again; and Diane), it is the Committee's opinion that the Council consider a more formal accounting practice; e.g. a review (rather than an audit) every 3 or 5 years.

A review would cost about \$3,500 and an audit will be more expensive at \$5,000. We recommend the Council consider setting up a practice to implement periodic review as a protection for all concerned.

Rick: We, AFFIT, had a near miss also, so we need to think about this. Larry, is this workable?

Larry: I think this is a no brainer. Everything here should be done. We just have to figure out how to do it. I am not happy with how the software is setup. Quicken is flexible but not intuitive.

Kate: March is not a problem, but April/May is a problem, as the hotel bill is always amended. For example, there were 12 separate bills from the Hyatt and each were different, and we need to call them and communicate changes.

Larry: As for the audit or review, it is also good for preparation of IRS inquiry on our meeting the non-profit status. It is vital we keep our 501 status; it provides us with many huge price breaks. I propose to have a motion on these 5 points so we have them as a record and for us to follow, not just as a recommendation but a mandate from the whole Council.

Diane: Committees come and go. We need to have a description of what the FAC does and how it has interacted with Larry and Kate, so when someone else comes along (that is not an economist) will know what's going on.

Leila: Maybe I'm putting words in your mouth, but you seem to be suggesting that we create a folder to document the activities and pass it along to the next committee, like a WORD file or something.

Diane: Exactly.

Rick: Is it possible to add a description on the role of the FAC so we can pass it down. It is the continuity that we are looking for.

Doreen: We need every standing committee to have such a file to pass down so as to maintain institution memory. We need to formalize these, like a "job description" for all the committees.

Rick: How about we pass the 5 points, and have the FAC come up with a reporting system and description of the function of the committee by the Spring Council Meeting? I need a motion.

Gil motioned, Gary seconded. Motion carries.

Special Events Report: Diane/Larry

Three main: **Honor Past Presidents, Booklet, and Display.**

Write and invite past Presidents to attend. Perhaps have a head table at the Presidential luncheon or Plenary luncheon to introduce and honor these past Presidents. Many of the past Presidents have passed away, and their contribution will only stay alive if we remember them.

In the Booklet we will showcase the contributions of the Past Presidents, but also outline the evolution of the Council, the Journal, and the Association in general.

Display will be in the Book Exhibit area. It will include the cover of every issue (if possible) of the Journal, certainly the cover of every conference program. We will also display various old documents that trace our origin, name change, and showcase how we described ourselves to the rest of the world.

The Presidential luncheon and the Plenary luncheon will be something special. We could have a Past president Reception. We are also looking into making good name tags for past presidents so they can take it home with them. We did that before and they really liked it.

Need some thoughts from everyone, whether we are doing too much or whether we forgot something/someone.

Diane: Should we ask many of the affiliated associations whether they want to have a display of their own to show their historical association with the WSSA?

Gil: Have someone that is conversational to speak 5-8 minutes introducing the Association before we kick-off the 50th Anniversary celebration. For example, have Larry dressed in the appropriate “past” attire, like something from the 50s, so people can get a laugh and identify with the historical significance.

Mary: Booklet includes a lot of past stuff, which is what we need to do, but shouldn't it be a chronology from past to now. We started in the Rockies and just had this wonderful conference in Canada. We should include how we got from there to here.

Larry: There is this map that I would like to include in the booklet.

Doreen: We can have Larry represent the past, and like New Years, have someone – like the President, represent the “now”. In addition to the booklet/display, perhaps also have visual loop.

Larry: Yes, we are doing a PowerPoint loop to show at various locations throughout the conference.

Vic: Another way to showcase our history and to make it interactive is to have a 50-60 foot butcher paper on the wall at the reception, with the timeline already drawn and major historical dates listed. People can look at it and even add events they remember. Maybe two papers. Or one with above portion for Association history and lower portion for personal memory. This allows people to feel ownership and also individual interaction.

Diane proposed a trivial pursuit type of questions in the booklet, and prizes for those that answer it correctly.

Gary: Review past is important, but need to make a statement of the future.

Others: Sort of Past, Present, and Future theme of the booklet.

Rick: I am still working on my Presidential address. I am torn between a more serious academic talk and a lighter address on past/present of the association. What do you think?

Well, thanks to Larry and Diane.

Future Sites: Larry

We will be in Albuquerque in 2009, then Reno, and 2011 we will be in Salt lake City. For 2012 and 2013, Houston and Calgary are high on the list. What we need to look out for is Easter weekend. My recommendation is to go to Houston in 2012 ,because of customs. Clearing customs on Easter weekend is a problem. If we do Calgary in 2013, we won't have to worry about Easter weekend at all (it will be on March 31). Vancouver is too expensive. I keep getting inquiries from Pasedensa, California, but they want us to use the convention center. Long beach is pricey and they do not have a big enough hotel that can handle us. I've looked at other places in Los Angeles, but keep getting turned down. San Diego, I found Town and Country to be a wonderful experience, but they do not return my calls. I don't know what their problem is. Downtown, the sites are either too expensive, too big, or too small. Beyond 2013, I am looking at Portland, Sacramento. Seattle is a bit expensive, so is Dallas/For Worth. Kansas City is a disaster. Oklahoma City won't come down from charging us for break-out rooms. Denver holds possibilities.

Vic: What cities lend themselves in building our membership?

Larry: With the universities in the area, Denver, Houston and southern California.

Phadrea: What about New Orleans?

Larry: Wrong side of the River.

Phadrea: Where in Reno?

Larry: It used to be the Hilton, now it's something else.

Rick: back to Houston. If no one objects, let us authorize Larry to pursue 2012 Houston.

Larry: Okay, I'll go that and talk to the Hyatt for Calgary in 2013. If I get a good rate from Houston, I'll commit to it, but not to Calgary as it is still some times away.

Nominating Committee: Cynthia, Gil, and Jack excused themselves
Doreen Barrie (Chair), Conrad Moore, and John Henry (Committee members)

President-Elect: Jack W. Hou, California State university, long beach

Vice president: Cythnia Klima, SUNY-Geneseo
Gilbert Fowler, Arkansas State University

Rick: I need a motion to vote on this slate.

Tom motioned, Mary seconded. Motion carried.

Executive Council:

Chris Brown, New Mexico State University
Jaime Eyrich, University of Arizona (PhD Candidate)
Peter J. Jacques, University of Central Florida
Douglas Nord, Wright State University
Elizabeth (Bestsy) Rankin, centenary College of Louisiana
Barbara Wiens-Tuers, Penn State-Altoona

Larry: I need electronic files for the ballot, so please get the bio and related material to me as soon as possible.

Rick: I need a motion to vote on this slate.

Tom motioned, Leila seconded. Motion carried.

Contract Renewal of the SSJ Editor:

Rick: Prabha is in his second year and will soon be into his third year. We have to decide whether to renew his editorship. Through my e-mail communication of all you, the feedback I got was all positive. There should be a formal evaluation process...

Larry: There is. But it was such a long time ago when we last did it, I just don't know or remember much of it.

Gil: I simply move that we renew his editorship for another three years, if he so desires.

Rick: He has expressed such desire, condition on his University's support.

Larry talked about Elsevier's support for the SSJ (answering Gil's question) and that the university's support is good but no longer critical.

Rick: Do I have a second. Mary seconded.

Larry also expresses his endorsement of Prabha.

Phadrea: How long do we go on renewing?

Larry: In the past, it's been 3 years and 3 years, but with a serious discussion towards the end of the 5th year. Maybe we should do it a bit earlier than this time of the year, as Prabha may decide to go onto something else, and we will need to interview new candidates for the journal editorship.

Rick: All in favor of renewing Prabha as the journal editor say aye (Motions passed)

Rick: We have a same decision to make regarding Rich's book editorship. I guess it's also a 3 year deal.

Gil: I can propose the same motion, but probably should get Prabha in here and hear about his working relationship with Rich.

Leila goes out and looks for Prabha.

Rick: The Council invites you back for a second terms. We wanted to bring you back for the decision on Rich Greens' book editor renewal. There is a motion on the floor. Second? Cindy seconded.

Prabha comments on Rich's work. Positive in terms of quality, time-frame, and responsive to discussion. Would like to see a bit more diversity on the books being reviewed.

Rick shares some of his experience in the journal he is involved in.

Prabha expresses that it's probably not a good idea to have Council members serve as book reviewers, as it may give the impression of being everything "in-house".

Cindy: We should create a list of people interested in reviewing books, so Rich can send related books to the people on the list.

Rick: Have a jar and let people drop in their card.

Discussion on how this would be a good thing for junior faculty or graduate students to do.

Rick: We haven't voted yet, but when Rich gets here tomorrow, we can tell him of the decision, and someone should tell him the ideas we came up with. Any more discussion? All in favor? Oppose? Motion carries.

Friday Afternoon, September 14, 2007

Report on SSJ Contract with Elsevier:

Larry: Elsevier has been very good in working with us, and continued (rather than a marriage proposal and then back to usual) to work with us. Providing us with many useful information, which was always available but they just did not share with us in the past. Mostly about how good our Journal is, number of subscriptions, etc. I just don't know what Geraldine's problem was; she was just not a competent person. We are dealing with a new person, and everything is wonderful.

However, Elsevier has created a very pleasant problem for us. We are talking about more money that this Association has ever had. It's mainly due to Prabha's hard work. If he did not keep the quality of the Journal at such a high standard, they would not have wanted us back so badly. Also, thanks to Jim and Diane's hard work in comparing all the offers. It was a tough call between Rutledge and Elsevier, but Elsevier has the last call to up the ante and they did.

Here is what we've got. We have a signing bonus, I feel like an NFL player with a signing bonus; the signing bonus was \$50k. That is more than we've every had on the budget. We got a royalty advance of \$40k for this year. Our royalty payment in the past has never exceeded \$1,000 or \$1,500, as they were short-changing us by no small amount. We've got a \$12k editorial support. Prabha and I have talked a little/tiny bit about this. The majority of the money will be used to bring the Editorial Board to the April meeting. We have to figure out how best to do that, probably covering hotel room stays. You'all let Prabha and I discuss this more and come back with a proposal.

There was also \$6,000 for travel. It was a decision on my part to use that to cover your rooms for this Council meeting and to cover part of my travel cost for coming here. This comes to a total of \$108k. They have sent us another \$2,000 and another \$4,000 check recently. That covers the entire signing bonus, royalties, and other monies in the signing package. It comes to a total of \$114k.

What we need to discuss is how to invest some of this. One of my dream fantasies is to put some money away and use the interest to increase the prize money for the Student Paper Competitions. I've never judged the papers, but I sure enjoyed signing the checks. I don't think we need to rush out and have huge banquets for the conference. I would like to continue to support this group as much as possible, and in a fashion that you have become used to. It is a lot of work and I know a lot of you have been paying out of your own pocket, or using up whatever limited travel expense you have to come here. I think we can continue to support this meeting, but also let us do what we used to do. We used to buy treasury bonds. I'm not sure that's the best return for our dollar, but we used to invest our money.

I need some advice in how to invest the money. We need about \$6,000 to \$7,000 in the checking account to get us through the year. Then we get a bump of \$50k or so from membership and conference fees. Those pretty much take care of themselves. Then we get another \$40k, another \$12k, and another \$6k. The only thing we don't get is the signing bonus.

Rick: The \$40k, is that regular payment?

Larry: That is the minimum they will send us every year.

There were some general grumblings about Geraldine.

Rick: What I would like to see is one conference worth of money put away in case things go bad.

Larry: Many things can go bad. What is most likely to be bad for us is when we have to pay the penalty because we have not sold out enough guest room/nights. I like to work on an 80% margin. If the hotel is not willing to do that, then they have to either lower the room rate, or give us something else. What this means is that we do not have to fill 100% of the room/nights that we signed up for, but we need to fill 80% of that. If not, we have to pay for whatever the hotels potential loss is. I usually work with them on a room-by-room rate, rather than a flat rate. What I have done in the past is to buy at the rooms at the last possible minute to avoid the penalty. We've never been penalized, but we've come close several times. The penalty would be around \$10k. So, if we have the money, we can buy up the rooms and then sell them afterwards. We've always had \$10k handy to deal with this.

The second thing that can happen to us is this, and that's why we may not be able to go back to Albuquerque. They want us to sign \$30k for catering; I told them I am willing to spend no more than \$25k. This is becoming a common trend as the markup on the catering is huge. That's something we need to keep an eye on.

I don't know what the actual numbers are any more, but we used to be obligated for 935 room/nights here. But because they asked us to move, they gave us a great deal (and I fell bad and good for being "bad"). We don't have to meet the room obligations, and they will host one of our functions. We had them nailed.

Getting back to how we should invest the money. I don't know about high finances, so I don't know where best to put the money, and just how much you'all want to put away.

Gary: For several years I was director of the VA Reserve Fund. We had similar problems. We wanted the money to grow but also safe. The Federal government required the VA to invest only in federally insured instruments. So, we used CDs that matured at different times. They can come on-line when we needed it. Not as profitable but 100% guaranteed.

Discussion on whether we should hire a Financial Advisor, and whether we have enough money to make it worthwhile. Also raised was whether we can ask the FAC to look into this and make a recommendation.

Vic: I used to be the CEO of a non-profit organization. Our bylaws require liability insurance to cover the administrators. Do we have liability insurance to cover the WSSA and the Council members?

Larry. No.

Vic, Doreen, Mary, Cindy: Let the FAC take a look at it.

Leila: Two separate issues: the one-time \$50k signing bonus and the recurring \$40k yearly.

Jeff: We should deal with the signing bonus first. After that is settled, then address the yearly money.

Gil: I agree that the FAC should look at it, but the Council also needs to think how we want to spend part of the money.

Leila: As a member of the FAC, I would like directions from the Council.

Doreen: I would like to see some money go to scholarship for students.

Larry: Right now all \$108k is in the passbook savings, and I would like to get them out of it as soon as possible. Not all of it, as we need to keep some for day-to-day operations. But we can invest better. Have to be careful about CDs as we cannot run to them without some form of penalty (Jack: Stagger the CDs). I will talk to the “free” financial counselor at my Credit Union for advice, talk with the FAC, and come back to the Council with a report. I would like to get a director of how to operate within a few months.

Discussion on how/where to invest. General consensus not to be too aggressive, invest in secured/insured CDs or treasury bonds. Increase the \$10k cushion, and have that in the savings account.

Larry: One of the big problems is that we are still not able to attract enough people to the conference. We need 700 people to break-even.

Doreen: Since attendance is so important, why not devote some of the money to attract attendees?

Larry: We actually have it in the contract that Elsevier is supposed to help us on that. They are still working on it. Also, Doreen, I am not disagreeing with you, but we’ve tried that before. I honestly cannot tell you whether it worked or not. I just don’t know.

Rick: How about this. We leave the big decision for April in Denver. In the meantime, have Larry work with the FAC and come up with a safe investment but with decent returns. At the same time, we all think about how we want to spend some of the money on things worthwhile

Mary: After April, I will no longer be on the Council, and we need someone to replace me on the FAC

Jack: I nominate Vic (Vic accepts).

Larry: Just to bring this to a close. I will work with the FAC. We currently have \$120k in savings, I would propose we mark \$80k to look for a place to invest. That leaves a good/large operating cushion. I will look into some rates and discuss with Jack on what to do. We will then get back to you’all.

Jack: There are a couple of websites that publish short-term CD rates from various financial institutions (all insured) across the country. Periodically you will see, say a bank offer 4.5% on a 3 month CD. The rate is high, and the term short. We should monitor and look for these.

Phadrea: I am more on the spending side. This is a great benefit to the association. Is there something we can do for the members?

Larry: It should be something long term and lasting. Whether is keeping the dues and conference fees fixed for a longer period of time, financial assistance to student members, better promotion of the social sciences, that’s the next stage of this discussion.

Larry, Rick, and Phadrea leave to tour the meeting rooms, and designated Tom to preside over the continued discussion.

Tom: Combine Phadrea and Doreen's idea and spend money and attracting members and benefiting members. Elsevier's plan may not help in this matter as they are focused on the SSJ.

Prabha: That's not totally correct. Not the entire \$12k goes to the editorial office of the SSJ, and Elsevier's commitment is to the improvement of the quality of SSJ and WSSA.

Doreen: The decline in attendance/membership is quite widespread. I talked to Larry about this and he said he would do it. The Midwest Political Science Associations meets about the same time as we do. I asked Larry to approach them and ask them whether they would be interested in joining us. Also, we could give a "signing bonus" of sorts, If you recruit a new member, you have free registration, or something like that. Another thing I would like to see is financial assistance to some of the graduate students that come to our conferences. They are our future.

Tom: I'm thinking in terms of more strategic behavior, like looking for gaps and create new Sections.

Cindy: I'm from NY and I'm here. I suggest that we spend money to advertise ourselves to the eastern folks.

Discussion about "Western" SSA, and whether that restricts us. But point was also raised, that indeed many from the East came to the Las Vegas conference, but how many returned?

Gil/Gary/Leila raise questions on member vs. non-member registration fees, and the root cause being many universities do not cover membership dues, but do cover conference fees.

Doreen: If we need 700 to break-even, it really doesn't matter whether they are members or not.

Jack: Doreen, you brought it up five years ago, I brought it up when I first joined the Council. What we need is for local Universities to participate in our Fall Council meeting. Usually, when I send letters to economics faculty at local universities, I get very little interest. But if we have the provost, a couple of Deans join us, get them excited, and THEY send e-mails to their faculty, it would be much more effective. This will not just benefit one Section, but many many Sections.

Doreen: We had a local affairs committee. Is that still effective?

Leila: It's under a slightly different name. It's call the Local Arrangement committee. It's a good idea to get local universities involved, but it does not help in the hotel rooms. As Larry said, that's where our penalty comes from (Doreen: but they do register for the conference and that brings up the registration fees.)

Continued discussion on the label of "Western".

Jeff suggests a survey to the general membership on why they are not renewing or attending the conference.

Jack suggests to work via the Section Coordinators, as they have the mailing list from previous years.

Mary suggests asking also whether we should keep or drop "Western" label.

Leila asked what if we become so successful and the attendance becomes too big. Then we will have problem booking hotels.

Jack reminded everyone about Larry's point that we need to spread out the sessions, especially the small Sections. This reduces the break-out rooms needed and gives him a bigger list of hotels to look into. Also, Rutledge talked about helping us book/plan conferences, as they book hundreds of conferences a year. I haven't heard anything on this end from Elsevier. (Leila: I don't think they do this).

Discussion on financial assistance to students. Most favor giving some authority to Section Coordinators, but question was raised on how to allocate funds: based on size of Sections, % of students in the Section?

Jack proposed a central fund, where a Section Coordinator can request support for a “qualified” student presenter, on a first-come-first-served basis. This will give the Coordinators incentive to act quicker in getting their sections organized and submitted.

Leila: What about faculty that brings in a group of students, like Christine Sauer in our Section. How do you deal with that?

Discussion on student attendance in Calgary, why it was low, and expect a rebound in Denver.

Rick, Larry, Phadrea returned.

Rick: We have a motion on the floor to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Any corrections?

Mary/Cindy made corrections, and Jack will pass along to Kate for re-editing.

Doreen: In the minutes from the last meeting, there was mention of contacting “front range” universities. Has anything been done?

Larry: A little bit. But cold calls to schools have very low success rates.

Rick: All in favor of accepting the minutes from the last meeting say aye. All oppose? Motion passes.

Larry: Rick, even though it’s not on the agenda, maybe we should report back on what we have seen from the tour. We’ve already made some changes from the original contract. We will be on three floors. The main floor is the 2nd floor where the registration will be. We originally were going to use the Grand Ballroom for registration, book exhibit, and displays. We will now move out to the foyer and hire security guards. That frees up three rooms, which is critical. It will give up 19 rooms, not including the room on the first floor where we will hold our reception and luncheons. That can be our 20th room for breakouts. This means we won’t need to use suites as breakout rooms, though they are there if we need them. Here on this side of the breezeway, we have a six room square.

We need to bear the cost of hiring security, but that frees up three rooms, and is an expense that is well worth it. The problem is getting people across the breezeway, as though I love my academic friends dearly, some of them can get lost even in this small space. The hotel will have a physical presence, but we may put a student there and have a student on this side to answer questions, as a shepherd. We may have a student set up as an information desk here, in addition to the main registration desk.

Rick: Tom, what do you have from the discussion while we were away?

Tom: We discussed how to expand the WSSA and came up with four points:

1. Identify emerging fields, New Sections, New Affiliates.
2. Scope of the “Western” SSA, a geographic expansion to the East
3. Financial support for student travel to our conferences
4. Bring local universities to the Fall Council meeting.

Rick: Back to the money. Did we decide on what to do? I recollect we proposed to take \$80k and put it in a CD or bond, in a staggered way. I suggest Larry put it in a safe/local

instrument, and do so quickly. Even if we lose a quarter percent, it not a big enough sum of money to make too big a difference. Any objections? Do we need a motion? No? So be it. As for the rest of the money, is there anything we want to use it on now?

Larry: It's a very personal point of view, and it is up the Council for decision, but I would like to increase the student paper award by some amount. Either increase the first prize award, or give a second place award. Either way, the students are our future.

It was suggested \$1,500 for first place, and \$500 for second place. Other suggestions include stipend for travel, hotel nights (Larry favors this as it is easiest, pick up hotel room/nights, and no IRS issues for students).

Rick: We have already published the rules for the student paper award, so we cannot change it.

Larry: The boats in the water and we are way up the stream. I suggest that we tell the winner that we will comp his/her room if they come. We don't need to advertise it now. We can easily comp two students for two nights each. That would be easy.

Rick: So, we have a working proposal for this year. Up to 4 or 5 room/nights. Form a Student Involvement Committee (Jeff/chair, Jack, and Gary) to come up with a working solution.

Larry talked about getting local institutions to sponsor functions, Prabha will help. Larry has laid out the level of sponsorship and draft letters.

Rick: Phadrea, Plenary speaker?

Phadrea: The first person I have contacted is Marilyn Stembler, she has written a lot about the future of inter- and multi-disciplinary studies. The second person I have contacted is Lee Bayland. He was the WSSA President 10 years ago (Marilyn was the President 15 years ago), and it will be on the same topic. Both are local and nearby. I really like the idea of getting past presidents involved. If we can find the oldest living president and invite/acknowledge him/her, it would be great.

I haven't heard back from her yet, she is probably on the lecture circuit. She is huge.

Larry: I like the direction you're going. As a backup, we can have a collective of past Presidents speak together. Or you can try Cathy Small. It will a totally different direction, but she can speak about student interaction. She actually went under cover, lived in a dorm and interacted with students. She wrote a book on how students interact with each other. Since I believe students are our future, she would be good for us. And she is at NAU.

Gil: I saw her in D.C. when she talked to our honor society. She impressed our young people.

Phadrea: Once we get the speaker, do we have a contract form?

Larry: We've never had a contract, but that's not a bad idea.

Jeff: I remember mention this idea when I first came onto the Council. And that was to have a group of Native American singers to perform a welcome song. I planned to have it for Calgary, but it did not happen. Maybe we can do something like this for the Denver meeting. Perhaps at the reception.

Larry: It's a Council decision, but I think having them up front recognizes that they were here first.

Jeff: A prayer, a song. Here are some people I can talk to. I will run by you all on the honoriam, as I do not want to overstep the boundaries.

Larry: Given that our Native American Section is quite large, this is an expense well worth spending.

Jack: If Jeff cannot get anyone, as a backup I can talk to Graig Stone and Young Owl on my campus, they have a Pow Wow drum performance group. Just as a backup.

Larry: The Council may want to get involved, but setting up this form of contact is within the authority of the Executive Director. I suggest that Jeff start exploring this possibility.

Rick: I need a motion? (Mary motioned, Cindy seconded) The motion is to authorize Jeff to seek a Native American welcome singer, with a honorarium. Discussion? All in favor? Oppose? Motion carried.

Larry: It's well worth time to visit our archives at the Denver Library. They are starting to catalog our material. As we go through the stuff, we are giving them information to update. What is apparent is that we are not contributing much to the archives in recent years. If you have any material, send to me and I will print them out and add to the archive.

Leila: I feel we need to formalize and make sure this is someone's job to assure this get's to the archives.

Rick: We can discuss this tomorrow.

Saturday Morning, September 15, 2007

SSJ Editor's Report:

Prabha: 2007 numbers 1 and 2 are out, number 3 is a bit delayed due to the summer, as many of the authors where the page proofs were sent, were just not around. Though delayed, but should be out by the end of this month. No more inquiries on papers accepted under David's tenure, with one exception. This exception is significant as it is the associated dean of my college. Turns out David accepted the paper, published it, but never told the authors. The folder came to us as accepted but unpublished. The associated dean suggested that we publish it again with the errors corrected, as they never got to proof the pages. I was reluctant to do that, and the compromise was that he and his two coauthors will closely examine the published version, and see if there were any major errors. I have not heard back from them, so I assume whatever errors there were, they were not major.

David did not leave us with a referee data base. We have enlisted the authors of every paper accepted as future referees, unless they explicitly said no. That has worked well, as they also would recommend their friends or colleagues. Psychology is a problem, as we do not have a psychology section and I have difficulty finding referees. We have only 4 or 5 in our data base, and I don't want to over-burden them. On the other hand, if someone has spent the time to write the paper and submit to us, I do not want to exclude them because of lack of referees.

Leila: How many such papers have we published in the past (Prabha: Not much.). Some people lack the knowledge of finding a journal that their paper fits in, and are just on a fishing expedition.

Tom: Psychology probably generates more papers than any discipline, and I wouldn't be surprised that some are shopping around.

Larry: We have some baby faculty at NAU, our Psychology Department just hired quite a few. I will send you their names and e-mails. This will also help them along.

Diane: I will send along the Utah State info too.

Prabha: The two Deputy Editors will continue and they have been very helpful. I have sent you a list of 5 nominations for the Associate EDITORS. I know the original guidance I got from the Council was 6 off each year, but I am one short as it is just not that easy to find good people. Three were selected as they did quality work as reviewers, and two were suggested by the Deputy Editors. The 6 coming off were chosen based on when they came on board.

Rick: Motion to accept the list? Gil motioned, Jeff seconded. All favor say aye. All oppose say nay. So moved.

At Larry's suggestion, Prabha made slight reference on the improved Impact Factor. There were also discussion on the two nominated Associate Editors were also candidates for the Council. Dismissed as not an issue.

Prabha: Moving on, we have 94 submissions. Acceptance rate used to be about 38%, it has come down to 28%. I may have overcorrected a bit. I get many inquiries from tenure committees when their faculty go up for tenure. I am targeting 33% acceptance rate. We are also trying to reduce the time lapse. You may recall from my previous report that it took an average of 8.5 weeks between the paper submitted to being sent out for review. One of the reason was we did not have a referee data base. WE have now cut this time down to 1.8, let's say 2 weeks. In the past, the time from submission to decision was unacceptable, we have gotten it down to just over 15 weeks, so we give an accept/reject/revise decision to the authors in less than 4 months.

Relations with Elsevier have been very good. Working with them on the online submission system, and targeting the first issue of next year for this to be online. You should see a revision on the instructions to contributors that they can submit either online or though regular mail. In a few years we should go to all online submissions. I will go to an editors conference on this subject in October.

Prabha also mentioned a few minor problems with Elsevier, like their tendency of trying to hasten a paper online so they can make money from downloads. Another was the incorrect template of the book Review.

Discussion on having a link under WSSA/SSJ rather than directly transferring to the Elsevier website, as it now. The main suggestion is to set up an intermediate page between the SSJ and Elsevier,

Prabha: The Impact Factor has really risen for 2006, but there are ways of manipulating this. So, though we shouldn't get carried away, but also should note that it has improved. We are still low, as the usual standard is an Impact Factor of 1.

Tom pointed out that given the diversity of the SSJ, a lot of citations may be missed.

Prabha also would like to see the SSJ publishing session to be advertised by Sections Coordinators, and put at a prominent location/slot, and advertised in the program.

Book Review Editor's Report:

Rich: I'll start with the management of the book reviews and discuss the book exhibit afterwards. For Volume 44, number 1, 2 and 3, there have been 18 reviews published so far. I currently only have one review in inventory and hoping for 5 more rather quickly. As Prabha mentioned, maybe it was because of summer vacation. When I get back I will send out reminders. As you can see there is a rather large inventory of books looking for reviewers. Prabha gave me a benchmark of 6 to shoot for.

Some discussion/recommendations of reviewers for books on the list.

Tom: Is there any information on books published by WSSA members, to bring them into the book review system? Could get this from Section Coordinators.

Rick: Also call publishers for books if you find out, as they may not have sent to you.

Rich: On the issue of book exhibit, last year went rather well. Elsevier was prominent. I walked around and talked to the exhibitors, they didn't seem to get much business, especially compared to the jewelry sales.

Larry: Jewelry you can get across the border. I've talked to some of them also. Of course, speculation is cheap but many people travel compact, and the weight of books is a deterrent.

Rich: My feeling is that many of them had hoped a lot more sale of books. In the last minutes, we talked about re-inviting the Social Science Library (SSL).

Discussion on the size/volume of the SSL, past "bad" behavior, and the need to police/monitor him very closely. But without SSL, we do not have much of a book display. It's a matter of laying down the rules.

Conclusion: Need to monitor his behavior, or look if there is someone else. Have Rich research and look for alternatives, while keeping the SSL as last resort.

Larry: Rich needs to take the lead to set up practice of setup for exhibitors, price level and other related issues. Have it set up on the WSSA web page and standardize the process..We can talk to the lady in charge of this here and set up the standards. We need to charge a mark-up as we are paying for many of the things they enjoy without paying. We need to decide whether we charge by the table, by the number of people they send, or a combination of the two. But whatever we choose to do, it must be formalized. Rich, you get started on this, get it to Kate and she will have it on the web site.

Discussion on role of exhibitors, what type of vendors we would like to attract. Rick suggested a one-year sub-committee to organize this. The committee will be made up of Rich, Phadrea, Larry, and Ira.

Tom: Focus on target of opportunity, like U. of Colorado Press, and independent publishers. The largest independent publisher of the west is headquartered in Denver (did not get name??), they probably would be very interested in putting up an exhibit display. I also invited my editor to present in a session in our section. I think other coordinators can do this also in their discipline. Editors love this type of venue.

Larry: If any one has any thoughts, please contact one of the Committee members (Rich, Phadrea, Larry, and Ira).

Larry: I would like to figure out a way to bring us into the LCD age. I suggest getting 5 LCD projectors. I need to look at the pricing, but NAU buys Dell computers, and when they are bought in combo with an LCD projector, we can get the projector for \$600 to \$800. This is a good price, and are high-end projectors. Buying them and getting them here is easy. The logistic problem is how to distribute them. (Leila: Lottery) We need to move in this direction. People can bring their own, as I (hate to do this) am staying away from unionized hotels as much as possible, except for Reno. Unions are just too costly as they insert themselves into our processes. Calgary cost \$12,000 on AV equipment, even with discount. We will only support overhead projectors from now on.

Larry/Kate discussed the practice of getting student workers and the training/logistics. Prabha volunteers to recruit students for the Denver conference. Kate outlines the numbers and days

needed, plus the compensation. Leila reminds that we will need students with technical skills to help with the LCD projectors.

Phadrea concerned about the logistics of allotting the projectors. Gil favors giving to a Section for the whole conference. Tom supports that and suggests getting stand-alone projectors that do not have to run off a laptop, just insert a thumb-drive. They may be a little bit more expensive, but by-passes a lot of the technical problems.

Phadrea will coordinate with Chris to put a statement on the web site that for this conference, people can bring their own LCD projectors.

Continued discussion on logistics of LCD projector allotments. Phadrea favors interested Section Coordinators put their name sin a hat and we draw. Leila suggests they will also have to give feedback on how this “test-run” worked, as we need to know from the other end. Rick reminded that whatever we do, there will be people unhappy and we need to be ready to defend Phadrea (Larry volunteered).

Rick: Communicate to Section Coordinators that the best assurance is to bring your own, we will have a limited number of projectors available via a yet to be determined mechanism.

Gil motions to authorize Larry to spend up to \$5,000 (with a 10% leeway) to purchase LCD projectors. Leila second the motion. Gill volunteers to work with Larry on model/brand to buy.

Rick: We have a motion on the floor, all in favor, aye? Oppose? Motion carries. Now that we have the projectors, how do to allocate them.

Gil: I volunteer to draft a policy and sent to Phadrea.

Rick: I would like Phadrea to take care of this and anyone wanting to help can contact her.

Financial Report:

Larry: This financial report is more complicated than anyone in the past, partially due to the exchange rate, partially due to many donations that we received. When I took over, Jay was helpful, but he did not have a system that I could take over, it's like walking into a wall. I want to go into much detail this time, so we can create an institutional memory and when the next executive director (which will most likely be someone from this body of people or the next group) won't be walking into a blank wall.

Kate: Our laptop is dying, and when I brought the flash drive to Kinko's, we had trouble opening the file, and there are some mistakes on the printout. For example, what is under catering is actually coffee break costs.

Larry goes over the details of the costs. The catering cost in Calgary was higher, but it was due to “upgrade” of the quality. However, due to donations, it was a wash and comparable to the usual costs from past years.

It costs \$49k to \$53k to put together the conference. In Calgary, excluding donations, our income was \$41k. We get, on average, \$83 per registration, do the math: \$53k/\$83, and that's the number of people we need to get to attend the conference to break even. Calgary was an anomaly, as we were about 200 people off the average attendance. We had 1,600 in

Albuquerque in 1999, but have never had more than 900 since. We need to get 800 people every year. There are new expenses when we switched to credit card online payments. The cost is worth it as the workload decreased dramatically.

Discussion on how to get more attendance. Larry worries about Section Coordinators using old mailing lists. Doreen reiterates the need to create a master list with e-mails. Diane discusses how she googles all Women Studies programs and contact them. Vic discusses how he creates a bank of contacts over the years. Rick will send a note to Section Coordinators to encourage them to try and increase a session of two each. Jack suggests Prabha to send call-for-papers to the referee list of SSJ. Prabha will send list to Kate.

Ira describes her experience in offering a short course on immigration, which drew media attention and 70 people from the local community. Tom suggests a section-building session for Section Coordinators. Larry outlines some fee structure for the short course Ira proposed. Jeff will contact Tribal Colleges and work with Ira on related programs. Ira is working on bringing students from Northern Mexico. Larry suggest Saturday as the date for such programs, as it is an under-utilized day, and being on a weekend we may attract more people. Phadrea liked the idea but worried about the precedence it sets, and how wide do we want to open this door.

Rick concluded that we set this as a 50th anniversary “experiment”, and will not set a precedence. Asked Phadrea, Ira, and Larry to work out the details such that it does not incur extra expenses to WSSA.

Several questions were raised regarding the Financial Report: rental charge, fiscal year, and bank charge on checks in foreign denominations.

Rick thanked Larry for the report. Suggests that Tom work with Phadrea on the idea of section building. Suggest next meeting to address whether to drop Social Psychology Section, and the high no-shows in Economics Financial Section.

Kate reports that Elsevier will provide free online access for our members, but will need to create ID numbers for our members. Larry raises the operating difficulty that stems from members not renewing on time. Since the burden falls on Kate, Leila asked for Kate’s opinion. Kate feels the easiest way is to allow access up to April, rather than follow the calendar year membership, especially since Elsevier did not place any restrictions on how we operate. Rick concerned about workload on Kate, and suggests an adjustment of her compensation.

Rick concluded by suggesting that Kate work on a system that works for her and Elsevier, and we will implement it. Asks Larry to work out an appropriate adjustment to Kate’s compensation. In addition, Larry draft a letter to the members informing them that WSSA has negotiated this new benefit for our members, and ask for any additional information that we may need.

Newsletter Editor:

Rick: We are no longer using Ian. Diane did it for a while, Jim did it for a while. We need to come up with a resolution on how to deal with getting two newsletters out, in a timely fashion, per year.

Larry: I need to stress the timeliness, "a day late is a week late". All it takes is one person to be late, and then the whole newsletter is late. Our newsletter has lost any advertisement (of our conference) value, as our last newsletter was distributed AT THE CONFERENCE, even though the newsletter was letting people know about the coming of this Calgary conference. We need people to know that if they cannot meet the deadline, they need to let the editor know 4 weeks in advance. Not on the due date. Second, we need someone to be the editor, or collector of items. We need a person with sufficient skills to put the newsletter in the format it is currently in, and then deliver it to Omni press. If they do the set up for us, it is expensive, \$1,000. Or this person can get a GA to help, and we can pay for that. We need someone with tact and diplomacy, but also a hurtful whip. This is a hard task. We need to figure out how to recognize or compensate for this job. I am pretty sure if I go back and ask Jim to do it again, he would do it. But it will be at tremendous personal cost.

Ira: When do you need the newsletter out?

Larry: The Fall Newsletter needs to be mailed out the first week of September. We've moved to mailing it out first class, as it speeds things up, but costs us \$400. This means we have to have the newsletter by the 2nd week of August to ensure that it gets printed, processed and mailed on time. The Spring newsletters contains all the info regarding the conference, plenary speakers, articles introducing the conference site, new policies that come from this meeting. These have to be done by mid/late February, so we can target mid March to send it out. Anything after mid March is really of no value. If we want it to benefit our members, and not just something added to their packet when they get here, these are the deadlines.

Larry explained why we moved back from the electronic newsletter to a hardcopy. And complimented Diane and Jim for their contributions in the past. In response to Doreen's question, Larry explained that the ballots are no longer part of the newsletter, but via a separate personal letter, with the ballots and bios of the candidates. The response rate of the voting has been increasing every year since we started doing so three years ago. It has gone up from having 50 people decide who will govern the association, to a response rate of 75% of the membership.

Rick: Anyone feel the compulsion to serve as the editor? We are not looking for someone to do just one issue, but one that is willing to manage the newsletter in a longer interim.

Tom: I am reluctant on two accounts. One is conflict of interest, and the second is I have to go home. But, my wife is a professional editor, and also one of the Section Coordinators. I married a wonderful woman named Suzanne Kelly, on July 28th. She has a pretty full plate and whether she is willing to do it, I cannot speak for her.

Kate reminded the Council that the newsletter editor is, according to the bylaws, an ex officio of the WSSA. Larry stressed that we will not put a burden on him/her on having to attend the Council meeting, as Ian never did.

Larry: Conflict or interest? Or is to keeping close touch with someone you need? Where do you draw the line? I don't care who does it, as long as it gets done, in accordance to the timeline, and to the standard that Diane/Jim have done in the past two/three years.

Gary: About how much we paid Ian?

Larry: Way too much.

Kate/Larry: About \$60/hr, and he charged us about 2 to 3 thousand dollars a year. And he did not even do the copy editing; we had other people (like Diane) do that.

Gary: We need to find someone, set up a contractual agreement, pay them the 3 thousand dollars and have them have the obligation to the WSSA to deliver the newsletter.

Rick asked whether Prabha and his office would be willing, Prabha was reluctant. Phadrea suggested that we assign it to a new Council member for the duration of their term, but Larry reminded of the specific skills sets required. Larry emphasized the need to panel this after the SSJ editor and book review editor that the newsletter editor needs to commit to do this for the next three years, with support. Gill volunteered to make a call to the Media Section.

Rick: If we need more time to find a permanent solution, I am willing to it ONE TIME, as I can always go next door to Jim and ask for advice/help.

Larry: If you are willing to do this, our pledge is to identify someone or a plan well before the April Council meeting and have your replacement.

Prabha reminded the Council that a proposal was discussed in the previous Council meeting, which suggested a call, a sample of writing, etc.

Rick: Gil (chair), Larry, Gary, and Cindy will make up the search committee. Your charge is to have this solved before April.

Larry: The assignment. Rick, soap box. Phadrea, a write up on Denver, local attractions, things to do, etc. Need a feature article, academic in approach. We've had some really good ones. We need to identify someone to write 500-1,000 words, something related to the WSSA. We need someone from the Council, or nominate someone. Phadrea, identify some to write the Coordinators' Corner. Someone to write about section coordination, pleasant surprises, something upbeat. Rick will do the call for nominations for Council members, Vice President, and President-elect. Jack will take care of a write-up on the policy decisions coming from this Council meeting. If you have any announcements you want to put in we can do that. Prabha, your article in the last newsletter is one of the best I have ever seen. I would have only added in mentioning of single malt as a way to suffer through rejection. Our newsletter is 12 pages for the fall, and 8 pages for the Spring. It's always good to have something in there about the SSJ. We could have something on the book review side. Rich, it doesn't have to be as long, but we need something. Doreen, once the election is completed, I will be in contact on who the new officers are and you will need to write something about that, as that's where we actually announce the election results. Phadrea, a one page summary of the Denver conference. List the important events, like the reception, plenary luncheon, and the time periods of the break-out sessions. Is there anything else we should have in the newsletter?

Jack: Are we having anything in the newsletter about the 50th anniversary? Play it up and ask our members to show it to their friends/colleagues, encourage them to come.

Larry: I'll have the 50th anniversary booklet outline in there, maybe some pictures of things we scanned.

Rick: I will need a list of all of these.

Larry: I typically will send out an e-mail within a week after I return. The only thing that will be missing is the feature article. Rick, you can also add in something about the special events planned related to the 50th year celebration.

Student Involvement:

Jeff: We will link up with Prabha and have the students learn about how to publish in academic/professional journals. If we still have the professional development session (Larry confirmed he will have a session at Denver), we want to get the students to attend. Also, to attract students, we suggest a roundtable on working in the social sciences, with 4 or 5 panelist, perhaps from this Council. About 10 minutes presentation each, and then Q&A.

Prabha: We have a good series here, the publishing session that Rich and I will do, Larry's professional development, and Jeff's roundtable. We should advertise this as a series, in the newsletter and in the conference program.

Larry: We can add this to the newsletter. Jeff, get something to me. Prabha/Rich, in addition to what you are already doing for the newsletter, add this onto the to-do list. Get something to, actually, me and Rick, so we can both have it as a double check. I will do something on my part. It doesn't have to be big, just a blog, without dates and time. I can then say in the newsletter, hey, we are doing something special for you. Check the program for the time and place!

Rick: Now we have covered everything on the agenda.

Phadrea: Are we still charging for the anniversary booklet? In the Saturday minutes of the April Council meeting, it stated that the booklet will be about 100 pages and will cost \$5-\$7.

Larry: No. The booklet will be smaller than originally planned. Diane and I have talked about this. It will be mostly illustrative, and reflect only the positive. For example, we have scanned letters that we would like to publish 80% of it, but there are just these three sentences where some went ballistic. We don't want to have that. We want only things that reflect the positives of the WSSA. I have checked with Omni, the cost was \$3,000, but that was when I told them the size was about that of the program, but it smaller than that now. So there will be no charge.

Tom: What about a graduate students experience in the newsletter. A graduate student that has presented in our conference and found it congenial. Something from a student's perspective.

Ira: I have a student that has presented.

Larry: I feel some arm twisting here. But that is good. We've had something like that in the past and it was good. If we need to bump up the Spring newsletter to 12 pages, that is not a problem.

Rick: Meeting adjourned.

Leila: I think you need a motion for that.

Rush of people to motion, Rick ask those in favor of adjourning for lunch, say aye. Oppose? Lunch.