

WSSA Executive Council Meeting Meeting Minutes, 11 April 2012 – Houston

Introductions

All folks went round and introduced themselves.

Brief Conference recap

Tom gave us the briefest review of the conference planning, with **689** papers in the program. Section coordinator work went fairly well for the most part, with the ABS doing a great job on program work, yet a few wrinkles came up with SCs kind of disappearing and not following through. Tom did suggest that we explore putting the program coordination and paper submission on The Cloud, due to problems with spam filters and the fact that the show now resides on the Program Chair's computer and EMAIL. What would we do if this person became seriously ill or suffered a catastrophic database issue?

Poster Session

The poster session came together well enough, but we did have a wrinkle in getting the equipment on which the posters are pinned delivered due to the hotel booking the room where this is happening the night before the event. The firm that does the AV for the Hyatt does NOT have the equipment to do this, and we lucked out with another third party being able to do this. We have about 15 posters submitted, not bad for year one, and the issue of a prize came up. We have a "Scholars Choice" Award that will be done by an informal paper ballot at the session. **Theodore suggested \$200, and Larry offered a \$250 cash award with free registration for this year and 2 nights room and free registration that is not transferrable covered at NEXT YEARS Conference. This was a formal motion, and this was passed unanimously by the EC.** Gil suggested that we ask the paper and poster winners to submit something to the future newsletter. Theodore did discuss the issue of how we judge the posters, and he suggested that we develop a rubric for future sessions. Students are required to be there the night before to help post the poster, and they are also required to be at the morning poster session to work the crowds. **Ted noted that this is his last year on the EC, and he volunteered to be Poster Coordinator for the future. The EC gratefully accepted his offer, and this is formally noted in the minutes.**

Special Event with the Food Bank

Heather set this up with the Houston Food Bank in advance, and this came together very well. Kudos to Heather. Members of the EC are asked to make a generous contribution, and this will be in play for donations that are made at the breakfast and poster event. We also will provide a match of what we raise; this being no more than \$1000 from the WSSA, and we will also insure that they get at least \$500 in total.

President's Luncheon

Vic will give a short speech, and we will also acknowledge the student paper winners, the Vine DeLoria competition winner, and the poster winners at the luncheon. We are also going to present the Big Check

and also the real check for the Food Bank. Kate will have 6 checks and also the certificates for the student winners for the various prizes.

Registration

Kate noted that we have a new CC service for online registration and asked how folks' experience was. Some people seemed to have trouble with Firefox as a browser, and a few people paid the "membership only option" prior to paying the combined registration and membership fee. We need to post a notice with the "membership only option" to NOT click on this if folks are attending the conference. We also discussed problems we had with the previous provider, and the new provider (RegOnLine) is much better, able to meet our needs and stay in touch with us much better. Larry did note that half of the SCs had not registered in advance, and we should make an effort to insist that they do this. We also discussed that we can grant SCs access to the advance registration DB to be able to track their people.

No shows

We talked about what to do for this historical problem. We decided NOT to purge them from the program, but we did suggest several things:

- We strongly suggest that all SCs advance register and also police their own sections for no shows. This is critical, and we decided that the Program Coordinator be charged with this duty. Delinquent SCs will be called by the PC, then the President. This should solve the problem.
- We ask the SCs to report who did NOT show at the conference, and we discussed redlining out their papers in the online program that is posted for future access. Bad Scholar; no donut! This was not resolved at this point, but was later in the meeting.
- Larry notes that OMNI, the people that print the program, will be handling paper submissions, and we may be able to see if they can help with this issue.

Student workers and the Registration Desk

Advance registration is reducing the logjam on Wednesday and Thursday, a good thing. Student workers will be able to hook up the projectors, but nothing else. WSSA purchased several projectors, and the new projectors will run from a thumb drive, provided that they save the files as a picture format. Larry thinks this is straightforward, but Chris tried this with an existing file, and the file was saved as a series of individual files. This needs work for future conference.

Student papers

Chris reviewed the process by which we handled the papers, reviewed the paper winners, and discussed how we will handle the awards. Heather Nicol, Les Alm, Ross Burkhart, Donna Lybecker, and Chris were members of the review committee, they did a great job, and Chris thanks each person warmly. Students will get a check and certificate at the President's lunch, we treat them to lunch and conference registration, and the first place winners also get 2 free nights at the conference. The students then present their papers at the session right after the lunch at the 1-2:30pm session. Future VPs will need to work with Kate and Larry to

insure we book rooms for the winners for the 2 nights the winners wish to stay in the hotel, and this will require some coordination by the VP with Larry, Kate, and the winning students. Here are the winners and a few comments:

U/G Papers

- **1st place – Sarah Mayo.** “The Rhetoric of Terrorism in American Discourse: A Critique of the Use of Adopted Arabic Terms by Political Elites.” Everyone who read this paper awarded it first place, and Sarah was a clear winner.
- **Honorable mention – Alexis Ingram.** “More Than “Just a Girl”: Feminism Within the *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Angel* Fandom.” Everyone enjoyed this paper and felt it worthy of some recognition, but it was not seen as being as strong a paper as Sarah’s.

Graduate Papers

- **1st place – Anne Luna-Gordinier.** “Empowering the Spirit: Conducting Ethical Research With Two-Spirit People.” 3 of 5 people rated her paper #1, and the other 2 rated it as #2. She was a clear winner.
- **Honorable mention - Cassie Koerner.** “The Politics of Fear: Nuclear Energy Policy Development.” This paper was rated as 1, 2 or 3 by all folks reviewing papers. As was the case with Alexis Ingram, everyone enjoyed this paper and felt it worthy of some recognition, but it was not seen as being as strong a paper as Anne’s.

Elections

Les Alm was elected as President Elect, Prabha Unithan was elected as VP, and Kristina Lybecker (Colorado College), Reynold Nesiba (Augusta College), and Mary Jo Tippeconnic Fox (University of Arizona) were elected as Board Members. Anthony Amato, Stephen Edwards, and Monica Gallamore ran for the EC and were NOT elected, and Gil asked that members of the EC reach out to thank each of these folks for running, to ask them to stay engaged in the WSSA, and to consider running in the future or serving the WSSA in other ways.

Executive Director’s Report

Financials

Larry shared 2 documents with all related data. In discussions with the IRS, Larry was able to set our tax year to agree with our fiscal year. This time of year, our expenses are way up, but so are revenues, both due to the conference. Concerning our asset holdings, Chase CD made about 10%, investments are almost up to what we invested, and Money Market savings are where earnings are swept. We also have a WF CD, and this is doing quite well. Larry asked for some advice from an investment friend on what to do with our cash, and the answer was to move ½ of cash into savings as this is liquid, and leave the rest in laddered CDs. IRS issues come into play, and we do reinvest anything we make into student scholarships and awards.

Looking at detailed revenues and expenses, we see some major points. Combining registration and membership fees was a positive move, bringing in more funds. We did purchase a good deal of equipment in the last year, and this is reflected in the data. Larry does want to put the financial sub-committee into play, and this would be President Elect, President, and Past President. He will report these data to this committee on a regular basis, and we also need to put these data on the WSSA Website.

Taxes - It takes about 5 days for Larry to do the WSSA taxes, the form is pretty complex, and Larry wants to hire this out to a professional accountant or bookkeeper to do our taxes. We don't have an estimate at present for how much this will cost (Larry guesses about \$600), and Larry is in discussion with 2 Yuma firms that have some experience with NGOs. Eileen suggests that Larry talk with NGOs that are using these firms. **Gil made a motion to authorize Larry to spend up to \$1000 to hire a firm to do our taxes, we had some discussion about how this would actually happen, and the vote on the motion was unanimous to authorize Larry to spend up to \$1000 to hire a firm to do our taxes.**

WSSA records occupy a fair amount of space, Larry could not store at his home any more, and a climate controlled storage space is costing us about \$2000/year. Major expenses are conference (\$40k), office expenses (\$10k on computer projectors and computers, this will be ongoing over next 3-4 years), and the fall planning meeting (this is expensive, we should do this to support people, and we should be able to cover rooms and food for the future). Concerning new computers, we are at 5 years on the Macs we have, they needed an OS update prior to this meeting, and we are looking at purchasing I-Pads and CC readers. This does provide a security risk, and we need to examine this.

Future meetings

Larry just signed with the Hyatt in ABQ for 2017, and they locked their catering in at the 2015 rates and the room rates at \$159. In general, hotels are now holding their room rates fairly stable, but catering charges are going up. This is driving increased expenses to WSSA for catering over the next few years, and we just need to watch this regularly. San Francisco is going to be pricey on rooms (\$179 at least) and catering, and Larry suggested we subsidize rooms for this meeting. Boise is moving up on our list, as The Grove dropped the room from \$179 to \$129, and Les argues that this would work out really well. Air travel would be a bit of work, but it is no worse than ABQ. Kate suggested New Orleans as a possible venue, and folks were quite interested. Major variables to consider are room rates, air access, catering, and being downtown.

Larry discussed long-term leadership/ED position, and he is willing to work 2-3 more years. He is speaking with people to see who would consider stepping up, and he will advise what happens with this in the future.

Unite Here issues with SF came up, and Larry noted he had not been contacted. He shared some experience he had in Phoenix where he crossed swords with the Unite Here folks, and he thinks this may be why he didn't get a call. He doesn't see any major issues that are in play, and he thinks this is just a tactic that the union is pursuing. We did raise certain issues raised in the literature the union sent, and these included workers are working with no contract for 2 years. Larry is on a conference organizers' list

serve, and he thinks there are issues with union leadership not having the trust of the workers. The members of the union have not agreed to a vote on a job action. Eileen shared some data she got from the union, and she shared this with Larry. If there is a job action, we can get out of the contract (this is written in to all our contracts). Short of a job action, we are committed to the contract.

Several people noted that they got calls from various people asking for support, and people told the folks calling that they need to call Larry as the ED to pursue these issues. Folks suggested that the union folks may see Larry as management, they may be trying to generate a buzz with the EC, and they want a buzz. We did talk about how to respond, and there was support among the EC to generate some form of response. **Chris made a motion that Dan's sharing the letter he received with Larry constitutes a formal referral, that Larry is the conduit through which we will reply, and that Larry respond to Unite Here to secure specific information about the issues that are in play, which he will share with the EC. Motion passed unanimously.** Eileen also suggested that we find a section that can speak to this, we ask this section to put together a session on labor relations, and we do a session on this for the SF meetings.

Journal publisher contract

Sage countered with a request for an extra issue per year, and we politely declined. Taylor and Francis' offer was very good, we liked the presentation and people involved, and we were interested in working with them. That said, Elsevier countered in every area that was on the table and met or exceeded the TF offer. With right of first refusal on the table, we had to go with Elsevier. Contract was reviewed by legal, the contract was signed, and we are set with Elsevier for the next several years. Job well done! We did have a rather wide-ranging discussion about publishing research and the industry, a most interesting discourse.

Operations manual

The more we standardize things, the easier it will be to pass along various responsibilities to new people as they come in. The nuts and bolts of the entire shop resides in Kate's, Larry's and Scott's brains, and this poses a risk if anything happens to them or they cannot make it to the meetings. Rather than a paper document, Tom suggests putting this online, and this can possibly be linked to online handling of paper submissions by OMNI. Tom will work this up a bit more formally and share with us on Saturday.

Shoring up the Archives

Larry argues that we need to work together to shore up the archives through a concerted visit to the Denver Library. He suggests the following, with an authorization to spend some funds to make this happen:

- Bring Nina to Denver for an overnight visit,
- Kate, Larry and whoever else wants to participate get together,
- Folks bring materials to the Library, in some sense of organization, and
- Folks work together to categorize, catalog, and label all of our holdings.

Kate floated the idea of hiring a graduate student (historian or library scientist) to help with the work, and this would require coordination with the Library as the official repository of our records. Chris asked if we

need to actually hold physical copies of the SSJ. Digital versions of these have been transferred from previous publishers to Elsevier, and they now hold all issues of the SSJ. We therefore may not need to hold these physical issues, but this is a discussion for Scott to lead. **Gil noted that we need a motion to authorize expenditures, and he made such a motion with a cap of \$2500 for the entire project. This passed unanimously.** Eileen noted that we need to work out an access policy for the archives as regards students using these data for research, publishing these things, and related uses. Currently, the archives are wide open to public access; anyone can go in to look at things, but only Library staff can make copies on a special copier.

Insurance for EC

We now have D&O coverage for all EC members and Officers, and also general liability coverage that extends to all EC members and officers. The amount of coverage is \$1M. This will cover us for contract liability related to the conference, anything related to automobile or other transportation, and liability related to the Journal and editorial decisions. The overall cost of this was about \$2000, and this removes a great worry from our shoulders as regards anything that comes up.

Insurance review:

- Larry recalled stories of legal action against an organization
- checked with brokers—who were alarmed that we do not have coverage
- One policy (directors and officers): protects us against “violations” of policy
 - covers cost of legal counsel
- Another policy: liability insurance
- Ex.: if we send a student or others on WSSA business? We can be held liable
 - \$250 per year
- Accident in the hotel? Hotel is responsible; but so are we in part (as hosts of the event)
- We are incorporated; possible to go after assets of corporation
 - but we have liability insurance for onsite + for cancellation of conference
- Sum total: \$2000 per year for \$1 ml
- Scott: problem with a troublesome manuscript
 - we are also covered for editorial decisions
 - insurance agents wanted to see latest versions of journal

Miscellaneous money matters

Elsevier owes us a good deal of money, and Larry asks for ideas on how to spend this:

- Find ways to better support students, either workers or other students
- Increase the prize money we are awarding students (we are being pretty generous at present)
- Offer a lower registration fee for students
- Provide travel grants for students to help them attend and present.

Future visioning and ideas

What can we do to make the organization more visible, more robust, better? Do we need someone to formally market us more effectively? Chris offered the idea of making travel grants available to students that either present or attend to increase student participation. The following ideas were the results of a discussion held among an ad-hoc committee on the student travel grants and awards, and Chris, Heather, Gary, Gil, Larry, and Donna and Kristina Lybecker met off line as this committee.

- How do we pick who gets the money, first come/first serve, or some form of review process? People liked the review, because networks work at different speeds. **We discussed this in the ad hoc committee, and we decided that we should have a review process. Chris noted that we need to be aware of the level of work that reviewing even short abstracts requires. If we get more than we can fund, we will draw names of those that qualify.**
- Do they have to present a paper to get the travel funds or just attend?
 - If the latter, Les suggests that they should still have a faculty member endorse their application to reduce people applying just to visit the conference city.
 - Geoffrey likes the idea of requiring them to present a paper or poster to motivate them and makes the best use of rare funds.
 - Donna likes the idea to link this to the poster presentation; this will increase likelihood of getting good attendance for students and will help them get motivated to do the poster.
 - **We discussed this among the committee, and we decided that we wanted some form of participation. This includes presenting a paper, preparing a poster, or participating in a panel, and they need to submit a proposal to apply.**
- Do we put in play some sort of geographic filter so that we don't give \$500 dollars to a local person? We discussed this and folks were pretty supportive of a distance filter that would provide funds for people that either drive long distances or fly to the meeting. **We agreed that the campus the student attends is at least 250 miles, and we also wanted a check box on the faculty cover sheet that states that all other funding options have been exhausted and that the campus they attend is at least 250 miles away from the venue.**
- What about the timing? LOTS of discussion about this, and we need to balance giving them enough time to develop an idea and get excited about coming and the need to get the proposals in early enough to get on the program. **Heather suggested that we make the travel applications and proposals/abstracts due the same day as things are due the SCs, this being 1 December of each year.**
- How much money do we want to spend, how large are the awards, and do we restrict or package these into u/g and grad piles? **We are going to spend \$5k the first year, we are awarding \$500 per award, and we are NOT filtering by u/g and grad students.**
- What about local support? Gil suggests we provide free registration to locals as part of our advance work on the region in the fall; Les suggests we also add the President's lunch, making this a \$100 award person per student. We are not capping this program with amount or number of awards, and we let the advance team decide how to divide these among regional universities. We let the Provosts or VPs at each university make the decisions through some form of nomination process, but we need to nail down how to handle number of meals when we put this in play.
- How do we award the money, give them the money up front, or reimburse them for expenses incurred? **We agreed that we would reimburse travel expenses based on receipts submitted.**

- What about the named dissertation award? We think this is a great idea, and Chris suggests that we borrow from the AAG Nystrom award as a model, granting \$1000 for year one, with this being awarded to the best dissertation-based paper, and we need a committee to handle this.
- **How to jury these? We agreed that the VP would chair an awards committee that consists of at least 5 saints, and they would do three things:**
 - **Jury the regular student paper competition papers, which could run up to 25 papers.**
 - **Jury the newly created unnamed dissertation based award papers.**
 - **QUICKLY jury the student travel award applications on 1 December when they come in at the same time as the SC deadline occurs.**

The above was bundled into a motion document, and this will be presented, discussed, and noted on when we meet on Saturday.

Day Two – 14 April 2012

Dan McInerney was good enough to take the following notes while Chris was at his paper session.

WSSA Business meeting, Saturday, April 14, 2012

Journal

- all four issues published in 2011
- special issue on China's economy
- Summer 2011, Scott named new editor
- Transition done in a few stages
 - in process papers handled by Prabha

Scott:

- gratitude to Prabha
- 296 submissions for 2011
- Scott does first quick look at manuscripts before sending them to reviewers
- 57-68 days from submission to first decision
- Political Science, Sociology, Economics, Social Psychology are majority of the submissions
- Process: internal review to external review
- 18 associate editors
- always in need of reviewers
- appeal to Board to seek out strong potential articles

Elsevier:

- good working relation with them
- they are doing promotion of the journal
- Scott will contact them about upcoming meetings
- we CAN do more pages per year; we haven't reached our limit
- impact factor: Scott would like to see us up to a 0.5
 - this is important in promotion and tenure decisions; often seek a level of "1"

- since we are “social science,” we are cited less
- higher impact factor might also help with attendance at conference

Questions:

- Might we seek out an associate editor for Indian Studies?
 - members of the section very concerned that they don't have a place on the journal; no one on the journal “who speaks to and for us”
 - Theodore: conventional suggestions to new scholars usually advise that authors purposely look at the names of editors to see if the journal is “receptive” to one's scholarship
 - Eileen willing to serve in this capacity
- Scott: limits to number of editors; the number of Indian Studies submissions has been low; if they increase, perhaps we should have an Indian Studies rep.
- Others: the *presence* of an Indian Studies associate editor may help spark the submission of more manuscripts

Motion: to add a new associate editor representing Indian Studies passed unanimously

Book review editor:

- time for a search to begin
- need to wrap this up by end of summer
- Scott will serve in this capacity for a time (with some help)
- Key functions (4): review books; search for book exhibitors; help set up exhibitions; serves ex officio on the Council

Larry: very disappointed with Library of Social Science as exhibitor

- no one else will come to the conference if this group is present; other presses are quite uncomfortable with the owner of the firm
- we don't have a contract with them; we don't make anything off this arrangement
- (this is the responsibility of the book review editor)
- “it's time to ditch them”; they damage the reputation of the WSSA
- “we certainly wish to replace them as quickly as possible”

Motion: allow Larry and Scott to structure search for book editor; seconded; approved unanimously

Larry: will go out with Scott to try and find those who do work similar to Lib. of Soc. Sci. (ex: Scholars Choice)

- we need a third-party book vendor who goes out to publishing houses that are a fit for our conference

The April 2012 conference:

- attendance is down

- perhaps we have recently been too far east
- we don't know if it's location, funding, or the economy

One problem: people who don't show up

- suggestion: someone doesn't show up twice? probably best to not accept papers from them*
- empower section coordinators to do this*
- need to work on the habitual no-shows*
- Larry: we can let section coordinators know on Wednesday that one of their responsibilities is to monitor no-shows*
- Kate: in the future, we can have students enter the red lines through names of those who did not show up*

-People often request "certificate of attendance"

- this year, we had about 50 requests
- Larry: we have a legal responsibility to monitor this, esp. with the INS (those traveling internationally)
- Vic: perhaps we should ask what other associations do about this
- Tom: we need to determine what is required for such a letter
- Heather: perhaps we should require TWO signatures – counter-signatures
- Kate: perhaps we can have a check box . . . and the participant tells us precisely what they need stated on the letter

(No motion on this; Larry will investigate)

-Poster session: a great success

-Food Bank: Heather's wonderful work on this (raised (\$2100)

-President's Luncheon came off very well

-acquisition of equipment: projectors checked out most of the time; there were several people who could not get one for their session

- slides need to be numbered 01, 02, 03 otherwise they will be out of order
- build this into section coordinator's handbook
- (Larry's explanation of the projectors was VERY helpful)

Kate can put any kind of information/instructions into registration information

Scheduling: some conflicts we need to resolve

- block out the poster session?
- block out the time slots for business and section coordinators meetings on Friday?
- block the slot for the President's Lunch

(Tom does not believe the crunch on room availability will be severe)

Suggest that each section have a business meeting

- the WSSA encourages each section to have a business meeting; perhaps the WSSA can offer assistance for refreshments in these meetings

-Larry: suggests we combine the business meeting and the section coordinators meeting

Friday: should we start the breakfast at 7 am? (allows people to have a meal before the 8 am session)

Gary Linn on conference participation

We had a total of 689 papers and roundtables submitted this year (down from 756 in 2011) and 227 Panels (down from 243 in 2011). This is a six-year low, nothing to get too upset about, but something to be aware of. Some sections were down (about 2/3), and other sections were up (about 1/3). Gary would like to make special note of several sections that did particularly well in a newsletter item, and this includes the poster session which did extremely well. Social psychology and AFIT dropped 40 papers, something about which we should be concerned. Social work is in flux, and there is some opportunity to be explored with the SCs. Gary and Larry can provide some help, but sections that need help need to either get us names of people to contact, letters to send, or similar help.

We did have a lengthy discussion about what to do about no shows, and the feeling of the group was that redlining the program or deleting them is a bad idea. It sends the wrong message to people about the WSSA. We agreed that all papers submitted stay in the online published program, and we would pull the abstracts for no shows from the published abstracts that we put online. We will also make a statement on the Webpage that notes all papers submitted were included in the program but only those papers that were presented are included in the published abstracts. The final agreement is:

- All people that submitted and registered on time will be in the initial version of the abstracts and program.
- People that registered late and presented will be included in the final list of abstracts.
- People that registered but did not attend/present will be pulled from the final version of the abstracts that are archived online.
- People that did not register will be pulled from the final abstracts. Bad scholar...no donut...ever!

We also discussed how the online paper submission process will impact this, and we are committed to making this Web ready. We developed a panel of Larry and past program chairs to work out the online submission process with Omni.

Kate on Newsletter

Younger people are telling Kate that they do not read the newsletter articles, that they only look at the programmatic stuff. They are more likely to read it online or digitally. This raises questions as to if membership is reading articles or even reading the newsletter at all. Kate asks us to poll people on our campuses if they are reading the articles or the newsletter. We spend \$8k/year to do the newsletter, and \$5k covers printing and mailing. We discussed this extensively, and we agreed that we are wasting money printing hard copy for everyone. Larry suggested that we advise all members in the next newsletter that this is the LAST printed newsletter they will get unless they contact us. We also discussed dropping mailed print versions completely, and Tom made a motion that we drop the printed newsletter, which was

seconded and supported unanimously. We will send it out by EMAIL and post to the Website, and folks can print it if they want to. Ted also suggests that we work on building a Smart Phone App that would provide auto-updates to FB, Twitter, and EMAIL. Folks wanted to insure this was redundant data, so folks without phones don't miss anything. Ted did NOT volunteer to do this, and we are most likely going to need to hire this out. **Do any EC members or officers know of local talent that could do this for us for a fee?**

Newsletter assignments – all ideas/outlines are due middle of May and the full article is due on 1 August. Period, and Kate means it!

Tom - President's soapbox to tell the members what Tom wants to tell them,

Les - invitation to the next conference in Denver, noting that this is SSJ's 50th anniversary,

Vic - Conference wrap-up,

Kate - will extract Board actions from my minutes,

Ted - recap on poster session and call for future posters,

Gary - kudos for sections that are doing well,

Chris - recap the student paper winners and also solicit and round up notes from the individual winners,

Kristina Lybecker - centerpiece item of 2 pages with or without footnotes, that is NOT about the WSSA, but on an interesting topic,

Chris - one page article on his trip to Australia, just a travelogue,

Chris - one pager on the new student travel and local grants award,

Heather Albanesi - ½ page item on our service activity with Foodbank,

Geoffrey Hale - ½ page article on Keystone Excel pipeline, and

Ross - 1 page article on something.

Larry on fee structure

We revisit this every 2 years, and this is the year. Larry suggests no increase this year due to influx of cash from Elsevier. We DO need to increase membership numbers, and we have tried LOTS of different things to do this. We should discuss this in detail at the fall meeting, and this may involve new media and perhaps even a marketing firm. We are down from 800/900 in the last several conferences to 600+ this year, and we need to deal with this.

SF location for 2014 and labor union issues

Larry has done some research, and Unite Here seems to be a real loose cannon as to how it treats its members, runs its shop, and may deal with job actions. They do not allow secret ballots, they have a strike anytime clause in their contract, and they are not representing their people very well. Larry feels that we cannot help but get hurt in this, as our membership will not support anything that is seen as being against a union. If this is in play and membership sees this, people will not come. **Larry is suggesting that we pull out from San Francisco, and he is working on a new location with Hyatt. The EC unanimously supported pulling out of SF, yet also realizing that “this just ain't right.”**

George Junne and his proposal to do an event celebrating emancipation proclamation

Larry has reached out to him numerous times, he was supposed to have a detailed outline and action plan for the event to us by this meeting, and he has been unresponsive. Larry suggested that Tom send him a letter stating that if he does not come through with a concrete proposal by fall, we will not be able to do the event. Ted did note that George Junne did complete a film on the event with PBS, and perhaps we can screen the film and host a panel that discusses the event. Folks agreed that the film and panel were a reasonable middle ground.

Nominating committee

Vic, Gil, and Jack are the nominating committee, and Vic asked for names for all nominations by 31 August. Les has the dates for the fall meeting in his room, and he will notify people of the dates tonight at the reception.

Student travel award proposals

Chris reviewed the main points of the proposal that the ad hoc committee of Christopher Brown, Heather Albanesi, Gary Linn, Gil Fowler, Larry Gould, and Donna and Kristina Lybecker worked out, noting he was not able to get this printed for the group. **Chris asked for a motion approving the travel grant program and a second, and it passed unanimously. Chris will have Kate send this out to the EC after the meeting.**

Advance team in Denver

Larry asked for Heather, Kristina, and Prabha to provide names of people that the team should visit in the region (Provosts, relevant college deans, and graduate deans), and work with Larry on setting this up. Eileen suggested that we include the University of Denver Law School, as many NA students go to law school there. Larry also suggested someone running out to Grand Junction, and Larry will make a run to Wyoming. These visits have been very successful in the past and should be very useful in the future. Chris notes that Tim Casey, a person who presents in Canadian Studies and is the Chair of the Western Canadian Studies Association, lives and works there; Chris can provide a referral to whoever is making the trip.

Presentation of plaques

Eileen and Donna will NOT be at the reception tonight. Vic gave them both plaques, and the entire EC and group of officers thanked them warmly for their service.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:45am on 14 April.