

**Minutes of
The Executive Council Meeting of WSSA
April 22, 2006**

Present:

Jack W. Hou, Rick Adkisson, Jim Peach, Richard Greene, Leila J. Pratt, Gary Linn, Steve Pavlik, Gil Fowler, Doreen Barrie, Dennis Catlin, Diane Calloway-Graham, Larry Gould, Kate Gould, and Kant Patel.

Absent:

Mary Brentwood, Cynthia A. Klima, Jeff Corntassel.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Doreen Barrie called the meeting to order at 8:20a.m. Council members were invited to introduce themselves. Two of the three new members to the Council – Leila J. Pratt and Gary Linn – were introduced and welcomed. The third new member - Jeff Corntassel was unable to attend the meeting.

NEWSLETTER ASSIGNMENTS:

Diane Calloway-Graham, the WSSA newsletter coordinator made the following writing assignments for the Fall 2006 newsletter:

Doreen Barrie:

Articles on [a] President's Soap Box (with a picture), [b] Calgary, and [c] the plenary speaker (if the plenary speaker is decided by this time).

Rick Adkisson:

Article on call for papers.

Kant Patel:

Article on best student paper award competition

Jim Peach:

Article on wrap-up of Phoenix conference;
Follow through on research note – Dave Barri.

Larry Gould:

Job ads/business ads.

All articles should be submitted to Diane by August 1, 2006.

CONFERENCE REPORT:

Larry Gould, the Executive Director, gave a report on the Phoenix conference. More than 700 people were registered for the conference. He reported that overall he was very pleased with the nice facilities at the Wyndham Hotel. According to Larry, despite few minor problems (e.g.,

getting rooms), the hotel staff did a wonderful job. With contributions from universities and the Canadian government, the association did well financially. Changes made last year to raise the conference fees have also helped significantly.

Larry reported that the book exhibit at the conference is growing and more publishers are interested in participating in the book exhibit. This means that we will need larger space in future for book display. At present, the association does not charge any fee to the Library of Social Science which organizes and manages the book exhibit. In light of this, Larry asked Council members to think about whether in the future we should start charging a fee to the Library of Social Science. One of the problems discussed was the fact that Richard, the owner of the Library of Social Science charged Satya Khalsa of Silver Dream a vendor registration fee of \$450.00 for setting up a table to sell jewelry outside of the book exhibit area. After some discussion, it was agreed [a] that in the future, Richard Greene, Social Science Journal book review editor should sign a formal contract with the Library of Social Science specifying clear rules to avoid any potential problems, and [b] a letter should be sent to Richard, the owner of Library of Social Sciences, urging him to return the vendor registration fee he had charged to Silver Dream. It was also pointed out that the WSSA web page on book exhibit can be improved and made more informative for publishers who are interested in participating in the book exhibit.

At present, publishers interested in participating in a book exhibit are charged \$105 for one table and additional \$95.00 if a publisher representative is present. Doreen indicated that more publishers will be interested in participating at the Calgary conference and we might be able to build on this.

Diane suggested that Jim Peach write a letter to the Canadian Consulate to thank them for sponsoring our breakfast and for their financial support. Doreen Barrie will write a letter to all section coordinators thanking them for their fine work.

The Council members engaged in post-conference evaluation. Steve Pavlik expressed his displeasure and disappointment with his conference experience at the Wyndham Hotel. His specific complaints included lack of pay phones, too little access to computers, too little help with the setup in the conference rooms, and rudeness of the restaurant staff. Doreen expressed some concern about slow service at the restaurant. Jim Peach indicated that he found the hotel staff to be absolutely magnificent, very helpful, and responsive. He also suggested that the best way to quickly address problems is for the section coordinators to immediately inform Larry or the president when problems arise. Larry Gould indicated that while there were a few issues with rooms, it was as much our fault as hotel staff's because we gave them the wrong rooms. Since we do not have any control over what kind of facilities the business office at the host hotel has, Larry suggested that one of the things that WSSA can do is to provide a laptop station at the conference site but the cost is very high (\$500 dollars a day). He also indicated that with most hotels no longer have pay phones given the increased use of cell phones by most patrons. He stated that he will discuss some of these concerns in his post conference meeting with the appropriate hotel staff. Larry indicated that overall conference experience was very positive. Rick Adkisson suggested that to avoid similar problems in future we should find out information

about what kind of facilities the Business Center has at the Hyatt in Calgary.

PRESIDENT-ELECT'S REPORT:

Rick Adkisson gave a brief report. Rick stated that we will need to address some unique issue raised by the fact that this is the first time we are holding the WSSA conference out of the country. He indicated that he will communicate to all section coordinators the importance of completing and turning in their individual section programs to him in a timely manner to enable him to put together the overall conference program. He also mentioned that he will put together a call for paper for the 2007 conference. Finally, Rick suggested that we need to communicate to conference participants the customs requirements for entry and exit from Canada. Larry suggested that to avoid any potential problems we should inform all participants that they will need a passport for entry and exit from Canada.

PLANNING FOR CALGARY:

Doreen Barrie presented a report on planning for the Calgary conference. She stated that she has been working with the University of Calgary to arrange field trips for the conference participants in conjunction with different program sections. There was a consensus on the Council that the participants should be charged with the cost of the field trips. Some Council members expressed concerns that if field trips are arranged during conference meeting days and times, it might negatively impact attendance at some panels. One of the suggestions discussed was to consider setting aside a day before and/or after the conference for field trips. However, this raised concern that some universities allow faculty members to travel and receive reimbursement for only conference meeting days. Rick Adkisson suggested that perhaps some field trips (mainly designed for entertainment) could be arranged in the evenings. Larry Gould expressed the opinion that WSSA should not be involved in arranging field trips. Rather, the WSSA should promote field trips/tours arranged by other tour companies. Diane suggested informing participants about availability of field trips.

Larry indicated that to avoid any problems/delays with customs many of the activities such as buying and stuffing of envelopes, and printing name tags, etc., for the program participants would have to occur in Calgary. He also suggested the possibility of renting some printers rather than bringing printers to the conference in Calgary. He suggested that this will require the help of some students at the University of Calgary whom we will pay or it will require some Council members to come early to help. He urged Council members who plan to arrive early to volunteer to help in this endeavor. Doreen indicated that she will work closely with Larry and Rick to anticipate and address potential customs problems. She also suggested that on the WSSA web site we put information and links about Calgary.

The Council discussed the prospects of raising money through corporate sponsors. Doreen has been working with Russell Kalmacoff, President of Rockmount Corporation in Calgary, Alberta who has experience in this area. Money raised through corporate sponsors can be used for a variety of purposes such as subsidizing the cost of hotel rooms, sponsoring various events/receptions, and providing additional awards and one-time scholarship for students. Some concern was expressed that corporate sponsorships sometimes come with strings attached and we

should exercise some caution. The Council decided to pursue the matter further. There was a consensus on the Council that sponsors should support the whole conference and not individual sections. Larry indicated that he will put together a document which will provide information about WSSA's history, mission, etc., that can be shown to potential sponsors and will give it to Doreen for her review. Mr. Kalmakoff was introduced and briefly addressed the Council.

Doreen indicated that the University of Calgary will need some estimate of how many participants will attend the reception to be hosted by the University. Larry indicated that by February he will have a rough idea based on registration, etc. of how many people will show up at the reception.

Rick indicated that it will be helpful to provide conference participants with information about currency exchange, availability of ATMs, and banks, etc., near the conference facility. It was agreed that a tip sheet should be put together and included in conference material packets. Doreen indicated that there is a big shopping center near the hotel.

DATES FOR SEPTEMBER PLANNING MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:

Larry suggested two possible dates -- September 8th and 9th (Fri-Sat) or September 15th and 16th (Fri-Sat) for the planning meeting of the Executive Council. He also suggested that rather than following the past practice of meeting on Friday and Saturday, the Executive Council should meet for a full day on Saturday only. This will give Council members more flexibility in making their travel plans. The Executive Council agreed to meet all day on Saturday. However, it is important that all members arrive sometime on Friday so they do not miss Saturday meeting. Larry will discuss the dates and finalize plans with the hotel in Calgary and let everyone know the definite dates for the meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Jim Peach mentioned that he has been approached by two publishers who have expressed an interest in publishing the proceedings of the conference and inquired whether the Council was interested in pursuing this opportunity. A general discussion followed. Some of the concerns expressed were the following: Who will handle the increased workload this will generate? Who will be responsible for proofreading and editing the papers included in the published proceedings? Will all papers presented at the conference will be automatically included in the proceedings? If only selected papers will be included in the proceedings, what process will be used to select/reject papers? Etc. Another concern expressed was the fact that some universities accept conference proceedings as publications for the purpose of tenure/promotion decisions while many universities do not accept such proceedings as publications.

The general consensus of the Council was that more information was needed before proceeding further on this matter. It was suggested that representatives of publishers interested in publishing the proceedings be invited to give a presentation to the Council at its Fall meeting. It was also agreed that Jim, Leila, and Gil will write an article for the WSSA Newsletter on the topic of

conference proceedings.

Larry Gould invited suggestions for future conference sites. Some of the cities suggested were: San Antonio, New Orleans, Kansas City, Memphis, Oklahoma City, St. Louis, Omaha, Portland, Seattle, Boise, and Minneapolis. Finally, Mexico was also suggested as a potential site for a future conference

Jim Peach agreed to serve as a chair of the nomination committee. He will select other members to serve on the nomination committee. The nomination committee will solicit and submit by the middle of summer, for the Council's approval, a slate of six candidates for three seats on the executive council, and names of candidates for Vice President and President-Elect for elections.

Larry indicated that he was pleased to report that for the last elections, the response rate was 57 percent and the vote was very close for the three Council seats.

The meeting adjourned around 11:30a.m.

Submitted by

Kant Patel, Vice President