

WSSA Executive Committee Meeting April 14, 2010

Members Present: Jack Hou, President, Phadrea Ponds, Immediate Past President; Gil Fowler, President Elect, Larry Gould, Executive Director, Kate Herke, WSSA Administrative Assistant, Gary Lin, Director of Recruitment, Rich Greene Social Science Journal Book Editor and Board Members: Doug Nord, Tom Isern, Donna Lybecker, Leslie Alm, Vic Heller, Chris Brown, Eileen Luna.

Jack called the meeting to order. Gil moved that the minutes from the Fall Executive Committee be approved. Chris seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Gil gave an overview of this year's conference (see Attachment 1 for a summary of the sessions). He noted that this year he attempted to include a photo of each section coordinator in the program to make it easier for conference participants to identify them.

There was a discussion about how to have conference participants mingle more. It was agreed that while this was desirable it might be difficult to accomplish. Several ways to facilitate the mingling were discussed:

1. Have session chairs remind people that they are welcome at other sessions and encourage them to attend any that might interest them.
2. Encourage section coordinators to cross list sessions. It was agreed this might be difficult for them to do because of the need to look at the entire program. May need to establish guidelines for cross listing. Jack, Gil and Vic agreed to talk to the section coordinators about this and work towards establishing some guidelines.
3. Coffee breaks sponsored by WSSA foster intermingling but in a much more informal way.

Rich presented the SSJ Book editor's report. He noted that No. 1 Vol. 47 had no book reviews. However this is not unusual at least one issue each year since 2002 has contained no book reviews. From 2002 to present the average number of book reviews per issue is 4 which should be achieved this year.

The library of Social Science is here again this year. However, he has received an inquiry from another company that does the same work. Rich and Larry will solicit proposals from both companies for next year and determine the best alternative.

Doug suggested that Rich look at some of the Western Canadian publishers for book to review. Rich agreed to do so. Tom suggested that books by WSSA members be listed in the Kudos, Laurels and Milestones (KLM) along with their contact information and that Rich try to get people to review these books.

Kate and Larry discussed the newsletter. The central question was whether to continue to publish the newsletter or put it online only. There was a discussion about whether people were more likely to read the newsletter in print or online. It was agreed that the newsletter is good promotional material and encourages people to attend the conference.

It was also agreed that for now WSSA would continue to publish the newsletter as well as put it online and that members would receive post card reminders about the conference.

Kate asked the Council for help in recruiting people outside the Council to write pieces for the newsletter. Several suggestions were made. It was also agreed that section coordinators would be asked to look for papers that would be good fits for the newsletter. Kate also asked for help in getting information to include in KLM column in the newsletter. Again section coordinators will be asked to help. Both Larry and Kate stressed the importance of meeting the newsletter deadlines.

WSSA Executive Committee Meeting April 17, 2010

Members Present: Jack Hou, President, Phadrea Ponds, Immediate Past President; Gil Fowler, President Elect, Larry Gould, Executive Director, Kate Herke, WSSA Administrative Assistant, Gary Lin, Director of Recruitment, Prabha Unnithan, Social Science Journal Editor and Board Members: Doug Nord, Tom Isern, Donna Lybecker, Leslie Alm, Vic Heller, Chris Brown, Eileen Luna, Theodore S. Ransaw, Heather Albanesi, Dan McInerney, and Betsy Rabnkin

Jack called the meeting to order. Prabaha presented the Social Science Journal editor's report. He reported that all four issues of 2009 have been published as well as the first issue of 2010. He is close to moving all activities such as submission, reviewing and decisions online. The rejection rate for 2009 was 68% and the time taken from submission to decision was approximately 103 days. The data base for reviews which he had to create from scratch continues to expand due to the policy of automatically adding all authors whose papers are accepted. Relations with Elsevier continue to be good.

Prabaha wished to seek the guidance of the council on three issues:

1. Multiple Submissions—more and more people are submitting to SSJ and other journals simultaneously and then withdrawing the article. So many in fact that it is becoming a problem. Dan suggested that the editor restate the SSJ position (no multiple submissions) in his first communication. Tom suggested that WSSA sponsor a panel at the next meeting on ethical publication behavior. The panel should include the editor, a reviewer or two and several people who have submitted articles recently. He also suggested that a newsletter piece about this problem would be helpful.
2. Plagiarism—this also is becoming a problem. At present the editors and assistant editors try to check this online. Elsevier is working on a program to help with this problem. Seems to be a growing problem with authors plagiarizing their own work—send piece to a topical journal first and then send to SSJ.
3. Special Issues—When Prabaha began as editor he was directed by the council to not publish any special issues and he has complied with these wishes. However from time to time he gets proposals for special issues and would like to know how to respond. After some discussion, the council decided to keep the ban on special

issues in place for now but directed the editor make suggestions about this policy to the executive council when a new editor is hired.

Diane Calloway Graham appeared before the council to propose that the Women's Studies section be changed to Women's and Gender Studies. It was ruled that this motion was brought to the council as a duly seconded motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The selection of a new editor for SSJ was discussed next. Doug will chair the search committee. Chris, Prabha, the current editor and at least one maybe two past presidents will serve as members. The committee was charged with writing an announcement of the job opening that could be posted on the web site and mailed to the membership. Candidates for the editor position need to submit a letter of interest, a vita and letters of support from their Department Chair, Dean and Provost. Candidates should also be encouraged to contact the current editor about work load and other relevant issues.

Larry announced that attendance at this year's conference was approximately 650. This was a little lower than we would have liked but is close to the breakeven point. We would have had some serious issues covering cost if the faculty at UNR had not participated in such great numbers. The student workers, though all new this year, did a great job. Having our own computers at registration made the process faster and smoother. In the future student workers will be used to put together the registration packets. Larry and Kate urged the council members to think about students they could recommend as workers for the Salt Lake City conference.

Larry also stressed the need to continue to work with local colleges and universities to encourage their faculty to participate in the WSSA conference. He also noted that there are considerably more local universities in the Salt Lake City area so more people will be needed to make personal contact with these institutions. The Deans, Department Heads and Provost will be invited to a reception on 9/16/10. Jack, Vic and Gil with help from Larry will come up with a travel agenda and recruit council members to come to Salt Lake up to two days before the fall meeting to visit area schools. This effort is very important this year because Salt Lake City historically has low attendance. Several suggestions about reaching out to local institutions and publicizing Salt Lake City could be handled. Among these were offered:

- Dan suggested we look at how other organizations handle this issue. He was to forward a web link to Larry showing how the Western History Association handled this issue.
- Chris offered to contact faculty he knows at Utah State University. He will also send contacts to Larry for local universities.
- Section coordinators should be used to reach out to local universities.

Newsletter assignments:

- Gil—looking back at conference and President's soapbox
- Vic—looking forward to conference
- Jack—nominations for the president and board
- Donna—social networking, WSSA on Face Book

- Leila—Action Items
- Doug—search for editor
- Prabha—timing on submissions (ethics)
- Betsy—article on the economy
- Tom—student article on wild horse roundup
- Phaedra—colleague to write an article on blacks in the West
- Chris—suggested Derrick Evert might do a piece on the border between California, Utah and Nevada

All pieces should be to Kate by 7/15/10.

The council discussed the possibility of having poster sessions. It was generally agreed that these grow out of the culture of the conference and usually occur when there are a very large number of participants. WSSA may need to wait for this to occur.

The last item discussed was the need for the council to begin work on an operations manual. Larry asked the board to think about what this manual should contain. Work on this will begin at the September meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Leila J. Pratt

Section	# Sessions	# Papers	Papers/Session
African/African American	10 (3)	14	2.0
American Indian	15 (3)	33	2.0
American Studies	3	8	2.6
Anthropology	8 (1)	22	3.1
Arid land Studies	4	13	3.2
Asian Studies	5	18	3.6
Association of Borderland Studies	28	99	3.5
Canadian Studies	6	19	3.1
Chicano Studies	3 (1)	5	2.5
Chronic Disability	8 (4)	16	4.0
Criminal Justice	9 (1)	28	3.5
Economics (AFIT)	15 (1)	52	3.7
Economics (Business & Finance)	4	13	3.3
Economics (General)	10	38	3.8
Environmental Policy	5	13	2.6
History	5	14	2.8
Human Communciations	8 (1)	28	4.0
Latin American *	Bus & Fin	-4	<i>na</i>
Mass Communciation	7	25	3.6
New Zealand/Australia	4 (1)	9	3.0
Political Science	8	29	3.6
Public Adminstration	12	31	2.6
Public Finance and Budgeting	10	40	4.0
Rural Studies	5 (2)	8	2.7
Slavic Studies	9	23	2.6
Social Psychology	15	58	3.9
Sociology	11 (1)	32	3.2
Urban Studies	5 (1)	9	2.3
Women Studies	6	20	3.3
TOTALS	238	717	3.0

* Latin American papers rolled into Business and Finance; totaled there

**Numbers in parenthesis are sessions with 1 presenter or a group presentation

*** total sessions include 11 cross listed sessions

****all numbers are as of 4/12/10