

**Western Social Science Association
Executive Council Meeting, Albuquerque, NM
Friday September 13, 2013**

In attendance: Ted Ransaw, Tom Isern, Garry Linn, Reynold Nesiba, Prabha Unnithan, Les Alm, Ross Burkhart, Scott Carson, Barbara ~~Bonnekesson~~Bonnekessen, Geoffrey Hale, Kristina Lybecker, Lynda Dickson, Mary Jo Tippeconnic Fox, Michelle Companion, Larry Gould, Kate Herke, Heather Nicol.

1. Alm called the meeting to order at 8 AM. Introductions were made of all members.
2. Gould led a discussion of future meeting sites. Confirmed sites included Portland (2015); Reno (2016); San Francisco (2017); San Antonio (2018).
3. Gould provided an overview of the financial standings for WSSA, including a discussion of holdings in real-estate and stock market investments. Gould reported that we did not cover our hotel obligations at the Denver meeting and it cost \$9,000 to cover those costs. Alm mentioned that many of our presenters in Denver were local and didn't have to stay in the hotel. Alm suggested that we need to continue emphasizing to our membership the importance of staying in the hotel so that we can keep the rates/costs down. Gould reported that we purchased another projector and another computer and that catering was becoming more and more expensive, with the President's luncheon also increasing in costs. It was pointed out that there is no fee for council members and section coordinators to attend the President's luncheon.
4. In an effort to improve attendance for next spring, Alm and Unnithan visited UNM earlier in the week. They had positive meetings and anticipate increased attendance from UNM for next Spring's meeting.
5. Companion led a discussion on how we could get more donations to WSSA.
6. Gould announced that we may have to look at another publishing company as the main conference vendor in the future. Scholars' Choice may not be back. Herke suggested we can use student workers to help publishers attend and cut down costs. Companion suggested that maybe it was possible for local representatives to speak/hand out information instead. ~~Bonnekesson~~Bonnekessen suggested that we have a Native American vendor. Nesiba suggested we have a local book vendor, Barnes and Noble. Carson stated that book stores are in decline and Unnithan agreed that book displays at conferences are scaling back. Herke suggested we ask a local higher education institution if they would like a table for recruiting. ~~Bonnekesson~~Bonnekessen said she will check into it.
7. Gould reported that due to a former member's will (John Wicks), WSSA now owns land in Montana, although much of it is in distressed properties. Gould stated that we may need to sell the non-premium properties, and bundle the others for sale. This discussion led to a broader discussion of what to do with monies earned. Isern made a motion to re-invest the money and this motion was seconded by Nesiba who suggested that we let the investment subcommittee handle, or make recommendations, for investments in the future including the investment properties. Gould reported that the previous finance committee made up of former presidents (this was an ad hoc subcommittee) had suggested that we re-invest the money in a conservative manner. After further discussion, Isern changed his original motion (seconded by Nesiba) such that the motion was amended to read that we would re-invest the money for the time being in a way that was green, socially responsible, and modest to low risk. Alm called

for the vote and this motion was passed unanimously. Companion made a motion to create a new finance advisory committee (seconded by Dickson) made up of Nesiba (chair), Lybecker, and Carson. Alm called for the vote and the motion passed unanimously.

8. Gould provided information on the transition to a new website. Our current website will remain in place through the Spring Conference and the new website will be brought ~~into~~-on line over the next summer. We will roll-out the new website after the Spring conference. All paper submissions will be auto-formatted. We will have to change the web address. \$7,000 will be the overall cost with an \$80 per month maintenance fee.
9. Herke reported that moving to one overall conference fee which included the journal turned out to be a good idea, making it much easier to track members. We are also saving money by using email instead of regular mail. We will continue to use this format, utilizing a three year email list of former members. There are approximately ~~71~~200 on the mailing list.
10. Lin presented his report on Recruitment and Retention. He provided an overview of the good sections and the ones that needed more work. He continues to work with section chairs to help them to grow participation. He has identified 60 universities outside of New Mexico and sent letters to provosts/vice presidents for academic affairs. These letters contained our scholarship fliers. ~~Michelle Companion~~ wants more fliers to distribute to University of Colorado, Colorado Springs. ~~Bonnekesson~~~~Bonnekessen~~ suggested that there is more the Council could do to reach the middle ground between what the section coordinators do and what the advance team does. Alm noted that dean nominations and the poster session are bringing in new blood.
11. Carson reported that not many articles from the conference are submitted to the Journal and asked for suggestions on improving the submission rate. Companion suggested that section coordinators can suggest ~~to~~ participants ~~to that they consider~~ ~~submit~~ submission.
12. Carson reported on SSJ Open access and Elsevier. Carson stated that new national and international open access intended changes could affect SSJ sometime in the near future with authors having to pay submission fees. Carson will follow this trend closely and update the Council at the Spring meeting.
13. Isern reported that he will coordinate both the book and journal award committees and will update us in the Spring.
14. Unnithan reminded the Council that we passed a resolution last spring which stated that the Book Review editor and Journal editor should be separate~~s~~, and that we still had not created a committee to find a new Book Review editor. At the present time, Carson is serving as both the Book Review editor and the ~~j~~ Journal editor. We need someone to head the nomination process and organize a search for a Book Review editor. Isern made a motion to nominate Burkhart as the chair of the search committee with two other members, ~~Bonnekesson~~~~Bonnekessen~~, and Albanesi, and Carson and Unnithan serving as advisors. Motion was seconded by Dickson. Alm called the vote and the motion passed unanimously.
15. Herke reported on the status of the newsletter. It is under construction and she will be soliciting for more articles. Herke is especially interested in articles ~~about~~-of general interest to a wide range of social scientists.

11:30 BREAK FOR LUNCH

16. Alm called the meeting back to order at 12:30 PM.

17. Herke and Gould spoke about the change to go to an all e-copy of the newsletter; it provides more flexibility. Council members need to continue to provide timely submissions in order for the newsletter to be successful.
18. Unnithan provided an update on the sections for the next conference. A new section was created, Human Ecology, with Zach~~a~~ery Smith as the coordinator. This past year, two coordinators passed away. The new coordinator for Environment and Natural Resources is Chelse~~a~~y Schelly. Unnithan has sent out a new photo request (optional). Unnithan reported that he and Alm spent this past Thursday at the UNM in hopes of getting a greater turn out for the spring conference. Unnithan led a discussion of a possible move from print to on-line program. Along these lines, there were ideas brought up about moving to a transitional period where both hard copy and online were available. Arguments were made by many of the Council members that the best way to maintain the WSSA identity is to maintain the hard copy of the program. It was decided that we would continue this discussion at the Spring meeting. Gould thanked Alm and Unnithan for being on the advance team and visiting the UNM.
19. ~~Bonnekesson~~Bonnekessen made a motion to create a new faculty award; seconded by Dickson. Discussion followed, ~~and~~ Alm called for a vote, and the motion to create a ~~n~~New sScholar award passed unanimously. For the coming year it was decided that the current past-president (in this case Isern) would choose a scholar (less than 5 years experience) from his own institution to receive this award. The initial award would be for up to \$1000 to be paid to the award winner at the conference. The award winner would have to attend the conference and present a paper at the conference in order to receive the award money.
20. Linn reported on the use of Skype for his section. WSSA's support for Skype presentations for people with disabilities was very successful and the Council agreed to continue this support. Gould stated that this support is within our mission and brings a positive light to the things that WSSA stands for.

4:00 PM Meeting is adjourned

**Western Social Science Association
Executive Council Meeting, Albuquerque, NM
Saturday September 14, 2013**

1. Alm called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.
2. Isern presented the following nominees for the next election.

President elect: Heather Albanesi, Donna Lybecker; Vice-President and Secretary: Ross Burkhart, Ellen Luna Firebaugh; Council: ~~Fomy~~Tony Amato, Monica Gallamore, Christina Medina, Tony Robinson, Jesus Ruiz, Bill Channel.

A discussion followed regarding if it was possible to add someone to the list if it was approved at this time. It was decided that, via email, there could be additions to the list if the Council voted so. Hale then made a motion to approve the candidates for election with any additions being approved via email by the Council. Lybecker seconded. Alm called the vote and it passed unanimously.

3. Gould reported that he would reach out to the Native American Center to request a speaker for

the invocation at opening reception.

4. Alm reported that Albanesi will continue to take the lead in raising money for a local food bank at the Spring conference. Presentation of the check will occur at the Presidential luncheon.
5. Ransaw reported that the poster session continues to be popular and he will continue to take the lead on that for the Spring conference. Gould noted that we need to make it clear that the poster session competition is for students only.
6. Nesiba reported that the newly created investment/finance committee met and came up with the following 4 items be approved to serve as guidance for the committee: (1) The committee must come to a consensus on the results; (2) the committee will work with Gould and Yuma Investments to delineate the objectives; (3) the committee will make comparisons based on what is presented; and (4) the committee will report back to the Council on how they feel we should move forward. Discussion followed. Gould reiterated that our present goals are for our investments to be green, socially responsible, and made at modest to low risk.
7. Burkhart reported on the status of the search for a Book Review editor. Book editor duties include soliciting reviews and publishing reviews, creating a book exhibit, presenting reports to the Council, and seeking current books on the social sciences. Applicants should submit a plan to meet these goals, a CV, and a letter of commitment from his or her institution allowing for release time, office space, postage, etc. The idea is to have applications by February 1 of next year and do interviews at the Spring conference. The search committee will recommend one finalist and Council will vote on it.
8. Herke briefed the council on local participation and travel grants and student helper participation. Student workers get to attend at least partial time at conference. Student workers need to be present on Tuesday for a full training day. Lodging and payment for conference are paid for graduate student workers.
9. Ransaw updated Council on the student paper competition and named council members helping him (~~Bonnekesson~~ Bonnekessen and Linn). Ransaw also named the Dissertation award committee: Dickson, Tippeconnic and Albanesi.
10. Herke asked for and made assignments for the newsletter and noted that all submissions are due by the end of November.
11. Albanesi led a discussion on the possibility of including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram in future WSSA dealings.
12. Gould reminded everyone that we needed to optimize break-out space and to encourage section coordinators so that we optimize space/paper presentation time the best we can.

11:45 AM Meeting is adjourned.