

Minutes of WSSA Executive Council Meeting
Fall (May 4-October 1) 2016
(Discussion and Decision conducted by email)

Participating in Person: Heather Albanesi, Immediate Past-President; Michèle Companion, President; Barbara Bonnekesen (2013-2016), President-Elect; Larry Gould, Executive Director; Cristina Medina (2014-2017)

Participating by Email: Kate Herke, Communications Director; Christopher Brown, Vice-President/Secretary; William Schaniel (2015-2016, 2016-2019), Anthony Amato (2014-2017), Jesús Ruiz Flores (2014-2017), Debra Andrist (2015-2018), Mary Jo Tippeconnic Fox (2015-2018), Stephen Mumme (2015-2018), Moises Diaz (2016-2019); Mark Melichar (2016-2019); SSJ Editor, Stephanie Witt; SSJ Book Review Editor, Chelsea Shelly

Decisions

- Slavic Studies Section of the WSSA is renamed the **Slavic and Eurasian Studies Section**. Moved by Tony Amato on behalf of Robert Neibuhr and seconded by Michèle on September 4. Motion reads:
 - Whereas, the section coordinator, polling section members, has determined a change in section name necessary and desirable,
 - Whereas, the section coordinator has expressed this wish for a name change in an e-mail (appended below),
 - Whereas, as a member of the board, I also judge that this change better reflects the section's scope and enhances its appeal for existing and prospective WSSA members,

Motion carried (9 in favor, zero opposed, zero abstaining, 4 not responding). Vote recorded on September 5, 2016.

Discussions

- Larry Gould reminded Executive Council members by email concerning the need not to convene the full Executive Council in San Francisco for the usual fall meeting, owing to the exorbitant hotel room expense required to host the full committee. Kate, Barbara, Heather, Michèle, and Larry will go to solidify matters with the hotel and promote the conference locally (see email from Larry dated May 4, 2016 and follow-up email by Michèle dated August 22, 2016.) (Note that Kate was unable to attend).
- Over the summer, the Executive Team, comprised of the Director (Larry), President (Michèle), Past-President (Heather), and President-Elect (Barbara), in consultation with the Communications Director (Kate), members of the EC, Section Coordinators, and WSSA members, created a plan, to change the functionality of the abstract submission process, to Matt Molenaar, Web Master. Issues of appearance and functionality of WSSA web page were evaluated and a plan for changes was submitted to Matt Molenaar for implementation by early fall. Extensive communication occurred starting 6/1.
- Discussion of the timing of opening official website registration for the April 2017 meeting.
 - Barbara notes (August 10, 2016) that the website specifies initiation in October 2016. Larry indicates his hope that the site will be able to launch at the end of August 2016.
 - Barbara (August 11) believes the October initiation date indicated on the website “should do fine”. Tony (August 11) opines that if registration opening is delayed, section coordinators may need to reassure their submitters by individual email that the proposals are accepted in the program, pending formal reassurance. Tony reiterates this in exchange with Jesus (August 11).

- Michèle (August 13) weighs in to clarify that the only submission procedure is to be through the WSSA website and not through section coordinators directly. Later (August 13) she admonishes against changing the procedure, counseling patience with the new system.
- Jesus (August 14) agrees but notes the special needs of Latin American participants who need early assurance of proposal approvals in order to apply for financial support from their institutions. Tony notes (August 11) he was not arguing for reviving the old system during the transitional period but simply recognizing the potential problem of discouraged submitters whose woes with the system might result in non-participation. Michèle (August 14) thanks Tony and Jesus for their “valuable input” and notes the importance of these discussions in flagging and understanding potential problems.
- The Executive Council discussed the issue of ADA compliance and our wording via email 8/17 and 8/18.
- Michèle will provide the Executive Council with an update on her meeting with the Food Bank and the Council’s school site visits when we convene in San Francisco in April 2017.

Reports

- Stephanie Witt, Editor of SSJ, provided detailed updates on the state of the journal on 6/14 and 8/18.

Action Items

- Student Paper Award committee: Bill Schaniel is chairing, but we need a couple more members (Michèle posted: November 1, 2016).
- Book Award: Heather is chairing committee but need two additional members. We’ve tapped past presidents to serve on this committee-query to Larry or Kate as to their recollection (Michèle posted: November 1, 2016).
- Article Award: Stephanie Witt chairs committee. Need two additional members (Michèle posted: November 1, 2016).
- Emerging Scholar Award: Barbara and Heather to select awardees (Michèle posted: November 1, 2016).

Submitted on March 27, 2017 by:

Stephen Mumme
Colorado State University