

**SSSA Executive Committee Mid-Year Meeting
Conducted Online via the GoToMeeting Platform
Friday, October 30, 2020, 1:00PM – 3:00PM (Central)**

Attendance: Jeff Justice, Tracy Dietz, Lydia Andrade, Nicole Farris, Salli Vargis, Craig Walker, Pascal Ngoboka, Keith Gaddie, Kirby Goidel, Cynthia Cready, Soumya Sivakumar, Israel Nandamudi

I. Call to Order 2:09 minutes

II. Approval of Minutes from SSSA Executive Council Meeting of Wednesday, October 30, 2019 and Minutes from Subsequent Virtual Meetings to Date with the following corrections: Change Title to April 2020 instead of March 2020 for midyear meeting document. General Program Director minutes, change salary to compensation. Remove Tracy's name as well from attendance!

III. Officer Reports

A. President Cynthia Cready

All contracts were approved and accepted. President tasked herself with contacting everyone on the committees and worked with affiliates to fill vacancies. New Communications Committee, Name Change Committee, Developments with Covid Committee, involved working with the Austin contract. Advisory Committee recommended canceling the Austin meeting and moving the meeting to 2021. Impact on the Program Director and Convention Director contracts, decided to honor those contracts and offer them new 2021 contracts (Kim Dlouhy and Tracy Dietz). The attorney looked over contracts and will look over will look over Communications Director contract after this meeting.

Will talk about if we need to move all online or fully online in new business. Keynote speaker Dr. Alex Procaro, discussing immigration and crime. He is well aware that it might be online.

B. SSQ Editors / Keith Gaddie and Kirby Goidel

Met with the editorial committee again this morning. Revamped the editorial board. Trying to get things out quickly. Posted the SSQ Report on Slack. Getting more manuscripts than before—Covid or other reasons? They think both. More aggressively using the desk reject process. Harder to get people to review manuscripts. One new topic coming soon: Innovation. Trying to get papers from new/emerging/young African American scholars. Trying to use these special issues to get people engaged in the journal. Impact factor went up the year before, then went down a bit last year. Potential for podcast. Doing everything they can to get the knowledge out there. Keith wanted to clarify that a special issue might be a

symposium in a larger issues. It will not delay the process.

C. General Program Director / Tracy Dietz

Updated her report this afternoon because she did not have a table in there. Has not done anything with space, since it's difficult to tell if we are going to be face-to-face or not. Submissions were up. Austin asked us to consider them for a future meeting site.

Advertising—moved to using Constant Contact. Helpful for Tracy to see who is getting emails and who is opening them. Recommend whomever is President sends out an email to his school to help recruit. Centennial events—created pop-up displays, such as images from locations and the journal, information from meeting minutes, all Presidents. Will make movies out of those posters with voiceovers in anticipation of virtual meeting.

D. Site Director / Nicole Farris

Covid-19, lots of back-and-forth, thanks to Melissa. Lots of schools canceling, forbidding, or not paying for travel. Able to cancel the meeting at the hotel. Virtual meeting was beyond our capabilities at that time. Site survey was issued, satisfaction was very high, lower satisfaction with costs and low attendance in sessions. Nicole's been in contact with the hotel in terms of options. We might have to figure out somewhat soon what we are going to do.

E. Treasurer / Craig Walker

We lost money last year. In 2019, we were \$107,000 expenditures over revenue. Even though we spent \$100,000 more, because we had investments we have \$30,000 more than what we started the year with. Less than 200 active members right now. Proposed deficit budget at \$60,000.

Questions asked, how do send out information for members to renew? Craig is unsure. Do we pay membership on a calendar year? Trying to get Wiley to go to a 12 month membership. Membership is tied to the journal, but most of us get access to the journal through our institution. We have talked about an automatic membership, creates a big work load for Craig, we need to figure out if a member is a student, faculty, whatever, then we cut a check to Wiley and then they send us money back. We have a million dollars, we can take a risk if we think there will be a benefit for that risk. We can use some of that money to meet our goals.

F. Secretary / Chastity Blankenship

Sent out emails to local non-profits in Austin. Only the Texas General Land Office got back to her and they were surprised that we were potentially having a meeting. As we all know, exhibits have been going down; however, we are no longer losing money on that. The Secretary has stopped paying for exhibit booths, which were very expensive. We now provide only a table for the very few exhibits/sponsors who send materials.

G. Communications Director / Jeff Justice

Voted on GoToMeeting for virtual meetings, which is better than Teams. Thinking we can go with Zoom now, since it works with Event Bright. Slack has been very successful—a way to reduce email overload and helps the secretary keep track of votes and other notes. Never brought the 2020 site live, because of Covid. We need to determine, who is going to be controlling the site.

Thanks to General Program Director Tracy for sending some previous programs so we can put them on the website. Sometimes people email about previous programs for tenure or whatever.

Contacted Open Water about a virtual conference. They will meet with them on Monday to determine what it will cost. Open Water does not know the details of what we need, so it is difficult for them to determine the cost. Tracy suggested Ray Darville and Jim Sheffield, who were previous Program Chairs for other older programs.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Awards / Lydia Andrade

This committee is made up of past presidents, and it's getting hard and harder to engage. Responses from two people and that's about it. Lack of participation.

B. Budget & Finance / Craig Walker

Jean-Marc Gandonou (Chair), Budget Committee did not meet. The only thing they would really discuss is membership fees, which should increase in 2021. Craig does not recommend raising the fee, but that's his opinion and not necessarily the views of the committee.

C. Communications / Jeff Justice

This committee last met in June. Communications decided it was going to take quite a few people in order to make it work if the meeting will be going virtual. We are going to have some tech issues, not connecting via computer, mics not working, etc. Trying to get Twitter more active we have seen an increase in users in the last few months, we don't have as many Facebook users as we used to. Affiliates can do their own thing and have a guest speaker event. Kind of a limbo situation.

D. Editorial Policies / Keith Gaddie and Kirby Goidel

Nothing to add.

E. Membership / Chastity Blankenship

Mentioned we started off strong. President Cready helped us get active members from each affiliate. We sent emails out to recruit members and to recruit for the meeting, last ones in March. Then things changed. We last meet in May, and discussed how it was difficult to recruit, when the meeting was in limbo. Chastity is hoping the committee meets in November or December, once we hopefully learn what will happen for April.

F. Nominations / Pascal Ngoboka

Vice President and Treasurer are up. Anything other positions opening? Not that we know of. Solicitations have not gone out yet.

G. Site Policy / Nicole Farris

Nothing new to report.

H. Student Travel Grants / Salli Vargis

We hope to have a February 5th deadline for travel grants if we are meeting face-to-face. Virtual meeting or not they would still get a check/stipend. Notification for winners would be March 5th. Grants/stipend need to be posted on our website.

V. Old Business

A. Treasurer/ Craig Walker

Membership Requirements for Affiliate Representation on SSSA Council and Rotation of SSSA Vice President. Continue Suspension of Action of ByLaws Sections 5.3 & 8.2.a to 2021. Do we continue the suspension? Our membership is about 25% of what it was 4 years. We are a 200 member association right now. We should we consider our structure. Affiliates and associate affiliates—sometimes met requirement and they did not take the next steps to becoming an affiliate. Craig moves that we continue the suspension of ByLaws Sections 5.3 & 8.2.a until the next Council meeting. Action: Whenever the next regular Council I meeting happens, it needs to be an agenda item. Proposal to make it a percentage rather than a number. Wants to include them more. Seconded. Motion carries.

B. Lineberry & Bonjean Awards Selection Criteria & Plan / Lydia Andrade – Update
Remind everyone that Kirby and Keith should not be determining the winners. Lydia went to the committee and they said too many submissions. Lydia thought maybe they could do it based on number of downloads or something. No one really responded to that. Lack of participation. Keith said everyone complains about the workload. They are looking at around 500 submissions this year. If that means creating a new committee then so be it. We might need to think about how to change this. Created when we had 1,500 members now we have 200. Even when Lydia got it down to 20 journals people still did not want to do the work.

C. Membership Survey / Nicole Farris – Summary/Highlights of Results

Had some issues with administering the survey. Of those who responded 78% of respondents liked the presentations and 80% liked the food and beverage. Same complaints as before.

D. Strategic Planning / Soumya Sivakumar

Ad-hoc strategic committee was formed to clarify the association's vision. How would the name change impact membership? Worked with Nicole to add two questions. They met on March 11th and submitted the questions at the end of March. In July, we became afraid that the not all members where sent the email (259 on the email list). Delete all the emails from the master list, and give them the chance to respond to the whole survey or, sent the two questions, and let them wonder what happened to their original response? Unless someone has a third option. Covid likely had an impact on the members. Tracy has all the participants from the last 5-6 years. Craig has all the members from the last 5-6 years.

We need to think more aggressively about what we want to attract. We know the issues we have. Jeff suggested we reach out to people who did not renew. But Lydia thinks are we are going to hear the same things we've heard before. Don't think the problem is the name. Think it's from other issues.

How do we want to promote the social sciences? How do we want to move forward? Members tend to be from smaller institutions. Maybe we should be doing more about the teaching side? If we want to bring back people from the big research institutions then we need to attract that. Cynthia will get with the Strategic Planning Committee.

E. Documents & Procedures Task Force / Craig Walker

Need to work on Affiliate ByLaws, Committee Descriptions. Like British Bylaws—understood but not written down. Cynthia will talk to Chairs about their Committee descriptions. Need to get those in case an audit happens.

VI. New Business

A. Move of 2021 Annual Meeting to Online Format

Covid Committee. Midwest Political Science announced it will be online only. Set-off a bunch of members saying should we do this. What would the penalty be if we moved online? Some virtual? Experient Representative Melissa came back to Lydia with an Addendum extend our room block to January 29th from November 30th to reduce our room block. If we changed our room block later then we would have a penalty. Experient has hosted virtual meetings before. Lydia will share that information with Jeff and Tracy to help start that discussion. If New Orleans shuts down the hotel is going to work with us. If we do this now it will cost us money. The city of New Orleans is currently up and running and have meetings of up to 500. In the meantime, Tracy and Jeff can investigate virtual options. Our meeting is known for being welcoming and friendly. Those things are hard to have via Zoom. Lydia will post documentation on Slack for what New Orleans is doing. Hybrid meeting, could put a single person in a room to run a meeting. Could have an attendant serving coffee rather than having self-serve. They are willing to work with us.

B. Contract Addendum

Moved to have Cynthia sign the Addendum for our New Orleans contract to extend the room block from November 30th to January 29th. Seconded. Motion passes.


VII. Other Business

A. Craig moves that we send our proposed 2021 Budget to the Council. Included in that is no increase in fees. Seconded. The Council will have to amend the budget if we have to move to a virtual format. Motion carries.

B. Jeff moves to drop our contract with GoToMeeting and move to Zoom. When does it expire? \$149 a year for Zoom \$199 for 300 participants. Can contact them for 500 participants. Motion carries.

Action Items: Whenever the next regular Council I meeting happens, we need an agenda item to vote on Affiliate bylaw requirements. Potentially revise to make it a percentage rather than a number.

VIII. Adjourned at 3:33pm.



Slack Virtual Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Virtual Platform Sponsors

Attendance: Lydia Andrade, Chastity Blankenship, Cynthia Cready, Tracy Dietz, Nicole Farris, Jeff Justice, Keith Gaddie, Kirby Goidel, Israel Nandamudi, Pascal Ngoboka, Salli Vargis, and Craig Walker

On March 4, 2021 SSSA President Cynthia Cready sent the following message through Slack:

A component for exhibitors/sponsors is included in the virtual platform. There is no additional cost to us for using this component. Tracy has compiled an email list of universities/colleges with graduate programs. Chastity would like to send out an invitation to these universities/colleges to participate virtually as exhibitors/sponsors at our annual meeting at no cost to them. Since "fees" are established by the Executive Committee/Council, it is our understanding that your approval is needed before she sends out the email.

Tracy motions to approve. Jeff Justice seconded. No discussion.

Poll opens on March 4, 2021 and closes on March 5, 2021.

Voting on the motion to approve no fee for universities/colleges' participation in the 2021 annual meeting as virtual exhibitors/sponsors is closed. There was a majority of votes in favor (9 ayes). The motion passes.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia M. Cready". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Slack Virtual Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Statement on the Assault on the United States Capitol Building

Attendance: Lydia Andrade, Chastity Blankenship, Cynthia Cready, Tracy Dietz, Nicole Farris, Jeff Justice, Keith Gaddie, Kirby Goidel, Israel Nandamudi, Pascal Ngoboka, Salli Vargis, and Craig Walker

SSSA President Cynthia Cready sent a message on January 8, 2021 to the Executive Committee asking them to consider a statement from Communications Director Jeff Justice about the assault on the United States Capitol building.

Statement on the Assault on the United States Capitol Building, January 6, 2021

Like many around the world, we, the scholars of the Southwestern Social Science Association, watched with shock and horror as the United States Capitol building was attacked and occupied by supporters of Donald Trump. This attack occurred as the Congress was fulfilling its constitutional duty to certify the votes cast by the Electoral College as part of the 2020 US elections. This event was far more than an invasion and occupation of a building. It was an attack on democracy itself. It was an assault against the Constitution of the United States and the institutions created by it. Worse, it was an assault on truth, facts, and science. There is no doubt that Joseph R. Biden and Kamala Harris were the the legitimate winners of the 2020 election. This victory has been confirmed by elected and appointed officials and judges from all political persuasions and walks of life. This assault was possible because of a total lack of regard for the truth, facts, and science by certain public officials, including Donald Trump himself, and permeating through some parts of American society who now seriously question the institutions that provide the framework for our society and the freedoms we enjoy. Those freedoms make possible the scholarship produced, presented, debated, and published by our association's members and friends. We in the Southwestern Social Science Association reaffirm our commitment to facts, truth, and science. We condemn in the strongest terms those who engaged in this assault. We stand ready to do our part as citizens of our homes, institutions, country, and world to build understanding and restore confidence in our institutions and in those noble principles that sustain them.

Discussion:

One suggestion was to change "supporters of Donald Trump"....to "supporters of President Donald Trump"

On January 11, 2021, SSSA President Cynthia Cready thanked the Executive Committee and sent the following revised statement. Cynthia also asked us to use the Slack poll to indicate if we support or do not support posting the statement to the SSSA website.

Southwestern Social Science Association Executive Committee Statement on the Assault on the United States Capitol Building, January 6, 2021

Like many around the world, we, scholars of the Southwestern Social Science Association, watched with shock and horror as the United States Capitol building was attacked and occupied by supporters of President Donald Trump. This attack occurred as the Congress was fulfilling its

constitutional duty to certify the votes cast by the Electoral College as part of the 2020 US elections. This event was far more than an invasion and occupation of a building. It was an attack on democracy itself. It was an assault against the Constitution of the United States and the institutions created by it. Worse, it was an assault on truth, facts, and science. There is no doubt that Joseph R. Biden and Kamala Harris were the legitimate winners of the 2020 election. This victory has been confirmed by elected and appointed officials and judges from all political persuasions and walks of life. This assault was possible because of a total lack of regard for the truth, facts, and science by certain public officials, including President Donald Trump himself, and permeating through some parts of American society who now seriously question the institutions that provide the framework for our society and the freedoms we enjoy. Those freedoms make possible the scholarship produced, presented, debated, and published by our association's members and friends. We, as leadership in the Southwestern Social Science Association, reaffirm our commitment to facts, truth, and science. We condemn in the strongest terms those who engaged in this assault. We stand ready to do our part as citizens of our homes, institutions, country, and world to build understanding and restore confidence in our institutions and in those noble principles that sustain them.

Keith Gaddie suggests two shorter statements:

"As representatives of scholars in an organization dedicated to free inquiry and a free democracy, we condemn the insurrection action taken against the United States Congress on January 6. The outcome of the American election is unambiguous. When bullets are substituted for ballots, it is the obligation of every free and thinking person to stand against tyranny."

This fits in a tweet: "As an organization dedicated to free inquiry in a free democracy, we condemn the insurrection action against the U.S. government. The outcome of the election is unambiguous. When bullets are substituted for ballots, it is the obligation of free people to stand against tyranny."

January 12, 2021

Poll Closes Poll Results:

6 ayes.

Statement passes on January 11, 2021 and will be posted to the SSSA website.

Communications Direction Jeff Justice offers this motion: That Keith's longer statement be posted to our Facebook page and his shorter to our Twitter feed, and the amended statement to our website as a news item.

Tracy Dietz seconded.

On January 13, 2021, President Cynthia Cready sends the following message:

On the motion that Keith's longer statement be posted to the SSSA Facebook page and his shorter posted to the SSSA Twitter feed, and Jeff's statement, as amended, posted to the SSSA website as a news item.

January 14, 2021, From President Cynthia Cready

Voting on posting the Capitol insurrection statements is closed. There were 9 Ayes, a majority of eligible votes. The motion passes.

Gustav M. Cresdy

Slack Virtual Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Hybrid Meeting Discussion

Attendance: Lydia Andrade, Chastity Blankenship, Cynthia Cready, Tracy Dietz, Nicole Farris, Jeff Justice, Keith Gaddie, Kirby Goidel, Israel Nandamudi, Pascal Ngoboka, Salli Vargis, and Craig Walker

SSSA President Cynthia Cready sent the following message to the Executive Committee via Slack on January 27, 2021:

The deadline for renegotiating the room block and other details of our contract with the Hotel Monteleone is this Friday, January 29. I asked members of the Ad-hoc COVID-19 Advisory Committee (Lydia (Chair), Craig, Israel, Jason, Nicole, Robert, Tracy) to make a recommendation to us. As reported by Lydia, their recommendation is “While they share the concerns about which universities will permit/pay for travel, they are overwhelmingly in favor of having a small in-person meeting with a virtual hybrid component.” As this is a motion from a committee, it does not need a second. Is there any discussion?

Lydia seconded.

Tracy and Nicole clarify the penalties for cancellation, which Melissa provided to them (email copied and pasted portions below).

After reviewing agreement, if group decides to cancel the following cancellation charge would apply: January 1, 2021 to February 15, 2021- 75%

1200 room nights x (80% of group rate) \$191.20 = \$229,440.00

F&B Minimum= \$30,000.00

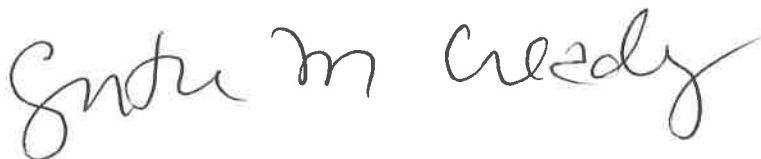
TOTAL= \$259,440.00 x 75% = \$194,580.00 Cancellation Charge

We are willing to work with group if they would like to adjust to a smaller number based on the current situation. We have taken steps to make sure we follow all COVID procedures in our meeting space as well as guestrooms. For example, we currently have someone on staff that will sanitize anything that might have been touched during presentation at each break or between each presenter.

Tracy clarifies that Melissa said she was going to try for 350 total room nights with 150 on peak and cut F&B in half. Original block was 1100 so that is quite a cut if she can get it. About 250 have submitted abstracts/papers.

Jeff called the question and set up a poll.

There are 7 ayes. The motion passes.



Slack Virtual Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Memorial Fundraiser for SSSA member Ron Petrin

Attendance: Lydia Andrade, Chastity Blankenship, Cynthia Cready, Tracy Dietz, Nicole Farris, Jeff Justice, Keith Gaddie, Kirby Goidel, Israel Nandamudi, Pascal Ngoboka, Salli Vargis, and Craig Walker

SSSA President Cynthia Cready sent the following message to the Executive Committee via Slack on February 4, 2021:

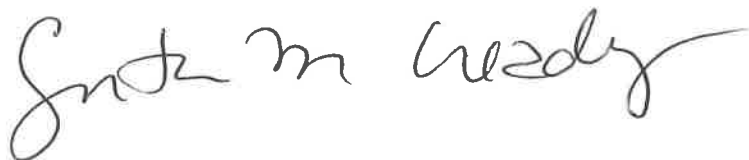
Dear colleagues,

We really don't have a policy that guides what is posted to the SSSA social media. Next time Jeff convenes the Communications Committee he will ask them to develop such a policy for the Council's consideration. In the meantime, he has been asked by Shelly Lemons to post the attached content regarding a memorial fundraiser for long-time SSSA member Ron Petrin to our social media. Money in the fund will be used by students in the OSU Department of History to enable them to conduct research and present their research at academic conferences.

Discussion:

It should be clear on what the funds pays for (as you did in your note), who is raising the money (OSU?) and that this is not an initiative of the SSSA or the history affiliate. It should also give a name and contact information for who people can contact with questions.

Jeff Justice said he would request additional information, which we will vote on in April.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia M. Cready". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the last name.

Slack Virtual Meeting Minutes

New Orleans Meeting Registration

Attendance: Lydia Andrade, Chastity Blankenship, Cynthia Cready, Tracy Dietz, Nicole Farris, Jeff Justice, Keith Gaddie, Kirby Goidel, Israel Nandamudi, Pascal Ngoboka, Salli Vargis, and Craig Walker

SSSA President Cynthia Cready sent the following message to the Executive Committee via Slack on February 9, 2021:

Another issue has been raised by Kim and Tracy about walk-in on-site registrations, whether to accept them this year or not. Reasons suggested why it might be a good idea to adopt a policy of not accepting walk-in on-site registrations for this year include:

1. We know we can have no more than about 200 people in the largest ballroom they have. This means there could be more of us on the premises we just couldn't all be in that room at the same time. Limiting on-site registrations to early registrations only could enable us to have a better idea going in who and how many will be on site.
2. The above could make the business meeting vote a lot easier. We would know which members will be there and could devote more effort to the virtual business meeting participants.
3. Removes the need for Kim to have as many workers present. That would save us money but it would also make for a safer environment for Kim to work.

Discussion:

We consider adopting a policy of not accepting walk-in on-site registrations for this year. Whatever the policy, we must consider virtual attendees too.

Tracy has been in contact with presenters and very few are undecided. Not many walk-up registrations anyway.

Keith asks about the expected budget impact of these decisions.

Tracy clarifies: About half of presenters have responded. About 40% have said they plan to come to New Orleans. A very small number have said they are withdrawing completely and then about 60% said they want to present virtually.

The new contract has a 0 attrition penalty so we will only be charged for the rooms the association uses for officers. We will not be penalized for failure to meet a room block. In addition, the room rate was decreased by \$50 per room per night. No Food and beverage minimum. Might be appropriate to purchase some types of snacks or drinks from them as I believe they are trying to be as generous as possible. We will need to rent fewer projectors but may need to rent a camera or two from the hotel.

In terms of us hosting the virtual sessions, Communications met on this previously and took the position that we would not be able to effectively run a virtual conference of our size with a volunteer-based (namely, ourselves) group handling the whole thing over Zoom.

Tracy has confirmation from about 75 virtual and 55 on-site presenters, plus anyone who might attend without presenting. Tracy intends to send out notifications encouraging faculty to consider having their students attend the "virtual" version of the conference. Another 160 submitters she has yet to hear back from. Tracy suspects TOTAL is going to be more like 200 range.

Tracy moves that we limit on-site registration to early registrations only but allow virtual registration through the conference. This will make it easier to work with the hotel to maintain compliance with maximum capacities under COVID restrictions imposed by the city and state. It will also make it less complicated to organize business meeting voting to ensure there is no voter fraud.

Jeff seconded. More discussion though.

On February 10, 2021, Keith asks for clarification: Are there any registration cost differences between virtual and on-site? If virtual registration is available throughout the meeting, would it not also work on-site? Do we need two modes of registration, given this seemingly peculiar constraint?

There are differences, and those are posted to the website. I can program Eventbrite to have different opening and closing dates for each individual mode of registration, so once a given ticket price reaches its due date (such as regular registration versus late registration), the regular tickets disappear from a registrant's portal, and the new late prices appear in their place.

Treasurer Craig Walker points out, with no late registration and no onsite registration, we should see a savings in being able to reduce ballroom space and registration staffing. Eliminating onsite registration reduces revenue. With no onsite registration we would have to stop online registration in time for Kim to produce all credentials before she left. Most people who register on-site register online. That is the only way to pay with a credit card so most people at the meeting still use the online registration portal.

Some more discussion about how much money we might lose and how to keep members engaged between meetings. Political Science is doing their virtual speaker series.

A question was raised, why stop on-site from registering online?

Tracy clarifies some of the issues with registration. (Secretary, Chastity, has reduced Tracy's messages down to important points). The first issue is related to voting rights and our attempt to ensure that our member participants who are virtual would not be disenfranchised in the voting. The virtual vendor can limit access to the meeting to people we designate. For voting, we have discussed doing something like creating a private Slack channel solely for voting in the business meeting. To do that will require populating the individuals in the channel in advance,

which will require checking membership status. Ideally, nearly everyone will have registered well before the meeting (I intend to enforce the pre-registration requirement for presenters). The fewer of those Jeff has to manage the day of the meeting the better. The second is we need to know how many people are going to be on-site to ensure we are able to comply with the no more than 200 people rule. If people are able to register on site we have no way to control how many people there are in the conference space other than turning them away when they show up if we have met the capacity.

Fewer people presenting on-site means we will realize some savings on AV equipment in presentation rooms. Typically, we pay about \$1000 - \$1200 per day per room for equipment. Reducing the number of rooms used down to 4 or 5 will recover probably about \$15,000 or so that way. We will also need fewer registration staff working with Kim. I think we often pay for about 80 or so room nights for council members and program chairs. With the reduction in the rate alone (and the taxes), the association will recover about \$5000 in hotel costs and that doesn't consider the numbers of people who would normally get a room who will choose not to attend. We also have mandated F&B. With many fewer people on site we can likely see some savings there as well. The reduction in the registration fee for virtual participants also relieves us from having to pay for F&B for those individuals and makes it a little more palatable to them.

Also helps with "gate crashing", which we have had problems with in the past. Virtual attendees who are members will have the same voting rights as physical attendees, and we are working through the logistics to be sure nobody loses their rights to vote.

In terms of voting, "For the purpose of conducting any business of the Association, a quorum shall consist of those members who are present at an annual or special business meeting of the Association, provided that notice of such meeting has been given in writing at least three weeks prior to its opening date." We interpreted that as broadly as possible to include those members who join us at the business meeting either virtually or in-person and sought a mechanism to facilitate participation without depriving large swaths of individuals who did not feel safe to travel, could not afford to travel, or who did not have authority to travel to the meeting in New Orleans, their right to vote on measures brought before the association at the business meeting.

If we need to revisit how voting will happen, we can discuss and vote on a motion that a majority agrees upon.

Keith asks for additional clarification: "As we incur more costs to try and hold a hybrid meeting, how do those costs balance against cost recovery relative to the cancel cost?"

Some more discussion about how to handle voting in a way that reduces as many issues as possible. Tracy will provide estimates to address Keith's question.

February 24, 2021, President Cynthia Cready sent a Slack message stating: On Tracy's pending motion regarding on-site registration, she is still in the process of getting the info needed to address Keith's question about costs. Thus, in order to address the new items, **I entertain a motion to table the pending on-site registration motion.** A motion to table needs a second, is

non-debatable, and requires a majority vote to pass. From my reading of Robert's Rules, if the pending motion is tabled, it can be taken off the table with a motion to do so, a second, and a majority vote in favor. Thank you for your time.

Jeff seconded.

Poll opened on February 24, 2021 and closed on February 26, 2021. With a majority in favor (8 Ayes) the motion carries. As a reminder, the motion can be taken off the table with a motion to do so, a second, and a majority vote in favor.

Justin M. Crosby

Slack Virtual Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Centennial Celebration Postponement

Attendance: Lydia Andrade, Chastity Blankenship, Cynthia Cready, Tracy Dietz, Nicole Farris, Jeff Justice, Keith Gaddie, Kirby Goidel, Israel Nandamudi, Pascal Ngoboka, Salli Vargis, and Craig Walker

SSSA President Cynthia Cready sent the following message to the Executive Committee via Slack on February 26, 2021:

The next issue concerns celebrations of the centennial annual meeting. Given the situation we find ourselves in with regard to our CENTENNIAL meeting—namely, limited capacity at the hotel and travel restrictions due to the pandemic—I propose that we postpone our CELEBRATION of the 100th meeting (reception, pop-up memory display, etc.) to the 101st meeting, when, hopefully, more of us can meet together on-site and celebrate. I've discussed this with Israel and Tracy. If we postpone the celebration to the 101st meeting, Tracy will forward an electronic version of the pop-ups to both me and Israel on or about the time of submission of her 2021 final report. One possibility under consideration is to release the digital versions of the decade-to-decade pop-ups to the SSSA website in the months preceding the meeting to build up interest in their physical display and the big celebration on-site at the annual meeting in San Antonio. I've seen one of Tracy's pop-up decade "mini-movies," and it was fantastic! If no objection, I entertain a motion to postpone the celebration of the 100th annual meeting to the 101st annual meeting.

Discussion:

Communications Director Jeff Justice asks if we need to remove centennial from our 2021 materials. We do not need to remove centennial. Jeff motions to postpone the Centennial Celebration to the 101st meeting.

Nicole Farris seconded.

Jeff posts the poll and it closes the same day (February 26, 2021).

Voting on the motion to postpone celebration of the 100th meeting to the 101st meeting is closed. There were 10 Ayes. The motion passes.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia M. Cready".

Slack Virtual Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

All in the Loop Virtual Platform Vendor

Attendance: Lydia Andrade, Chastity Blankenship, Cynthia Cready, Tracy Dietz, Nicole Farris, Jeff Justice, Keith Gaddie, Kirby Goidel, Israel Nandamudi, Pascal Ngoboka, Salli Vargis, and Craig Walker

February 26, 2021 meeting via Slack virtual platform.

Tracy, Jeff, and Cynthia met with three virtual platform vendors. Two have provided a bid. Deliverables are pretty comparable between the two but All in the Loop provides greater flexibility to us in timeline and is slightly less expensive at \$30,375 Tracy, Jeff, and Cynthia recommend using All in the Loop.

I entertain a motion to recommend using All in the Loop to the SSSA Council.

Jeff moves, Tracy seconded.

No discussion. Poll opens February 8, 2021 and closes on February 9, 2021.

There were 9 votes in favor, a majority. The motion passes. As soon as we get the contract from the vendor, Cynthia will take it to the Council.

Jude M Cready

