

SSSA Executive Council II Meeting
Riverview Room, Hotel Monteleone, New Orleans, LA & Online
Saturday, April 17, 2021, 9:45 AM – 11:00 AM (Central)

Attendance: Attendance: Lydia Andrade, Chastity Blankenship, Cynthia Cready, Elizabeth Kelly, Tracy Dietz, Eddie Weller, Craig Walker, Israel Nandamudi, Samantha Tackett, Jeff Justice, Jennifer Horan, Teresa Morris, Salli Vargis, Katherine Perone, Pascal Ngoboka, Steve Sewell, Haroon Khan, Jason Casellas

Guest: Kim Dlouhy Lacassagne's

- I. Call to order at 9:24 AM
- II. Convention Director Kim Dlouhy Lacassagne's Report for the New Orleans Meeting.

Went smooth. We had 77 preregister, three people register onsite, nine people registered late. Some thought by registering for the SSSA that they were also registered for the meeting. Some internet issues at first and on the beginning of second day. Hotel changed out their computer and got it working. Still, some minor issues throughout the day. Overall, everything was smooth. How many internet registered? Kim cannot confirm that yet, she will double-check. Kim believes it was close to 200.

- III. Approval of Minutes from SSSA Council I Meeting of Thursday, April 15, 2021. Eddie moves to approve minutes. Jeff seconded.
- IV. Introduction of Council and Substitutes
- V. Officer Reports
 - A. President / Israel Nandamudi

The theme next year will be "Global Pandemic and Dynamics of World Affairs: Politics, Economics, and Technology." Coronavirus is the big elephant in the room. Some countries are still dealing with this. President Nandamudi is from India and he knows infections and death are continuing to increase. President Nandamudi wants us to advertise anyway we like, call friends, mail flyers. We know that people forget emails. Take this seriously. We are a family, we may challenge each other, but asking questions does not mean we disagree. President Nandamudi will provide email, phone, mailing address, so you have many options to contact him. President Nandamudi wants to focus on increasing membership. He will take into consideration your suggestions and questions.

B. General Program Director / Tracy Dietz

Program Chairs met this morning over Zoom. General consensus is to keep a lunch break in, so people will not miss sessions. We will have a pedagogical track so that we can hopefully increase and include community colleges. Also, Samantha Tackett will help with this since there is an interest in educational psychology. Discussing some sort of virtual option, not the way we did it here. But something to increase participation that way.

Thanks to Tracy. In turn, Tracy thanks the Program Chairs, for getting this together in about eight weeks.

C. Treasurer / Craig Walker

Can look at the Slack Business Channel for the Treasurer's report. In sum, assets increased by \$195,000 in 2020. We have a little over 1.2 million dollars. For the Council, he needs us to complete a Conflict of Interest Form. He will post that on Slack. You will need to print, sign, scan, and send that back to the Treasurer. Needs those back ASAP. We will have to file with the IRS. The Treasurer will ask the Council to review, and then he will send that to the IRS.

D. Communications Director / Jeff Justice

Please get updates and information to Communications Director as soon as possible. Email is on website, which is sssacomdir@gmail.com. We do use Word Press, which sometimes reverts back to a previous version. Let Jeff know if that happens, he keeps copies of the updates and can change it. All in the Loop was a moderate success. Communications Director is not going to make any recommendations for what to use in the future, since how the meeting will take place is unclear.

Any good ideas to keep members engaged throughout the year. Perhaps a blog, or like Political Science is doing, a speaker series. The affiliate minutes should be sent to the Communications Director as well, so we can post that. The affiliates have a separate tax ID number, so they need to keep a track.

E. Secretary / Chastity Blankenship

Please send Secretary any ideas of organizations, nonprofits, colleges, or other institutions to act as exhibitors in San Antonio. Happy to reach out to these organizations to be exhibitors. Will post the minute meetings on Slack next week instead of waiting until a few weeks before the meeting. Both Craig and Lydia have needed them before this meeting. That way everyone has a draft of the meeting minutes, knows where to find them, and can use them as needed.

F. Site Director / Nicole Farris

We became obligated to have the conference since the City of New Orleans opened up. The hotel has been very flexible—no food and beverage requirements, reduced our room block.

The Site Committee has proposed the following locations, 2024 Las Vegas, 2025 New Orleans, 2026 Austin. We will work with Melissa to determine the costs of those potential contracts. We will figure out best dates. We will need to redo/reconsider how much space we need and how we will use that space, since we have had a decline in membership.

Do we have a survey? Yes, we have a membership survey, it went out in April, which is a delayed from October. Some of that delay was due to significant revisions to the survey. We will need to send it out earlier. We will need to revise the survey to include questions about virtual sessions.

G. SSQ Editors / Keith Gaddie and Kirby Goidel

No new information. Posted their report yesterday in the Slack Business Channel. They had conflicts and could not be here.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Budget & Finance / Craig Walker

The recommendation from the Committee is to not increase fees. Normally, it would increase next year, since we do increase our fees every other year. Beyond that, we will seek to get student fees back to about 50% of the regular fees. Our fees are relatively low, let's hold them flat. Craig is not sure the fee is a significant. Regular is \$50, student is \$40.

Is there a possibility of waiving the fee just for graduate students? We have to have about 1,000 room night blocks. We have a significant number of graduate students who attend. If we waive that fee, we will need to double our fee in order to make up that cost. We need to meet about 80% of the block, or we will have to pay for those rooms. Sociology would like to think creatively, how they can stay at a cheaper hotel to attend to the conference.

One way to address to this is to take away control of the affiliate, and every session would be interdisciplinary instead of by discipline.

SSA has some funds, giving travel grants, can we cover that cost if we get to 75%. It would be cheaper to offer scholarships or travel grants. The SSA does have internal funding. Perhaps we need to try at least once to keep these costs lower. We can expand the radius for the certain meetings.

We could have some of these meetings on Zoom. We need to direct the Site Selection Committee to think creatively. Looking at expanding it out to maybe 150. If you are staying at the hotel with someone else, both of you are covered. If a faculty member is registered as then students can register as members.

Motion carries unanimously (fees not increased).

Eddie moves that we expand the radius for San Antonio to 120 miles. Chastity seconded. Motion carries unanimously.

B. Editorial Policies / Craig Walker

This Committee is going to draft a recommendation for how to award Lineberry & Bonjean Awards.

C. Communications / Jeff Justice

Met and passed Communications policy posted in Slack. Slack will continue to be used for communications.

D. Membership / Chastity Blankenship

Can revise the budget, look into printing costs, and send that estimate to the Council to see if they will approve those costs.

Action item: Chastity needs to reach out to Affiliate President and Chairs. Ask for mailing address, let them know that we are planning on sending out flyers. We ask that they each contact at least one other institution to encourage them to attend, and also mail out a flyer to them. Also, ask each affiliate to find at least one department in San Antonio to contact. Perhaps send each Affiliate President and Chair 10 mailing flyers for them to send out.

E. Nominations / Cynthia Cready

Committee nominates Craig Walker for Treasurer for another three years. Motion carries unanimously. History is up for Vice President. The General Program Director and the Secretary will be up for nomination.

F. Resolutions

No new resolutions.

G. Site Policy / Nicole Farris

No new information.

H. Election of Officers

Just elected, no need to do this.

I. Affiliate Presidents

- a. Anthropology (no representative)
- b. History (Nothing new)
- c. Economics (no representation)
- d. International Studies

Incoming President Haroon Khan and Program Chair Stephen Phillips.

e. Political Science

f. Social Work

Incoming President Evalyne (Ruby) Orwenyo and Program Chair Doug Crews.

g. Sociology

h. Psychology

How do we count this as Continuing Education Credit (CEU) credit?

Depends, seems like if you call it a CEU, then it's a CEU. If we can advertise it as a CEU, this might draw in more members. Social Work might need to think about this too.

i. Women's and Gender Studies (not responsive. Tracy handled their program).

VII. Action Items

No other action items than flyer mailing above.

VIII. Old Business

a. Student Travel Grants/ Steven Sewell

Many applications for Travel Grant. So many that he had to create a shared folder. Increase to 20, a number who applied, that did not receive them, did not attend the conference. Try it for a year and see what happens.

Motion to increase the travel grants to 20, \$300 scholarships, for undergraduate or graduate students. With criteria created by each affiliate, winners to be determined by the Student Travel Grants. Seconded.

b. Centennial Celebration

Will have movies and other Centennial Celebration items to Israel by the end of the month.

c. Lineberry & Bonjean Awards

No new information.

d. Strategic Planning- Saumya's leadership

Is there a deadline? Ad hoc committee, so President can give them a deadline.

e. Membership Survey / Nicole Farris

No new information.

f. Documents & Procedures Task Force

Committees Chairs to post their descriptions in the Slack Council Channel, since the Council votes on those. Send Craig the affiliate bylaws, you can post it on Slack so Jeff can post those online.

IX. New Business

a. Other

No new business.

Action: Israel needs to create an Ad Hoc committee to review the bylaws and affiliates information.

X. Adjourned at 11:01 AM.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Jeff", located at the bottom center of the page.