

SSSA Executive Council Meeting
Chula Vista, Hyatt Regency, San Antonio Riverwalk
Thursday, April 21, 2022, 1:00 – 3:45 PM

I. **Call to order at 1:04 PM**

II. **Introduction of Council and Substitutes (also attendance)**

Current President/Israel Nandamudi, Steve Sewell/Student Travel Grants, Salli Vargis/Incoming President, Economic President/Michaël Bonnal, Tracy Dietz/Program Director, Nicole Farris/Site Director, Craig Walker/Treasurer, Pascal Ngoboka/Past President, Elizabeth Kelly/Sociology President, Jeff Justice/Communications Director, Anna Caney/incoming secretary, Chastity Blankenship/Secretary, History President/Patricia Ovensy, Jason Casellas/Political Science President, Haroon Khan/International Studies.

III. **Approval of Minutes from SSSA Council II Meeting and all virtual meeting minutes.** Chastity moved to approve meeting minutes. Jeff seconded.

Slack issues, folks not receiving notifications. How do we resolve? The phone application works better for notifications. Recommended that they download the phone app so that they get those notifications. Other suggestions, send an email when you post something to vote on for Slack. We also need an email list of everyone on the Council instead of having to look for a reply all email.

IV. **Officer Reports**

A. **President / Israel Nandamudi**

SSQ pricing proposal—Michael Streeter has thanked SSSA for our quick replies and working with Wiley. We approved an online increase for access to the journal in May 2022 based on Wiley’s recommendation. We also approved a slight increase open-access author publication fee in November.

- i Keith- Wiley wants to keep rates flat. This increase will be the last one for a couple of years.
- ii Big thanks to Jeff, Kim, and Tracy. President Nandamudi recommends a 2% increase in compensation due to excellent service.
- iii to consider slimming down the conference after next year.
- iv For the Bonjean and Lineberry awards—a three person committee to determine winners was created. This includes Cheng-Hsien Lin (Sociology), Angel Saavedra Cisneros (Political Science), and Mehdi Noorbaksh (International Relations).
- v Plenary speaker- Dr. Thomas Preston, distinguished scholar in international relations. President Israel Nandamudi has requested that Dr. Preston’s discussion on Ukraine be posted on our website.

- vi Student Travel Grants- thanks to Past President Pascal Ngoboka for leading the committee. We were able to award 20 students travel grants to attend our annual meeting.
- vii Name Change- last time the complaint was that SSSA members/attendees did not get enough notice before being asked to vote on the name change. We are bringing back that discussion during the San Antonio conference during the Business Meeting. The proposed name change would be the “Social Science Society of America.”

B. General Program Director/Tracy Dietz

- i Saturday at 8AM the Program Committee will meet just before Council II.
- ii After next year, our contract expires. We have to meet 80% of our goals or we are charged a penalty. We will have to pay that fee since we did not meet that block.
- iii When picking the Affiliate Program Chairs, please be very careful and make sure they know the importance of the role. We can send out emails (Tracy, Chastity, Anna); however, those are more likely to be ignored than emails from an affiliate in their discipline. Likely impacts participation as well.
- iv Tracy sent out emails via Constant Contact to about 8,400 people. Some sent to spam. What really works is when someone you know asks you to submit. Tracy created the list in fall 2020. She can send it to Elizabeth Kelly or anyone who wants it.
- v Some discussion on raising the registration fee to cover the hotel use fee. Some institutions will cover registrations but not hotel fees. We will discuss this in more detail after the Site Director presents.

C. Communications Director/Jeff Justice

- i Had to create a parallel site since due to Texas law, we are now an entertainment event. Some states do not have these rules, which means some folks are charged a sales tax and others are not. Event Bright is what most people in the industry are using.
- ii He will have updated number list of registration for Council II on Saturday.
- iii All in the Loop was somewhat successful. It depended on the session. It did not work during our business meetings and some switched to Zoom.
- iv We should consider doing a webinar or a mini-conference to keep people engaged during the year.
- v The website is as up-to-date as Jeff can make it. As soon as he is told information, he updates the website. Please let him know. He will need a bit more time since finals are right after our annual meeting.

vi If and only if the name change passes at the meeting tomorrow, Red Tail will work with us to update our website. Jeff recommends that our colors be changed to white, red, and blue but Southwest inspired as a nod to our former name. Red Tail thinks they can do it in less than 6 hours, so probably around \$540 for an updated websites.

vii Facebook seems to be dying as a platform. We've had very few new followers on this platform. A few more on Twitter. We are looking into other platforms like Instagram or Tik Tok.

D. Treasurer / Craig Walker

i Can look at the Slack Business Channel for the Treasurer's report. In sum, assets increased by \$45,000 in 2021 mostly driven by investment income. You can look at the report to see how we do year-to-year. \$21,000 deficit, which is less than the estimated deficit. He projects a \$40,000 deficit based on lower membership and meeting registration. Craig has not done any projections based on a name change.

E. Secretary/Chastity Blankenship

i Thank you all for working with me the last four years. Dr. Anna Caney will step into this role.

F. Site Director/Nicole Farris

i Our penalty will be closer to \$15,000; however, the hotel is fully booked so it could impact our penalty (in a good way). Nicole will discuss more details about the future under Site Policy Committee.

ii 780 we have until May 27th, we can reduce our room block by 5% in order to reduce any penalty.

G. SSQ Editors/Keith and Kirby

i Impact factor went up. Getting more diversity. Wiley is happy with us. We always get a complaints, which is just the nature of running a journal. At some point in the future we may decide to work with someone else; however, Wiley has been pretty good to us. Their term ends in December 2024; however, they are willing to continue in that role as we continue to transition. They will give us a year's notice.

ii Who is the contact to learn the email of affiliates? The membership is a separate entity. Craig Walker will get an email about membership and then Wiley falls off and stops emailing him the report.

V. Committee Reports

A. Awards/Israel Nandamudi

i We will recognize the winners of the Lineberry and Bonjean awards. Each awardee will receive \$2,000.

B. Budget and Finance/Craig Walker

- i On Saturday, we will recommend a budget to the association. They will likely ask for us to increase the regular registration fee by \$10 and the student fee by \$5.

C. Communication Director/Jeff Justice

- i Asked if we were tracking if people watched the video. Jeff knows there are website trackers out there—it's not very practical since it could be robots.
- ii Some institutions will have an “ask an expert” page or have some kind of different page to engage individuals between annual meetings. Is there a marketing department out there or marketing students interested in working with us on these ideas. Let Jeff know.
- iii Jeff pulled the job information since it was outdated and folks were not sending him updates. Same with any article or book announcements.
- iv Some discussion if we could post information about graduate students on the market.
- v Mid-year or virtual events during the year. If we do not put the opportunity out there, we do not know what the response will be. We need to find a bit more but cannot

D. Editorial Policies/Craig Walker

- i When would we discuss approving a contract for Kirby and Keith that extends? On Saturday.

E. Membership/Chastity Blankenship

- i Discussed the decreasing membership. The Member Survey indicates common complaints are related to costs. The Membership Committee

F. Nominations/Pascal Ngoboka

Nominations Committee has recommended Jennifer Horan from Political Science for Vice President. This needs to be voted on during the Business Meeting. The Executive Committee voted on the Nominations Committee recommendation and we support Jennifer Horan.

- i
- ii We posted the announcement for a General Program Director. Tracy is willing to serve another three years. They will recommend her for our meeting on Saturday.
- iii Chastity Blankenship recommended her colleague, Dr. Anna Caney for Secretary. Pascal already sent Anna an email thanking her for her willingness to step into this role.
- iv Next year, Communications and Site Director will be up for reelection. In 2024, Treasurer.

G. Student Travel Grants/Steven Sewell

- i Two of the applications incomplete, two were “bringing up the rear”. We awarded 20 student travel grants, which we will award at 4PM. The students had to attend the meeting and present to be granted the travel grant.
- H. **Site Director/Nicole Farris**
 - i 2024- New Orleans at the Hotel Monteleone and will go to Las Vegas in 2025. We always do quite well in Vegas. We will not sign contracts beyond those two years.
 - ii Craig motions to have Nicole signed contract with Hotel Monteleone. Elizabeth Kelly seconded. All affirmed. Motion passes.
- I. **Ad hoc Strategic Planning/Soumya Sivakumar**
 - i We discussed the questions on the survey and then met again regarding the results. We had
- J. **Anthropology – No representative.**
- K. **History/Patricia Ovesny**
 - i Joint reception with Sociology tomorrow night. Going to try to reach out to the Texas State Association to help get students involved. History has 40 that were registered for this year’s meeting.
- L. **Economics/Michael Bonnal**
 - i Did not meet yet. Going to meet tomorrow. Trying to have their national organization to promote this conference. They are no longer publishing that information on their website.
- M. **International Studies/Haroon Khan**
 - i Meeting tomorrow meeting. They have 35 paper submissions. Being trying to reach out to members and institutions in Texas to recruit.
- N. **Political Science/Jason Casellas**
 - i The SSSA meeting conflicts with another meeting during April. Tomorrow at 6pm they will have a speaker on Ukraine. Their speaker, Dr. John Ishiyama is President of the APSA and at the University of North Texas. They encourage us to attend.
- O. **Social Work- No Representative**
- P. **Sociology/Elizabeth Kelly**
 - i They have 157 registrations for sociology and with a few interdisciplinary papers, which puts sociology at 190.
- Q. **Women and Gender Studies—No representation**
- VI. **Old Business**
 - A. **Student Travel Grants**
 - i They would like to continue to award 20 students next year. Have we considered raising the amount? Right now, due to our financial constraints, we should keep the amount at \$300. If we use donations, it creates more issues. It’s a percent of your funds. Craig forgets the threshold.
 - B. **Name Change**

i One of our Committee Members made the request to bring the name change back on the table. Salli was looking at Roberts Rules yesterday and we can bring this back and vote on it here due to Covid.

ii Craig proposes that we do business as the new name but keep the old name for the Conference.

iii Only 24% of the registrants are from 36 states, five countries, Florida and Georgia have more people here than some Southwestern states. Oklahoma only has two more registrants than Florida. Additionally, this started as political science conference, which means our name wouldn't reflect that.

iv Israel thinks with the 100 year celebration it is the time to act on this.

C. Membership Requirements for Affiliate Representation

i For the last couple of years, the Council has not enforced this policy due to declined membership. It does not seem like a good idea to punish these groups when we need all the help we can get.

D. New Business

i Change in Compensation Procedure

1 Keith Gaddie would like to be compensated directly instead of through his institution. We need to write a separate contract.

VII. **Meeting adjourned at 3:07.**



5-12-2022