

CSGS

Annual Business Meeting

Minutes of Saturday, February 24, 2018

1:30 p.m.

Chancellor Hotel

Fayetteville, Arkansas

Conference Title: Discovery & Innovation in Graduate Education

President's Report

The President of the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools (CSGS), Ernest Brothers, called the annual business meeting to order at 1:36pm.

The President announced a change to the agenda, to allow balloting to commence for the election of new officers and members of the Executive Committee.

President's report

President Brothers thanked the support team that led to a successful year. He commented about the planning meeting in June 2017 that led to changes in the conference program, including a new call for proposals. The contributions from members led to a more enriching and inclusive conference this year. Brothers also acknowledged successful efforts to improve the CSGS website. The President thanked Kim Needy and the ad hoc Sponsorship Committee, which garnered more than \$43,000 in donations. He also thanked Amy McCandless, the immediate Past-president for her support this year. He announced that next year's annual meeting will be in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the 46th Annual Business Meeting held in Annapolis at the Loews Hotel on Saturday, March 4, 2017 were posted on the web-site. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. With no deletions, additions, or modifications, the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

George Flowers provided the Treasurer's report, covering the period from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017. He reported that total revenue for the period was \$164,022.87. Total expenses during the same period amounted to \$140,150.74, leaving a balance of \$23,872.13. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was approved. Flowers also thanked the ad hoc Sponsorship committee for its efforts. He also answered questions about bank services fees and savings accounts.

Nominating Committee Report:

Past-President McCandless reported. She first thanked members of the committee for their service. In order to ensure wide representation from the CSGS membership, the Nominating Committee sent an email to the CSGS listserv on 30 October 2017 asking for nominations for President-Elect and for four openings on the Executive

Committee. (The terms of the Treasurer and Secretary were continuing so there was no need to ask for nominations for these positions.) The email asked CSGS members to send their nominations with the nominee's name, title, and email address to mccandlessa@cofc.edu by 15 November. Two individuals were nominated for President-Elect and six individuals for the Executive Committee. The committee then asked each of the nominees to send a short biographical statement that included their academic background and service to graduate education. One of the individuals nominated for President-Elect responded that he was honored by the nomination but would have to withdraw his name from consideration.

Per the CSGS Constitution, the list of nominees and their biographies was sent to the membership six weeks before the Annual Meeting on 10 January 2018. Members then had two weeks to email the chair of the committee with additional nominations. No additional names were received so the slate stood as circulated.

The Nominees for each position were introduced as follows:

Nominee for President Elect

Kim LaScola Needy (University of Arkansas)

Nominees for Executive Committee – 4 members for 3-year terms

Ruth Bahr (University of South Florida)

Abhijit Bhattacharyya (University of Arkansas at Little Rock)

Karen S. Coates (University of Southern Mississippi)

Desi S. Hacker (Norfolk State University)

Jeannine Rajewski Perry (Longwood University)

Troy M. Terry (Furman University)

Past-President McCandless instructed voters to vote for four candidates. The four candidates receiving the most votes were to be elected to three-year terms. Voting commenced by paper ballot; the results are reported below.

Audit Committee Report

Lori McMahan thanked the members of the Audit Committee: DeBrenna LaFa Agbenyiga, Robert L. Sanders, Lisa Sperling, and Sheryl A. Tucker. The committee reviewed the documentation in the morning on February 24, 2018 and found no discrepancies. They commended George Flowers and Julie Reece for a job well done. A motion to accept the Audit Committee's report was approved.

Faculty Awards Committee Report

Michael Cunningham thanked the members of the Faculty Awards Committee: JoAnn Canales, Andrea Golato, Andrew M. Goodliffe, Meredith Welch-Devine. Noting the small number of nominations, he suggested that members consider nominating candidates who have been recognized with awards on their campuses. He then announced the winners:

2018 CSGS Award for Outstanding Mentor for Graduate Education in the Southern Region

Brad Dufrene, The University of Southern Mississippi

2017 CSGS Award for Outstanding Contributions to Graduate Education in the Southern Region

Patricia R. Koski, The University of Arkansas

A motion to accept the Faculty Awards Committee's report was approved.

Thesis Awards Committee Report

Jon Hakkila thanked the members of the committee: He then announced the winners.

Life Sciences: James P. Fancher, "Evaluation of Soil Chemistry in Human Decomposition Sites," Texas State University

Social Sciences, Education and Business: Heather Hyden, "Cultivating a Culture of Food Justice: Impacts of Community Based Economies on Farmers and Neighborhood Leaders in the Case of Fresh Stop Markets in Kentucky," The University of Kentucky.

A motion to accept the Master's Thesis Awards Committee report was approved.

Hakkika also invited comments about whether the Digital Thesis Award (not awarded this year) should be continued or re-imagined. Some suggested that the award be discontinued, and that the number or value of other student awards be increased. Others suggested that the category be changed to recognize non-traditional theses, capstone projects, or inter-disciplinary theses. There was also a suggestion for a mentoring award or an award on a regional topic. It was finally suggested that the committee research other options and develop a proposal for submission to the Executive Committee.

Elections

Amy McCandless announced the results of the vote of the members:

President-elect

Kim LaScola Needy

Executive Committee

Three Year Terms Ending in 2021:

Ruth Bahr (University of South Florida)

Karen S. Coates (University of Southern Mississippi)

Desi S. Hacker (Norfolk State University)

Troy M. Terry (Furman University)

Membership Committee Report

Dean Campbell reported. Campbell thanked the members of the committee: Darcie Bishop, Constina Charbonnette, Clifton Griffin, Sanjay Menon, Victor Prybutok, and Robert Sanders. He also thanked Paula Lichello for her valuable service, before transitioning into another role.

The Membership Committee met in October 2017.

The committee discussed a proposed webinar series and professional development activity and also reviewed the feedback provided by executive committee. Constina Charbonnette also volunteered use of her office's graduate intern, Ms. Cristina Dans, to assist with related webinar communications through social media. The committee's next steps will be:

- 1) Develop a one-minute survey of all CSGS membership, which will poll members for webinar topic ideas and recruit volunteers to the task group to implement two pilot webinars;
- 2) Explore ways to incorporate social media into CSGS

Since the conference call, the one-minute survey development was completed with input from Rob Sanders, Constina Charbonnette, and Dean Campbell. It is ready for distribution following the Feb. 2018 conference. Graduate intern, Ms. Dans, has also held a conference call with chair Dean Campbell to learn more about how to incorporate social media into building community among members. Ms. Dans has created a one-page proposal to integrate Facebook and LinkedIn through Hootsuite; the membership committee will review the plan for wider use among the membership this spring.

A motion to accept the report was approved

Sponsorship Report

Kim Needy reported that the Sponsorship Committee consisted of Kim Needy (chair), University of Arkansas and George Flowers, Auburn University.

In June 2017, the Sponsorship Committee set a goal to raise \$20,000 for the 2018 conference. George Flowers prepared a set of gift giving guidelines for platinum, gold, silver and member levels of sponsorship to get things started. As of February 16, 2018, the committee had exceeded its goal by raising \$43,000. This included four Platinum Sponsors, six Silver Sponsors, two Exhibitors and 25 Member Sponsors.

A motion to accept the report was approved.

New Business

To improve coordination between the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools (CSGS) and the Council of Historically Black Graduate Schools (CHBGS), the CHBGS invited the CSGS President to serve as an ex officio member of the CHBGS Executive Committee. A motion was made and approved to accept the invitation.

It was also suggested that the treasurers of the two organizations consider affiliate memberships and develop a formal statement regarding joint meeting dates.

The membership briefly discussed the appropriateness of a CSGS response to perceived attacks on graduate education.

Passing of the Gavel

President Brothers handed over the gavel to the new President, David Berkowitz. A plaque was presented to Ernest Brothers by President Berkowitz in honor of his service as president. Brothers invited everyone to join him for the next annual meeting in Knoxville, February 14-16, 2019.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

Prepared by George Crandell
Secretary