



## Annual Business Meeting

Minutes of March 7, 2015

New Orleans, LA

44th Annual Meeting

InterContinental New Orleans

Conference Title: Navigating the River of Change

### **President's Report**

The President of the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools (CSGS), Paul Gemperline called the annual business meeting to order at 1:20 pm. He explained that the planning for the New Orleans meeting went well under the leadership of president-elect John Kiss. We will begin preparation for our meeting in Charlotte with an Executive Committee meeting to be held tomorrow. He said that there are Index cards at each table and asked members to provide suggestions regarding the next meeting. He also mentioned that if groups are interested in hosting the annual meeting in 2017, they should please share that interest with the Executive Committee.

### **Secretary's Report**

William Wiener reminded the membership that they earlier received the minutes of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Business Meeting held in San Antonio, Texas at the Omni La Mansion del Rio Hotel on February 22, 2014. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. With no deletions, additions, or modifications, the minutes were approved.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Andrew Sustich delivered the Treasurer's report and disseminated a two sided Revenue and Expense Statement for the period beginning January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2014. The organization has an ending cash balance of \$96,313.68 this year as compared to \$114,504.38 at this time last year. We are approximately \$18,000 behind where we were last year. Meetings are becoming more expensive with food increasing the most. While registration has gone up to \$350, the cost of meals at an average of near \$50 each has resulted in the fee not covering all conference expenses. Thus next year we may also have a small deficit. Sustich indicated that George Flowers has volunteered to shadow the job responsibilities of the treasurer in anticipation of moving into that position next year.

### **Audit Committee Report**

C. Brown reported that after a review of the finances of the organization, the committee found no discrepancies and that the revenue and expense statement accurately depicts a healthy financial situation. He further complemented Treasurer Sustich for his work in behalf of the organization.

### **Faculty Awards Committee Report**

Gemperline noted that a report from the Faculty Awards Committee was not needed since that report was presented at the luncheon. Earlier, Robert McNamara substituting for Amy McCandless, chair of the Faculty Awards Committee, reported the winners of the awards to be the following:

Outstanding Mentor Award went to Audrey Jaeger, Professor of Higher Education and Alumni Distinguished Graduate Professor in the Department of Leadership, Policy and Adult Her Education at North Carolina State University

Outstanding Contributions to Graduate Education in the Southern Region went to Henry T. Frierson, Associate Vice President and Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Florida

It was also noted that the CSGS/ETS Award for Excellence and Innovation in Graduate Education went to the Department of Chemical Engineering, Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, Auburn University.

### **Thesis Awards Committee Report**

Earlier at the luncheon portion of the meeting Carolyn Hodges, substituting Tom Reynolds, chair of the Thesis Awards Committee presented awards to the following individuals:

The Mathematics, Physical Sciences, and Engineering award went to Mohammad Saied Dehghani Sanij, "Optimal Resource Allocation Strategies to Protect Network-structured Systems", Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

The Humanities and Fine Arts Master's Thesis Award went to Brandee Easter "Data Visualization of Indian Mutiny Causes in Victorian Higher Journalism" University of Alabama Tuscaloosa

The Digital Scholarship Award went to Eric Ross Anderson, "Analysis of rainfall-triggered landslide hazards through the dynamic integration of remotely sensed, modeled and in situ environmental factors in El Salvador", The University of Alabama in Huntsville.

### **Membership Committee Report**

Paula Lichiello, chair of the Membership committee reported on the activities of the committee. She indicated that there were 8 individuals on the membership committee and that they represented the geographic areas covered by our membership.

### **Nominating Committee Report**

Maureen Grasso gave the report from the nominating committee. She reported on the process that they followed to develop the slate. After the call for nominations, they reached out to many people to identify those interested in serving. They next verified that those individuals where eligible under the guidelines of the constitution. Next they looked for geographical representation. The nominating committee then prioritized the names from the list and contacted each individual to obtain biographical information. Based upon this process they presented the following slate:

### **President-elect :**

Amy McCandless, College of Charleston (SC) (term ending in 2016)

**Executive Committee**

(Executive Committee members for four open positions ending in 2018 and two vacated positions ending in 2017.)

**Three Year Terms Ending in 2018:**

David Berkowitz – University of Alabama Huntsville (AL)

George Crandell – Auburn University (AL)

Meredith Welch-Devine – University of Georgia (GA)

Kevin O’Shea – Florida International University (FL)

**Two Year Terms Ending in 2017:**

Jo Ann Canales - Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi (TX)

Paula Lichiello - Lynchburg College (VA)

The membership voted to accept the slate by acclamation.

**New Business**

There was no new business to report.

**Passing of the Gavel**

President Gemperline handed over the gavel to our new President, John Kiss. Kiss complimented Gemperline for his outstanding leadership pledged to emulate his example. As a token of appreciation the Executive Committee presented a plaque to Gemperline.

President Kiss explained that the Executive Committee will meet at 8:00 tomorrow and will include both the old and new Executive Committee members as well as the representatives from Charlotte and George Flowers.

The Meeting was next adjourned at 1:35.

Prepared by William Wiener,

Secretary