



Conference of Southern Graduate Schools
MINUTES-Executive Committee Meeting
Washington, DC, December 7, 2012

The President of the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools (CSGS), Jeannine Blackwell, convened the meeting of the Executive Committee at 7:50 am on December 7, 2012 at the Grand Hyatt Washington DC. Committee members in attendance were: Jeannine Blackwell, Edelma Huntley, Nancy Marcus, Andrew Sustich, Maureen Grasso, Carolyn Hodges, Brian Mitchell, George Flowers, Jennifer Keane-Dawes, Mark Garrison and Dennis Grady. Tom Reynolds representing the Thesis Awards Committee was also in attendance.

1. Old Business

- a. Approval of the Minutes from June 8, 2012 was deferred until the next meeting given the short time the members had to review them.
- b. President Blackwell urged all members to “get the word out” regarding the Greenville SC Annual Meeting on February 21st – 24th. There are a number of exciting pre-conference events and Sunday morning’s sessions should be strong so attendees should plan their travel accordingly.

2. New Business

- a. Treasurer’s Report. Andrew Sustich distributed the Revenue and Expenditures Statement covering January 1, 2012 to November 30, 2012. The Association’s balance at the end of this period was \$108,627.05, a net increase of \$2,047.06 over last year’s statement. Major factors on the revenue side were conference registrations, membership fees and sponsorships. Major expenditure factors were the Annual Meeting’s hotel rooms and travel reimbursements. The Association’s books will be audited before the February meeting.
- b. Treasurer Sustich reported that the site for the 2014 Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX had been secured at the Omni Hotel on the Riverwalk. Room rates will be \$149 for the conference.
- c. Nancy Marcus reported on the work of the Nomination Committee. She announced that a slate of candidates has been developed and will be offered to the membership as a group with opportunities for floor nominations at the business meeting.
- d. Tom Reynolds reported on the work of the Theses Awards Committee. In total there were 41 nominations across three categories. This is compared to 26 nominations the previous year. While this is a healthy increase and good for the Association, the logistics of reviewing so many manuscripts among the 14 reviewers within the time available creates some issues. Discussion ensued regarding on-line collaborative software packages (e.g., activeCollab) to facilitate the reviewing process. He also reported that the ETD category seems to be unclear to many in the Association resulting in few high quality submissions. Discussion ensued regarding how to describe better the purpose of this category and to consider revising the description of this category. He also suggested that the Association re-examine the ETS-Admissions Innovations award since it received no nominations this cycle. Its purpose and

criteria are probably unclear to the membership. His specific recommendations for improving the Committee's work were:

- a. Enlarge the Committee to 15 members
- b. Adopt an electronic project management and collaboration tool using the UNCC server as its host
- c. Revise the EDT competition
- d. Rethink the timing of the deadline for the competition
- e. The winners of the 2013 Thesis/EDT Thesis Awards are:

Math, Physical Sciences, and Engineering (14 Nominees)

Ms. Sarah R. Suda

North Carolina State University

Hygroscopicity Frequency Distributions of Secondary Organic Aerosols

Advisor: Dr. Markus Petters, Department of Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences

Humanities and Fine Arts (22 Nominees)

Ms. Natalie Nations

Mississippi State University

Defining Freedom: A Historical Exploration of Richard Wright's Black Boy, Ernest Gaines's The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman, and Alice Walker's Meridian

Advisor: Dr. Ted Atkinson, Department of English

ETD (5 Nominees)

Mr. Gregory C. Mitchell

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

The Reconciliation of Art + Science

Advisor: Professor Mitzi Vernon, School of Architecture and Design

- f. President-elect Edelma Huntley reported on the Conference Planning Committee. She reported that the detailed program was near completion and would be distributed the Committee in the near future. All featured speakers have been approached and secured. There are plans for a Thursday, February 21st dinner for the Executive Committee at 7:30. Some last minute details include securing timekeepers for the sessions, AV set-ups for some sessions (contact Andrew Sustich and cc Edelma if needed) and evaluation forms for each section. She reiterated the exciting pre-conference opportunities available and encouraged all to get the word out about the conference.
- g. President Blackwell adjourned the meeting at 9:00am.

Respectfully submitted:

Dennis Grady (for Duane Larick)

Secretary CSGS