



**Annual Business Meeting**  
**Draft Minutes of February 22, 2014**

**San Antonio, Texas**

**43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting**

**Omni La Mansion del Rio Hotel**

**Conference Title: *Subject to Change***

**President's Report**

The President of the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools (CSGS), Edelma Huntley called the annual business meeting to order and welcomed the membership.

The membership reviewed the minutes of the 42nd Annual Business Meeting held at the in Greenville, South Carolina on February 25, 2012. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. With no deletions, additions, or modifications, the minutes were approved.

President Huntley explained that the planning for this year's conference included an experiment in conference format and the verdict is still out. The idea has been to reserve larger policy issues for the main CGS meeting and to use this regional meeting to provide the members with opportunities to become involved in discussions about important issues and to tweet about them so others can consider various approaches.

**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, 2012 through December 31, 2013. The organization has assets of \$114,505 this year as compared to \$112,289 at this time last year. We are approximately \$2,000 ahead of where we were last year but this is not a gain because we have had earlier registrations and the final tally may be comparable to last year. We have paid \$2200 for bank services and this can be expected each year. Sustich is currently serving in year four of a three year term and we will be asked to affirm him for the remaining two years of a second three year term. This is a complicated job and it would be helpful to have someone shadow the treasurer in the last couple of years. Members who may be interested were asked to contact Paul Gemperline and let him know about their interest. The vote to accept the treasurer's report was accepted unanimously.

**Committee Reports**

Next, the membership received the reports of the CSGS standing committees.

Cynthia Brown, Chair of the Audit Committee, Identified the committee members and reported that they held a meeting this morning. She next reported that the Audit Committee found the CSGS financial records to be in order and no concerns were noted. She explained that the books are in good shape with only a minor recommendation on a revision to the expense form. There were no financial discrepancies to report. The Audit Report was approved unanimously.

On behalf of the Membership Committee, Paula Lichiella, reported that the committee has six members but would like to have at least one member from every state in the CSGS region. She urged everyone to let her know if they have an interest in serving on the committee. She further reported that the committee would also like to work to better connect our members year round. To achieve this goal the committee will be sponsoring a survey in March which will ask the members for their input on what new resources are desired for such activities as website enhancement, and travel support for the winners of the 3MT competition.

Amy McCandless, chair of the Faculty Awards Committee, next reported that the awards were previously presented at the luncheon, and thus no report is needed at this time. Those receiving awards included:

1. Outstanding Mentor Award: Aruni Bhatnagar from University of Louisville
2. Outstanding Contribution to Grad Ed in Southern Region: Jeinnifer Martin from Texas Woman's University
3. ETS/CSGS Award for Innovation – Alternative Academics and Scholars in the Workplace: Preparing Graduate Students for Diverse Career Options at the University of Louisville

McCandless thanked the Secretary for placing comprehensive information on the website.

It was reported that Tom Reynolds, chair of the Master's Thesis Committee, had fallen ill and that Holly Hurst would be reporting for him. She thanked the student awards committee members for their hard work in selection of the award recipients for 2014. She recognized that asking the committee members to read 40+ theses was a hardship and the process will be reviewed for the next year. Those receiving awards included the following individuals:

1. Digital Scholarship Master's Thesis Award - Anita Lam, Texas State University, San Marcos ; "Typeline", a bilingual typographic reference guide for Chinese students
2. Life Sciences –Manashree Prajapati, Tarleton State University; The Effects of Cholesterol Carrier Proteins and Statin on Fibroblast Migration and Signal Transduction via Sterol Regulatory Element Binding Proteins (SREBP)
3. Social Sciences, Business, and Education –David Frank, University of North Carolina at Greensboro; Metacognitive Age Differences in Strategy Shift; Retrieval Avoidance or General Shift Reluctance?

The Past President and Chair of the Nominating Committee, Jeannine Blackwell, acknowledged that the responsibility of the Nominating Committee is to present a slate of officers to stand for election at the annual business meeting. Blackwell then presented the Nominating Committee's slate of officers for President Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer:

The Nominating Committee asked the following individuals to stand up and identify themselves:

For President Elect – John Kiss, University of Mississippi (2014 ending as President in 2015)

For Secretary – William Wiener, UNC Greensboro (Three Year Term Ending in 2017)

For Treasurer – Andrew Sustich, Arkansas State University (Two year term remaining of a three year ending in 2016)

All three were asked to stand up and identify themselves. Members were asked to fill out the ballot provided them in their packets.

Next she presented a slate for the Executive Committee Members for four open positions ending in 2017 and one position ending in 2016. She asked the following individuals to stand up and identify themselves to the members:

Ernest Brothers, University of Tennessee

Karen Burg, Clemson University

Henry Frierson, University of Florida

Deborah Garrison, Midwestern State University

Cecilia McIntoch, East Tennessee State University

Michael Orok, Tennessee State University

The chair then asked for nominations from the floor and none came forward. She then asked the members to mark their ballots.

### **New Business**

Mark Garrison presented a change to the CSGS constitution regarding the election process. He moved to alter the structure of open nominations by no longer seeking nominations from the floor after the slate has been presented on the floor of the business meeting. The current process leaves those nominated from the floor at a disadvantage since they have not been vetted for willingness and eligibility and have not prepared a short biographical sketch. Instead the motion called for the implementation of an electronic means to solicit nominations from the membership after the slate has been sent to the membership. This will permit those nominated to have time to consider the nomination and to be vetted properly. The motion was made and seconded. The floor was open for discussion and being none the question was voted upon. The motion to amend the constitution to allow additional nominations through electronic means was passed unanimously.

The second piece of new business came from the Membership Committee and was is to raise the dues from \$100 to \$150 to help keep members connected. The extra money could include travel stipends for 3MT students, a newsletter twice a year, support for the website, and other kinds of communication. Discussion ensued and information was shared about the frequency of past raises in dues. A suggestion was made to increase the dues by \$100 but concern was voiced that small schools could not afford such an increase from the budget of their graduate schools. The suggestion was not put into the form of an amendment and thus died on the floor. Other questions were clarified including the amount of new

funding this increase would bring into the organization. The question was called and motion was passed unanimously. It was noted that this increase is not to take effect until next year.

President Huntley next acknowledged everyone responsible for this conference including our sponsors and the Executive Committee. Paul Gemperline presented President Huntley with a plaque of appreciation for her service to the organization as President.

A report from the nominating committee shared that the slate of officers and executive committee members had been elected by the members.

The new members to the Executive Committee included:

Ernest Brothers

Karen Burg

Deborah Garrison

Michael Orok

President Gemperline reiterated that this has been a great meeting through efforts of the Executive Committee. He indicated that the new ideas for the program came from the creativity of the Executive Committee. He asked everyone to enjoy the meeting and asked the attendees to thank the Executive Committee for their work.

Cards were distributed to the attendees to provide ideas for topics for next year's conference to be held in New Orleans.

The Meeting was next adjourned.

Prepared by William Wiener,  
Secretary