

Minutes
CSGS Executive Committee Meeting
August 11, 2026

12:00 PM EDT, 11:00 PM CDT via Zoom

Present: Jessica Queener, Julie Goodliffe, Sharon James McGee, Greg Bell, Troy Terry, John Lopes, Debra Jackson, Brian Wayne, Peter Harries, Alan Itkin, Annette Kluck, John E. Smith Jr., Laurence Bray, Irene Aiken

Meeting summary

Quick recap

The meeting focused on planning for the upcoming CSGS conference in Arlington and selecting a location for the 2028 meeting. The group confirmed three plenary speakers and agreed to add Sarah Spitzer from ACE to address federal research funding. For 2028, they decided to move forward with Clark Atlanta's proposal in Atlanta, citing better hotel options and proximity to institutions, and ruled out Durham and Knoxville due to lack of suitable venues. They discussed hotel preferences in Atlanta, favoring Midtown locations over Buckhead or perimeter areas for accessibility and amenities. The committee addressed leadership changes, with Ron Walcott stepping down and Deborah Jackson continuing to serve despite a new role, and agreed to follow past practice by inviting the next highest vote-getter, Shannon Acosta, to fill the vacancy. Updates were shared on CGS strategic planning, budget, and discussed membership value and research quality. The group also reviewed the program committee's progress and the conference theme, and noted potential hotel impacts from the 2028 Super Bowl in Atlanta.

Next steps

- Sharon: Cement Sarah Spreitzer's availability as a plenary speaker and add her to the agenda.
- John: Reach out to Ron regarding the handoff of liaison responsibilities for the plenary speaker.
- Sharon & John: Work together to finalize the schedule for all four plenary speakers.
- Peter: Start the process of identifying dates for the leadership to visit Atlanta for the 2028 meeting, and coordinate with Michelle.
- Sharon: Reach out to Clark Atlanta University (specifically the Dean of the Graduate School) to invite them into the planning process for the 2028 meeting and the site visit.
- John: Reach out to Jim Harper to inform him Durham is not being considered for the 2028 meeting.
- John: Respond to the Knoxville group expressing that their proposal will not be considered for 2028.
- John: Reach out to Shannon Acosta (Florida Gulf Coast) to offer her Ron Walcott's vacant position on the executive committee.

- Sharon: Bring a proposal to clarify eligibility and replacement rules for committee service to the February meeting for a vote.
- Sharon: Continue to confirm members for the program committee, including inviting Greg Bell and Laurence.
- Sharon & John: Backfill the remaining committee positions.
- Troy: As chair of the nominating committee, review and clarify the bylaws regarding eligibility and replacement for committee service.
- Laurence: Revamp the bylaws of the CGS Research and Information Services Committee and engage interested members for input.

Summary

Meeting Planning and Speaker Selection

The group discussed planning for the next meeting in Arlington and proposals for the 2028 meeting. They confirmed three plenary speakers and decided to pursue Sarah Spreitzer from ACE as a fourth speaker to discuss federal research funding impacts on graduate education. For the 2028 meeting, they agreed to proceed with Clark Atlanta's proposal to host in Atlanta, with Peter taking the lead on planning a site visit within the next two and a half months to evaluate hotel options in the Midtown area.

Debra's Role Transition Discussion

Debra announced her relocation and transition to a remote position at ECU, while continuing as PI for a T32 grant. The group discussed whether Debra could continue serving in her current role, with agreement that she could provide continuity through the current year.

Role Filling and Program Planning

The team discussed filling a role and identified a candidate from Florida Gulf Coast University. John will reach out to the candidate and inform Ron about the selection. The group assigned action items including Sharon reaching out to Sarah Speitzer, Peter identifying dates for leadership travel to Atlanta, and John contacting institutions about plenary speakers. The team also discussed program committee updates, with Sharon confirming she is reaching out to potential committee members including Irene Aiken and Greg Bell, and Laurence was added to the program committee to handle graduate student programming.

CGS Strategic Planning Updates

The group discussed updates on CGS's strategic planning process, which is nearly complete and will be shared with members at a town hall on September 23rd before the full rollout in December. The organization has implemented cost savings of about \$2.2 million through staff reductions while keeping dues flat, and Mary Farmer-Kaiser will serve as the new board chair. The group also discussed challenges with the April 15th compliance situation, which deans found problematic and unworkable despite their feedback.

Adjournment.