



Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes of Thursday, March 2, 2017

4:00 p.m.

Loews Hotel

Annapolis, MD

**Conference Title: Pearls and Perils: Pathways to Graduate Education
and Beyond**

AGENDA

Conference of Southern Graduate Schools Executive Committee Meeting

March 2, 2017, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Presidential Suite

Loews Hotel

Annapolis, MD

Members Present

Amy McCandless, President, College of Charleston

George Crandell, Interim Secretary, Auburn University

George Flowers, Treasurer, Auburn University

David Berkowitz (2018), University of Alabama in Huntsville

F. Douglas Boudinot (2016), Virginia Commonwealth University

Ernest L. Brothers (2016), University of Tennessee

Jo Ann Canales (2017), Texas A&M University

Meredith Welch-Devine (2018), University of Georgia

William Person (ex officio), Alabama State University

Dean Campbell – Chair, Membership Committee, North Carolina A&T State University

Kim Lascola Needy (2019) University of Arkansas

Welcome (Amy McCandless)

The meeting was called to order at 4:09 p.m. by President McCandless.

Approval of Executive Committee Minutes (George Crandell)

The minutes were unanimously approved.

Committee Reports

Nomination

Amy McCandless reported for John Kiss. Nominations were circulated to the membership and posted on the CSGS website as prescribed in the Constitution. Nominations were closed in mid-January. The nominees are listed below:

Nomination for President Elect

David Berkowitz

Nomination for Secretary, 3 year term

George Crandell

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

Jie Chen, James Madison University

Jack DeRochi, Winthrop University

Andrea Golato, Texas State University

Brian Kloepel, Western Carolina University

Jean Van Delinder, Oklahoma State University

Representatives will vote at the business meeting, selecting four members for three-year terms, and one member for a one-year term (the nominee receiving the fewest votes).

Awards (faculty)

Kim Needy (chair) and the selection committee, made up of JoAnn Canales (Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi), Andrew Goodlife (University of Alabama) and Meredith Welch-Devine (University of Georgia) selected the following award winners:

2017 Award for Faculty Excellence in Mentoring Graduate Education

Dr. Benjamin Zhan, Texas State University

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

Dr. Paula Williamson, Texas State University

Needy remarked that the faculty award for Outstanding Contributions is a lifetime achievement award and that nominees may be re-nominated if they are not selected. This year, the committee clarified the requirements for the awards and standardized what is part of the nomination packet. The committee used a rubric, developed last year, to select the award winners. They hope to increase the number of nominations next year.

Thesis Awards (students)

Amy McCandless reported for Sonja Montas-Hunter (Chair). The winners are named below:

Carl Rice (North Carolina State University), Humanities & Fine Arts

Sepideh Maleki (Texas State University), Mathematics, Physical Sciences & Engineering

Maël Lenoc (Texas State University), Digital Scholarship.

It is not clear what is meant by “digital scholarship,” and this may be something that the committee needs to address before the next cycle of awards.

Membership

Dean Campbell (Chair) reported that the six member committee met twice during the year. At their first meeting, they divided the list of schools with unpaid dues and sent emails to them. A number of schools responded positively. At their second meeting, they came up with a number of recommendations. For example, they created a Sharepoint membership spreadsheet and plan to continue using it. A number of ideas were discussed related to the website: 1) make the member list more current; 2) add value propositions and statements about the value of membership; 3) keep the web site in the same location. The committee also offered suggestions about the payment of dues, including paying at the time of registration; however, payment procedures vary (e.g., some institutions cannot use a credit card). Treasurer George Flowers suggested that dues and registration payments be kept separate, because the amount varies. The discussion returned to the idea of how to stress the benefits of membership. CSGS could, for example, provide links to publications, gather data about benefits (e.g., by means of the post-conference survey). CSGS could also provide information about mentorship opportunities, networking, job opportunities, and possibilities for joint projects. The organization could also seek additional sponsorships.

Sponsorship Committee (ad hoc)

Kim Needy (Chair) reported that at the site visit in July the committee decided on sponsorship levels: platinum, gold and silver. The committee challenged members to sponsor at the \$500 level. More than 30 institutions met the challenge. The goal of \$20,000 in sponsorships was exceeded by about \$10,000, with sponsorships totaling close to \$30,000. The overall effort was very successful.

President's Report

Amy McCandless reported on the large number of transitions this year. George Flowers succeeded Andy Sustich as Treasurer. John Kiss left for the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. In July 2016, Bill Weiner retired, and George Crandell was appointed as Interim Secretary. Leadership of the 3MT competition transitioned to Meredith Welch-Devine. Amy McCandless also retired, but was able to continue as President. McCandless thanked everyone for help during the transition, and stressed the importance of institutional memory. McCandless mentioned the planning meetings for Annapolis and the July 2016 site visit to Arkansas. Fayetteville was chosen over Rogers, Arkansas because of restaurants within walking distance of the venue. No site has been chosen for 2019, but Knoxville and Mobile were mentioned as possibilities. Suggestions for sites may be sent to members of the Executive Committee. McCandless asked the Executive Committee whether CSGS needs a strategic plan. She also discussed the possibility of bringing regional winners of 3MT competitions to the annual meeting of the Council of Graduate Schools, noting that the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools also sponsors a regional completion. McCandless commented that CSGS

does not have a true listserve, but rather a distribution list. If the organization wants to make a change, it should be made known.

Treasurer's Report

George Flowers provided the Treasurer's report, covering the period from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016. He reported that total revenue for the period was \$153,530.88. Total expenses during the same period amounted to \$119,325.17, leaving a balance of \$34,205.71. He noted that an audit will be conducted this evening (March 2, 2017). Flowers thanked Kim Needy and all those who helped to recruit sponsors for the conference, including contributions from the Maryland schools, institutional sponsors, and exhibitors.

President-Elect Report on Conference Program

President-elect Brothers thanked everyone who contributed to the success of the program, commenting on the good sessions. He asked for volunteers to help with the 3MT competition. He reminded the group about the reception and the group dinners. He encouraged everyone to use Twitter to promote the conference. He also thanked our sponsors and other contributors.

Summer Executive Committee Meeting in Fayetteville, Arkansas E. Brothers.

Brothers suggested a possible theme for next year's conference in northwest Arkansas: "Discovery and Innovation: Embracing the Future of Graduate Education." The University of Arkansas is excited about hosting the event.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 5:15 by President Amy McCandless.

Meeting notes submitted by George Crandell, Interim Secretary