

CSGS Executive Committee
2025 Dallas Conference On-Site Planning Meeting

June 12-14, 2024

Officers Present: Jon Hakkila (President, University of Alabama Huntsville), Mary Farmer-Kaiser (Past President, University of Louisiana at Lafayette), Troy Terry (President-elect, University of North Georgia), Peter Harries (Treasurer), Julie Goodliffe (Secretary, University of North Carolina Charlotte)

Executive Committee Members Present: Irene Pittman Aiken (University of North Carolina Pembroke), Ruth Bahr (University of South Florida), André Denham (University of Alabama), Clay Gloster (North Carolina A&T University), Desi Hacker (Norfolk State University), Annette Kluck (University of Mississippi), John Lopes (Clemson University), John Smith Jr. (Tougaloo College, ex-officio delegate of CHBGS President), Aimée Surprenant (Virginia Tech University)

Local Hosts Present: Alan Itkin (Senior Assistant Dean and Chief of Staff), Karen Wray (Executive Assistant to the Dean and Associate Provost, SMU).

Wednesday, June 12

Ideas and thoughts offered during a short Happy Hour meeting

- What is the ideal number of breakout rooms? We need more breakouts we think.
- Will there be posters in Moody? Vendors will be in the other building.
- Posters: The challenge is that there need to be enough of them to make it worthwhile for whoever prepares a poster. We'll use the Greenville survey to find out if people want posters.
- If you present one year can you present again the next year? What was the topic? We can ask people who submit proposals when they last presented at the CSGS.
- Is there parking for students and others who come from nearby and not staying at hotels? Ask at registration who is driving and not staying at the hotel.

Thursday, June 13

9:07 call to order

Minutes of April 10, 2024 meeting approved.

2025 CSGS Program Planning

Key plenaries brainstorming

- AI: practical aspects and problems; how to use AI ethically; compliance, real-world best practices. A panel with people from different perspectives would be great, potentially including employers.
- Issues in the Southeast: DEI – navigating the new playing field; healthcare rights for women. We have so many different types of schools in the South; what are universities doing?
- Free speech. Students feel threatened. Free creative open-minded thinkers is what we want, how can students be that way in this environment? Free speech and academic freedom are being conflated by outside entities.
- Unions – impact private schools in the South. Breakout for them?
- Re-building campus community. Nobody comes to campus – so many are working remotely. Things like “accidental learning” don’t happen anymore. Find the campuses who don’t have a ghost town, how did you get people to come back?

Summary of ideas: AI, free speech and free thinking, DEI/gender, Mackenzie.

Theme idea: conference that’s about how do we retain free open spaces of thought and independence in the current political environment impacting higher ed. WIDE OPEN SPACES. The Open Range of Graduate Education: In and Beyond the Fences

Sessions brainstorming

- Building community.
- Data? Who has the data and how do you get it? Lassoing the data, what are the right questions, how do you get this? We all need employment outcomes data, given new rules from Dept of Ed. Lightning rounds.
- Posters? Only one person who filled out the survey asked to bring back the posters.
- New Deans Breakfast – where are we doing this logistically? Does it attract enough people? Annette suggested New Deans Happy Hour, or Wednesday night dinner?

What will we ask for in the RFP?

- Wrangling Data – obtaining and using data for insights and advocacy
- Building community to not lose accidental learning and make sure students feel safe on campus and with each other
- A range of schools or have representative groups of CSGS members
- Employment outcomes US dept of education value transparency and gainful employment; costs
- Encourage partnership between different institutions

Dallas Hotels

40 rooms in The Graduate, ~140 rooms in Highland. Need the Beemon as an overflow. How many rooms should we get? 227 people registered for Greenville, plus 62 3MTers. Peter will talk to Darla. We’re not

very concerned since people who register late and try to book a hotel late can find things in Dallas: Beemon, AirBnb, VRBO.

Transportation

- Parking – there is parking on campus but it'll cost money. We can tell people how to find the visitor lots on campus.
- Shuttle. Need to reach out to the external vendor to find out details. We could rent golf carts from campus too.
- ADA – encourage people to register early at Highlands. Make sure we have that on the registration form.

SMU Conference Facilities

- Ballroom is more than sufficient. 7 at 44 tables can fit 308. Max 8 people at the tables.
- Auditorium holds 400+. No food or drinks allowed.
- Senate room holds a lot, food and drink allowed, maybe New Dean's Lunch
- Moody auditorium is nice, 3MT heat1
- Classroom one with chairs, no tables, 3MT heat2
- Classroom two with chairs, no tables, 3MT heat3
- Upstairs – two open rooms with rounds for breakouts. Need AV for one and maybe both. Can hold two heats up there if needed. If only one, hold it in the room with doors.

CSGS 2026 Conference Planning

Where should CSGS 2026 be held?

The committee considered a few locations, but had concerns about making sure that the city has the capacity for our growing conference. Can we uncouple the conference from a university? We need a regional airport hub and sufficient conference space for a pretty big meeting.

Atlanta is on the horizon for the 100th anniversary. Nashville or Memphis would be good. Ask Darla where to go in Tennessee. We also considered other locations, making a list of pros and cons.

Adjourn for the afternoon for meals and travel home.