

CSGS

Annual Business Meeting

Minutes of Saturday, March 4, 2017

12:30 p.m.

**Loews Hotel
Annapolis, MD**

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

President's Report

The President of the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools (CSGS), Amy McCandless, called the annual business meeting to order at 12:36pm.

A motion to change the order of the agenda items was approved.

President's report

President McCandless commented on the many transitions during the last year, including the departures of Andy Sustich as Treasurer, John Kiss, as Immediate-Past President, and Bill Weiner as Secretary. Responsibility for the 3MT Competition also changed, and two Executive Committee members left before their terms expired. McCandless reported that the Executive Board met in Annapolis in May 2016 to begin planning for the annual meeting, choosing "Pearls and Perils: Pathways to Graduate Education and Beyond" as the theme. She thanked President-elect Ernest Brothers for preparing the program. McCandless announced that the location for the 2018 annual meeting came down to a choice between Rogers and Fayetteville, Arkansas. Fayetteville offered a wider variety of restaurants within walking distance and thus was the final choice of the Executive Committee. Kim Needy (University of Arkansas) will be assisting with local arrangements. Sites for the 2019 and 2020 meetings have yet to be determined. Suggestions (or proposals) should be directed to officers or members of the Executive Committee. McCandless noted that the CSGS currently maintains a distribution list (as opposed to a list serve). If the membership desires a change, members should let the Executive Committee know. McCandless concluded her remarks by thanking the membership for their creative ideas, their dedication to graduate education, and their friendship. She also stressed the importance of continuing to advocate for graduate education.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the 45rd Annual Business Meeting held in Charlotte at the Omni Charlotte Hotel on Friday, February 19, 2016 were posted on the web-site and placed in each attendee's program materials. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. With no deletions, additions, or modifications, the minutes were approved.

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. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was approved.

Nominating Committee Report:

President McCandless reported on behalf of John Kiss. Following distribution of the slate of nominees, there were no additional nominations.

The Nominees for each position were introduced as follows:

Nominee for President Elect

David Berkowitz (University of Alabama in Huntsville)

A motion to close nominations and to elect David Berkowitz by acclamation was approved.

Nominee for Secretary

George Crandell (Auburn University)

A motion to close nominations and to elect George Crandell by acclamation was approved.

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 Kloepfel (Western Carolina University)
Jean Van Delinder (Oklahoma State University)

President McCandless instructed voters to vote for four candidates. The four candidates receiving the most votes were to be elected to three-year terms; the other candidate is to serve a one-year term. Voting commenced by paper ballot; the results are reported below.

Audit Committee Report

Bonnie Melhart thanked the members of the Audit Committee: Andrea Golato, David Jackson, Brian Kloepfel, and Lori McMahon. The committee reviewed the documentation on Thursday, March 2, 2017 and found no discrepancies. They commended George Flowers and Julie Reece for a job well done. It was suggested that the CGSG consider switching from PayPal to Intuit for receiving online

payments, a recommendation that the Audit Committee endorsed. A motion to accept the Audit Committee's report was approved.

Faculty Awards Committee Report

Kim Needy thanked the members of the Faculty Awards Committee: JoAnn Canales, Andrew Goodlife, and Meredith Welch-Divine. She then announced the winners:

2017 CSGS Award for Outstanding Mentor for Graduate Education in the Southern Region

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 noted that the Award for Outstanding Contributions is a lifetime achievement award. Thus, if a nominee is not selected in one year, it is altogether appropriate to nominate the same person again. This year, the committee clarified the requirements for the awards and standardized what is submitted as part of the nomination packet. They also developed a rubric to assess the candidates objectively, with a positive effect. A motion to accept the Faculty Awards Committee's report was approved.

Thesis Awards Committee Report

George Crandell, reporting for Sonja Montas-Hunter, thanked the other members of the committee: Tom Reynolds, Laura Chesak, Christy Wyandt, Jon Hakkila, and Dennis Grady. He then announced the winners.

Humanities & Fine Arts: Carl Rice, "Great Persecutions': Minority Religions and the Roman Tetrarchy," North Carolina State University

Advisor: S. Thomas Parker

Mathematics, Physical Sciences & Engineering: Sepideh Maleki, "Higher-Order and Tuple-Based Massively-Parallel Prefix Sum," Texas State

University

Advisor: Martin Burtscher

Digital Scholarship: Maël Lenoc, "Family Arrest and Separation during the Holocaust in Italy," Texas State University

Advisor: Alberto Giordano

A motion to accept the Master's Thesis Awards Committee report was approved.

Membership Committee Report

Dean Campbell reported on the activity of the Membership Committee, beginning by thanking the committee members: Darcie Bishop, Henry Frierson, Larry LeFlore, Paula Lichiello, Clifton Griffin, Sanjay Mellon, and Robert Sanders. The committee worked hard to make improvements and listen to the membership. During the first couple of months, the committee contacted approximately 170 institutions that had not yet paid dues. Many responded and, as a result, revenues increased. The group also brainstormed about how to keep member experience at a high level. One idea is to send out a member survey, with questions about how the CSGS web site might better serve the organization, about what resources might be useful, and about other ways to enhance membership. The committee hopes to use this data to make decisions and to add value to membership in CGSG. A motion to accept the report was approved.

Elections

Amy McCandless announced the results of the vote of the members:

President-elect

David Berkowitz (by acclamation)

Secretary

George W. Crandell (by acclamation)

Executive Committee

Three Year Terms Ending in 2020:

Jack DeRochi (Winthrop University)

Andrea Golato (Texas State University)

Brian Kloeppe (Western Carolina University)

Jean Van Delinder (Oklahoma State University)

One Year Term Ending in 2018

Jie Chen (James Madison University)

Sponsorship Report

Kim Needy reported on efforts to secure sponsorships for the Annapolis meeting. Corporate sponsors were able to participate at platinum, gold, and silver levels. Support from participating institutions was also solicited. Sponsorships exceeded the original goal of \$20,000 by about \$10,000, much better than expected. The corporate and institutional sponsors were recognized with an insert in the packet of materials distributed to participants. Needy also thanked the institutions from Maryland for their sponsorship of the reception. A motion to accept the report was approved.

New Business

A motion was made that the Executive Committee consider making the ad hoc Sponsorship Committee a standing committee. The motion was approved by a voice vote. There was no other new business.

Passing of the Gavel

President McCandless handed over the gavel to the new President, Ernest Brothers. A plaque was presented to Amy McCandless by President Brothers in honor of her service as president.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:11 p.m.

Prepared by George Crandell
Secretary