

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

3/16/2024

Greenville, SC

Officers present: Mary Farmer-Kaiser, Jon Hakkila, Peter Harries, Troy Terry, Julie Goodliffe

Committee Members Present: Desi Hacker, David Shafer, Alan Itkin (SMU), Andre Denham, Robert Wojtowicz, Clay Gloster, Morris Grubbs, John Lopes, Aimee Surprenant, Irene Aiken, Annette Kluck.

8:12 called to order

Introductions

The Executive Committee members introduced themselves and welcomed new members.

Minutes

CSGS Executive Committee Meeting Minutes from February 14th and February 26th were approved as-is.

Executive Committee Responsibilities

Jon Hakkila provided a broad overview of the responsibilities of CSGS Executive Committee members. They include:

- Function as ambassadors for graduate education.
- Act as ambassadors for CSGS, CGS, and CHGBS by encouraging people/universities to join; become involved; present CSGS, CGS, and CHGBS initiatives at regional/state meetings.
- Consider joining and/or attending the CHGBS meeting, which is held the day before the CSGS annual meeting each spring. Membership is \$300. Membership is a way to build connections and support a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive graduate education community.
- Helps us keep the CSGS momentum going throughout the year. To assist with this, we will keep scheduled Zoom meetings on the books; some will be inclusive of all Executive Committee members, others only officers; we'll cancel if there is no business to discuss.
- Serve on or chair a CSGS committee. Several years ago, we identified this as a best practice that helps us ensure continuity between the Executive Committee and our standing committee and their activities. One exception: Audit – the Audit committee is independent and has no CGSG officers/committee members on it.

- Attend the conference site visit and planning meeting in Dallas. We will stay in the conference hotel, plan the program, and visit local restaurants.
- The Executive Board will also take advantage of other meeting opportunities provided by CGS.

Other Committees

Julie is the keeper of the master list. We'll review and find CSGS members to plug in where needed. We planned to diversify committees by region.

Greenville Meeting Debrief

Positives

- The committee agreed that the theme of the meeting was timely and excellent.
- Frankie Felder was amazing.
- Kudos to John for bringing us Wes Fondren, who was also excellent. The AI talk was Fun and a perfect balance of threats and opportunities.
- Clemson, our local host, was amazing in every way and incredibly important for the success.
- Seems like all the sessions were well attended.
- Pacing of the schedule was perfect. Very little wasted time. Unlike some other meetings, sessions were engaging and always ended with committee members wanting more.
- Mackenzie's talk: wonderful as always, despite being heavy; these are the times. Shows how important it is to have a relationship with Legal Affairs on campus. Let's give Mackenzie the dates for Dallas. She's an SMU law grad!

Negatives / Ideas for Improvement

- We need at least 2 sets of food to avoid long lines during the receptions. Lunches and breakfasts were good though.
- Graduate student session attendance? When we turn away breakout sessions, we need to make sure that the grad student sessions are worth the space. Next year one of the sessions is in the game room, so that will open up a space for another breakout.
- Staff partitioned the rooms wrong the first day, so we had to adapt. Some 3MT rooms were too close as a result.
- Noise from staff behind the wall was worse than applause in one room. When things go wrong, we need someone on the Exec Comm to fix things on the fly.
- Absence of mics, also broken mic. We agreed that we always need microphones, to help different voices and hearing needs.

Neutral / More Ideas for Improvement

- Thesis award winner: we didn't tell the student to limit their remarks to 1 slide, and we should do that for 2025.
- Can we get the award winners on the news? 3MT judges were TV anchors. We should be prepared or pursue becoming a local news story. Also need to let the students know.
- We have a responsibility to promote SACSCOC and SREB; maybe we need to include them in all future meetings.
- Seating space – this meeting is growing. We'll need to plan for that.
- Sponsors, were they happy? They seemed to be happy with the traffic, depending on the location of the space.
- Make sure that the nominated theses for the ProQuest award are available to be published in ProQuest.

3MT

- 3MTers bonded at this meeting. Jill brought them together on the first night, which helped them find each other. They cheered each other on during the finals. Excellent participants this year.
- 3MT, should we ask the audience to hold applause till the end?
- Request to increase the price of 3MT registration, since the institution pays and not the student. If we bump up the price then we can handle the food for guests. Add a question on the form to find out whether and how many guests are coming.
- People's Choice award voting needs to be changed to avoid cheating. One idea: get rid of the People's Choice during the heats, and let judges choose 1-3. Then we have People's Choice in the finals.
- Can we do the People's Choice within Guidebook or other event app? That reduces the chance of cheating.

CSGS Participation Items

Are there people in your state who are not participating? The Membership committee will follow up with new attendees and regular attendees who didn't come. Julie will give them the membership list and the attendee list.

Do members skew to public institutions rather than private institutions? SMU is a good site for next year to talk about this.

It will help to have sessions that resonate with smaller regional institutions. It's OK to not have flagship or huge R1 private schools, that's a good niche to be in. We will move the meeting around the region so that it's drive-able for as many institutions as possible.

Executive Committee Items

Photos: send Julie headshots for the website if you're new.

Zoom meetings will be scheduled, continuing at 12pm Central, alternating Wednesday/Thursdays.

Dallas: fly to Love Field, much closer to SMU. Southwest and Delta fly there. Flight covered to Dallas up to \$650. Rooms and food are also covered. If you fly to either DFW or Love Field, you can take the train to the SMU stop right by the hotel.

Guidebook: it's time to renew, and we should renew for 1 year and have a committee figure out what to do by re-renewal time. The Program Committee is the right group to do this, and we need a point person like Brian to handle Guidebook. Morris volunteered to help.

Ideas for levity in Dallas: Jorge Cham, author of PhD comics. Lego Graduate Student.

CD: can we make more \$ than \$12?

2026 Items

Maybe we need to move away from a model where we ask for a local host, given the size of hotel that we need. Now we need to think about the places that have facilities that can handle 300 people or more.

Where do we need to go? Do we need to follow the model of other conferences where we pick a location in each of 3 areas, aka Charlotte/Raleigh, Texas, Other? Darla will be asked about this.

Kentucky. Morris's institution has a permanent Grad Dean, and the institution has space and downtown has hotels. We should check out the conference hotels.

Upcoming agenda items:

Faculty awards committee recommendations.

9:43 meeting adjourned.