

CSGS

Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes of Sunday, February 25, 2018

8:30 am

Chancellor Hotel

Fayetteville, AR

Conference Title: Discovery & Innovation in Graduate Education

Conference of Southern Graduate Schools Executive Committee Meeting

Lost Bridge Room

Chancellor Hotel

Fayetteville, AR

Members Present

David Berkowitz, President-Elect, University of Alabama in Huntsville

Ernest Brothers, Past-President, University of Tennessee

George Crandell, Secretary, Auburn University

George Flowers, Treasurer, Auburn University

Ruth Bahr (2021), University of South Florida

Karen S. Coates (2021), University of Southern Mississippi

Michael Cunningham (2019), Tulane University

William Person (ex officio), Alabama State University

Jack DeRochi (2020), Winthrop University

Andrea Golato (2020), Texas State University

Peter Harries, (2019), North Carolina State University

Brian Kloeppe (2020), Western Carolina University

Kim LaScola Needy (2019), University of Arkansas

Troy M. Terry (2021), Furman University

Jean Van Delinder (2020), Oklahoma State University

President Berkowitz called the meeting to order at 8:38 and welcomed the new and returning Executive Committee members.

The dates for the annual meeting in Knoxville were confirmed as Feb. 14-16, 2019. Dates for the planning meeting have been tentatively set for June 10-11, 2019 in Knoxville. Executive Committee members should plan to arrive and be prepared to meet by 3:00 p.m. on Sunday. Activities will end after dinner on Monday evening. Committee members should also plan for a series of electronic conference calls. Berkowitz plans to send out a schedule of meetings.

The committee briefly discussed themes and partnerships for the 2019 meeting. The close proximity of the Oak Ridge Laboratories suggests possibilities. The Council of Historically Black Graduate Schools (CHBGS) has selected as its theme: "Innovation and Collaboration."

The need for transition planning came up as a topic for discussion. Currently, the CSGS has no operations manual to assist incoming leaders. The Western Association of Graduate Schools (WAGS) may have a model to emulate. Similarly, there is no codified practice for updating (or maintaining) the CSGS list serve. Suggestions were made to improve communications with committee chairs and sponsors.

To fill spots on the Executive Committee (vacated by recently elected officers), the Executive Committee approved a motion to appoint Abhijit Bhattacharyya and Jeannine Perry to the Executive Committee for one-year terms. Both had been nominated to serve on the Executive Committee.

The University of Alabama at Birmingham has indicated an interest in hosting the 2020 annual meeting. Berkowitz shared with them some guidelines for submitting a proposal, which he will also share with the Executive Committee. The committee can then consider the proposal and will have a format for receiving subsequent requests to host the meeting. Schools from Kentucky, North Carolina, and Florida have expressed some interest in hosting at a future date.

The committee briefly discussed the future of the Digital Thesis Award. It was decided that the Student Awards Committee should make a recommendation to the Executive Committee, in collaboration with the sponsor of the award, ProQuest.

A survey will be sent out soon to solicit feedback about this year's annual meeting. Anecdotal responses to the meeting have been mostly positive. Some suggestions for change include: surveying the membership about preferences at the conference (discussion groups vs. presentations); providing opportunities for staff members to attend and benefit from the conference sessions; changing to a cash bar; providing appropriate venues for vendors; altering the dates for submissions of awards; making sure that a block of rooms is reserved for award winners and plenary speakers.

Submitted by George Crandell, Secretary