

CSGS Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

1:00 PM EDT, 12:00 PM CDT via Zoom

Attendees, in order of Zoom video: Laurence Bray, Julie Goodliffe, Jessica Queener, Troy Terry, John Lopes, Jessica Zagorski, Brian Wayne, Ruth Bahr, Alan Itkin, Sharon James McGee, Peter Harries, Jon Hakkila, Annette Kluck, Bob Stackman, John E. Smith Jr.

1:02 call to order

Meeting Purpose

Review conference progress, CGS updates, and future planning.

Key Takeaways

- **Baton Rouge Conference on Track:** Plenary speakers are confirmed, and registration is strong (169 total, 141 paid, ~\$10k in sponsorships). The hotel rate issue is being resolved.
- **CGS Strategic Plan Underway:** The CGS President is launching a strategic plan via surveys and focus groups. CSGS members will provide feedback, advocating for broad participation beyond deans.
- **AI Panel Focus Shift:** The Baton Rouge AI panel will move beyond ethics to explore new topics: AI's impact on the job market, fraud, and environmental sustainability.
- **New Threat Identified:** The committee discussed the emerging risk of "academic social media influencers" publicly criticizing university dissertations, raising concerns about institutional reputation.

Topics

CGS Annual Meeting Debrief

- **Overall Assessment:** The CGS meeting was seen as a significant improvement over past years, with more relevant content and a highly engaged president in Chevelle Newsome.
- **Key Learnings for Baton Rouge:**
 - **Panel Moderation:** Effective moderation is critical. The CGS panel with prepared questions was highly successful; an unmoderated panel was not.

- **Content Quality:** Avoid overused buzzwords ("innovation," "new"). Focus on truly novel ideas and data, like the SMU economics presentation on the value of graduate education.
- **Networking:** High hotel costs (\$22 drinks) inhibit casual networking.
- **CGS Strategic Planning:**
 - **Process:** President Newsome is launching a 6-month needs assessment via surveys and focus groups to inform a new strategic plan, with results due next December.
 - **CGS Feedback:** The committee will advocate for broad focus group participation (deans, associate deans, staff) and suggest virtual meetings to improve feedback from CGS committees.

Baton Rouge Conference: Progress & Logistics

- **Program:** All plenary speakers are confirmed. CGS President Chevelle Newsome will speak for 30 minutes on the CGS strategic plan.
- **Registration & Finances:**
 - **Total Registered:** 169
 - **Paid:** 141 (105 attendees, 36 3MT students)
 - **Sponsorships:** 4 sponsors, ~\$10,000 raised
 - **Deadline:** The early bird registration deadline is this Friday (one-time extension).
- **Hotel Issues:**
 - **Rate:** Some users are seeing a \$179 rate instead of the negotiated ~\$147. Peter is working with the hotel to fix the booking link.
 - **Availability:** Rooms are still available.

2027 Conference: Northern Virginia

- **Venue:** Renaissance Hotel, Arlington, VA.
- **Contract:** The contract is pending. Peter is negotiating a reduced parking rate for attendees.

- **Dates:** Feb 18–20, 2027. The committee approved posting these dates on the website immediately.

Baton Rouge AI Panel: New Directions

- **Goal:** Move beyond the "ethics of AI" topic to explore new, actionable issues.
- **Proposed Topics:**
 - **Job Market Impact:** How AI affects graduate employment and creates training gaps.
 - **Fraud & Integrity:** AI-generated publications, credentials, and other academic fraud.
 - **AI as a Tool:** Using AI for administrative tasks (e.g., dissertation compliance) to repurpose staff for higher-value work.
- **Moderation:** Laurence Bray will moderate. Peter Harries is the backup panelist if Debra Steward is unavailable.

Committee Updates

- **Awards:**
 - **Faculty Mentoring:** 15 nominations are under review.
 - **Contribution:** Sharon McGee's nomination was located and moved to the correct folder.
 - **Student Awards:** Initial ratings are due Dec 17.
- **Nominating Committee:** The call for nominations for the Executive Committee, President-elect, and Treasurer will be sent today.
- **CHBGS Conference:** Registration is open and extended to Dec 15. Dr. Smith will contact CGS President Newsome to confirm her participation.

Next Steps

- **Peter Harries:**
 - Resolve the Baton Rouge hotel rate issue with the Renaissance.
 - Finalize the contract for the 2027 Northern Virginia conference.
- **Julie Goodliffe:**

- Post the 2027 conference dates (Feb 18–20) on the CSGS website.
- Send the call for nominations for the Executive Committee, President-elect, and Treasurer.
- **Laurence Bray:**
 - Propose virtual meetings to CGS committees to gather feedback for the strategic plan.
 - Incorporate new topics (job market, fraud, environmental impact) into the AI panel discussion.
- **Dr. John E. Smith, Jr.:**
 - Contact CGS President Chevelle Newsome to confirm her participation in the CHBGS conference.

Action Items

- **Email Michelle (Renaissance) re: 2027 Arlington contract; request reduced parking rate**
- **Post 2027 Arlington dates (Feb 18–20) on CSGS website**
- **Email CGS Strategic Planning Committee re: virtual check-ins w/ subcommittees**
- **Email Chevelle Newsome (CGS) re: welcome slot at CSGS conference**
- **Email Troy the CHBGS conference agenda**
- **Email nominating committee call for Exec Committee nominations**
- **Email Andre re: Sharon's Contribution Award nomination; confirm committee aware**

1:56 pm EST Adjourn.