



Annual Business Meeting

Minutes of Saturday, March 7, 2020

1:30 p.m.

Hilton Birmingham UAB

Birmingham, Alabama

Conference Title: Graduate Education Leading the Way with Courage and Inclusivity

President's Welcome:

Karen LaScola Needy called the meeting to order at 1:35pm. She thanked the host committee for all their efforts in the planning of the 2020 annual meeting. The meeting was very successful and featured some changes (fewer parallel sessions, and a very successful student track). She also thanked the CSGS officers, executive committee and other committee members for their service during the past year.

Nominating Committee:

David Berkowitz gave the report of the Nominating Committee which included Chris Rios, Patricia Koski, Tia Dumas and David Jackson. He then distributed the ballot, one to each university member. A full slate was considered with one nominee for President-Elect, one nominee for Treasurer and seven nominees for the Executive Committee (to fill four vacancies).

President-Elect: Karen S. Coats, University of Southern Mississippi

Executive Committee: Jamilla McDaniel, Morehouse School of Medicine
Kurt W. Jefferson, Spalding University
Sanjay T. Menon, Louisiana State University Shreveport
Morris A. Grubbs, University of Kentucky
Julie Goodliffe, University of North Carolina, Charlotte
Jon Hakkila, College of Charleston
Lori McMahan, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Karen Coats was elected as president-elect and Jamilla McDaniel, Julie Goodliffe, Jon Hakkila and Lori McMahan were elected to serve on the executive committee.

Approval of Previous Year's Meeting Minutes:

Meeting minutes from the 2019 Annual Business Meeting were distributed and reviewed. Mary Farmer-Kaiser made a motion to accept the minutes, Kellie Cude seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Membership Committee:

Victor Prybutok gave the Membership Committee report for Dean Campbell who was not able to attend the business meeting. The committee consisted of Constina Charbonnette, Robert Doerksen, Dave

Shafer, Victor Prybutok, Troy Terry, Sanya Menon, and Robert Sanders. He reported that the executive committee approved Virginia State University's request to join CSGS. The Membership Committee was active throughout the year and actively encouraged past members to pay dues for the upcoming year.

The Committee met in January 2020 to create an action plan for communicating with member institutions with outstanding dues payments. The committee then obtained a list from Treasurer George Flowers and within a two-week window, organized email and phone communication involving all committee members with 50+ unpaid institutions across the CSGS region. There was some positive effect from this effort with several institutions following-through to renew membership.

Going forward, the Membership committee has also discussed looking into ways to increase membership by reaching out to graduate institutions in the CSGS region who are not members. One resource available is the CSGS Treasurer list of member institutions that have not renewed the past two or more years, and committee member knowledge (Membership/Executive) of other graduate institutions in the region who have never joined CSGS. The Membership Committee already has the aforementioned list from Treasurer on hand and looks forward to exploring these recruitment ideas further.

Kim LaScola Needy reported that there have been some challenges with the listserv and requested that universities update their information when they pay membership dues. In addition, she suggested that individuals include their generic Graduate School email as part of the information they submit. She also encouraged CSGS members to encourage members of their state organization to become members of CSGS.

Treasurer's Report:

George Flowers reported on the finances for calendar year 2019. The total income was \$140,084.60, and the total expenses were \$98,957.50, with a net income totaling \$41,128.10. George credited both strong sponsorship and a relatively inexpensive conference in Knoxville for the organization's strong finances. He also pointed out that next year will be the organization's 50th anniversary and some additional funding may go to the celebration.

Audit Report:

Lori McMahan gave the audit report. She thanked her committee, consisting of Paul Gemperline, Irene Aiken, Sheryl Tucker and Robert McGehee, and reported that the audit showed no financial discrepancies and that everything looked to be in perfect order. The committee had suggested that both canceled checks and detailed deposit reports be included and noted that this had been done for the present year.

3MT Committee:

Jean Van Delinder reported on the 3MT competition. She thanked her committee (Amanda Cantu, Ernest Brothers, and Ruth Bahr), the judges, and the local hosts, in particular Kim Eaton from UAB who provided technical support. Participation was very successful once again this year with a record 52 students competing in four heats. The top two winners from each heat will advance to the final; in addition, in each heat, the audience selects a winner of the People's Choice award (who will not advance to the finals). In the final round of 8, a winner, runner-up and people's choice award will be selected.

Sponsorship Committee:

Kim Needy thanked her co-committee member George Flowers and reported that as of February 21, 2020, \$31,500 were raised in sponsorships. The final number is still being determined. Sponsors included 3 platinum sponsors (ETS, LiaisonEdu, ProQuest), 6 exhibitors and 18 member sponsorships. Given that support by sponsors helps to offset the registration cost to our members, the executive

committee prepared a ballot for members to make the sponsorship committee a standing committee. The membership voted 56:0 to approve the creation of this standing committee.

Student Awards Committee:

Peter Harries thanked the members of the Student Awards Committee: Karen Coats, Ethan Carver, Jon Hakkila, and Catherine Pagani. The Master's Thesis Awards Committee communicated electronically from November 2019 until mid-January 2020 as part of the process of selecting thesis awards as well as redefining the "digital thesis" category. The call for nominations was put out by the CSGS Secretary Andrea Golato, and nominations were accepted until November 16, 2019. Committee members reviewed the theses independently, and the results were tabulated and compiled to select the winners. The committee received eight and nine nominations for the Life Sciences and Social Sciences, Business and Education categories, respectively. Valeria King (University of South Alabama) was the recipient of the Thesis Award in the Life Sciences for her thesis entitled "Characterization of Sdrnas and their Roles in Prostate Cancer". Andrew Paul Gadaire (University of North Carolina, Charlotte) received the Thesis Award in Social Sciences, Business and Education for his thesis entitled "Assessing the Predictive Sensitivity of Early Childhood Screening Variables to Improve Pre-K Eligibility Decisions"

Peter Harries presented the proposal for the new thesis award that is to replace the digital thesis category

The motion to create a new thesis/project award passed 55:0.

Graduate Student Program Track

Karen Coats reported on this new ad hoc committee and recognized the members who helped put a program together for graduate students: Constinia Charbonnette, Desi Hacker, Lori McMohan. As part of the program, which lasted from 10 am to 5pm, the Alabama Graduate Deans sponsored a performance by Theater Delta on the mentoring relationship. The entire student track was well attended. 40-45 students engaged in the sessions and several provided positive feedback.

Faculty Awards Committee:

Michael Cunningham thanked the Faculty Awards Committee consisting of Robert Doerksen, Andrea Golato, Andrew Goodliffe, Patricia Koski, and Lisa Sperling. He stated that nominations went out to the CSGS community in October, nominators were informed of the receipt of their nomination in November. Michael Cunningham simplified the evaluation rubric, such that the evaluation criteria were each evaluated with a score 1-5 (1 being poor and 5 being excellent). If a nominee was from the same institution as the evaluator, the committee member did not evaluate that nomination. The chair received all scores and tallied the average from the committee members. The individuals with the highest scores were presented to the committee for discussion and the committee unanimously agreed on the winners. Debra Monroe from Texas State University was the winner of the Outstanding Mentor Award. Andrea Golato accepted the award in her place. Brian Mitchell from Tulane University was selected as the winner of the Outstanding Contributions Award. Each award recipient received a plaque, \$1,000 and travel expenses to attend CSGS. The chair recommended that more institutions consider graduate teaching award recipients on their own campus to the CSGS competition for the outstanding mentor award. In addition, the CSGS Executive Committee can assist in nominating individuals for the Outstanding Contributions Award. It was suggested that a dean nominating an associate dean for CGS awards may also consider nominating the individual for CSGS.

New Deans Breakfast:

Mary Farmer-Kaiser reported on the New Deans Breakfast she hosted together with Michael Cunningham. There were 12 participants who engaged in lively discussion of the various issues facing new deans. Mary Farmer-Kaiser asked the new deans to stand and the group gave a welcoming round of applause.

Council of Historically Black Graduate Schools:

Peter Garrison, treasurer of CHBGS, gave the report on behalf of Cosmas Nwokeafor. He noted that this was the 50th annual meeting of the organization and the first in which CSGS and CHBGS collaborated on a joint registration process. He thanked David Berkowitz for initiating this process. 55 institutions participated, twice as many as in previous years. CHBGS is eager to strengthen the collaboration even further by communicating more explicitly and earlier about the collaboration and joint activities.

Passing of the Gavel:

President Kim LaScola Needy handed over the gavel to the new President, Jack DeRochi. Jack presented a plaque to Kim in honor of her service as president. He remarked that under her leadership she had successfully advanced CSGS. He applauded the work of all committees reminding the audience that the strengths of the organization come from the involvement of its membership. He invited everyone to join her next year at the next annual meeting in Raleigh, NC, 2021.