

**2024 MEETING MINUTES  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING I  
SOUTHERN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY,  
NEW ORLEANS, LA  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2024, 2:00PM – 6:00PM**

**Present:** Gayle Kaufman, Earl Wright II, Dave Brunσμα, Irene Brown, Rhiannon Leebrick, Dawn Robinson, Anthony Peguero, Cameron Lippard, Stephanie Bohon, JT Thomas, Cameron Lippard

**Absent:** Megan Underhill, Ali Sewell, Juan Bustamante, David Embrick

Meeting called to order at 2:15 PM.

**WELCOME BY PRESIDENT GAYLE KAUFMAN**

Gayle Kaufman shares their excitement for this year's meeting and thanks the Executive Committee for their work and commitment to SSS this past year. They highlighted that they are eager to see this year's presentations and plenaries. Gayle also shared that a new event has been added for the first time, this is "Coffee with the President and First Time SSS Members/Attendees" scheduled for 7:30AM on Thursday. They also expressed excitement for other events such as Trivia Night (thanks Cameron for leading this) and a Drag Show at the Presidential Reception on Friday.

Gayle said that they are grateful for the work the Anti-Harassment Task Force has done and that this will be the first annual meeting with anti-harassment advocates available to SSS members onsite. Advocates have received training, will attend SSS events, and their contact information is on the Whova app as well as posted on posters throughout the meeting areas. There are three faculty and two students serving as advocates and they all come to SSS with experience. Gayle reiterates their special thanks to the Anti-Harassment Task Force sharing that this group has done a lot of work to build processes and to move from a task force to a standing committee.

Gayle expressed that this year they had hoped to have SSS do several virtual sessions, there was one in the fall hosted by the Committee on the Status of Students on the professional elevator pitch, which was great. Moving forward there may not be energy for these virtual events, but something to keep in mind to keep members connected throughout the year and worth continuing to try to make these happen.

Dawn—suggests posting recordings of these events to our website or to the SSS You Tube channel.

Gayle concludes their welcoming statement.

#### **REPORT OF INTERIM VOTES DURING 2023-2024 YEAR BY RECORDING SECRETARY (RHIANNON LEEBRICK)**

The Executive Committee unanimously approved last year's meeting minutes (June 2023) and the mid-year meeting minutes (November 2023); the new Anti-Harassment Policy proposed by the Anti-Harassment Task Force (January 2024), which now that it has been approved by the EC needs to go to SSS membership for a vote; and voted to approve awards to SSS members recommended by the Committee on Honors (February 2024).

#### **EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT (DAVID BRUNSMA)**

The Southern Sociological Society's (SSS) fiscal year runs from January 1 through December 31. The FY2023 books are kept by the Executive Officer using QuickBooks Online and are examined by Jim Patton at Patton & Associates, Certified Public Accountants, in Blacksburg, Virginia in order to file taxes for SSS. Our operating revenue of \$115,124 failed to cover our operating expenses of \$132,440. This amounts to a shortfall of \$17,317 for FY2023.

We were in a new location for SSS 2023 - Myrtle Beach – for President Earl Wright II's year and conference. The budget that was proposed by the Finance Committee and approved by the Executive Committee was still a very cautious and reasonable one. SSS is still very much in the moment of figuring out where our membership and registration numbers are going to settle post-pandemic. It is also clear that our colleagues and their institutions are facing resource limitations as well as additional bureaucratic layers to secure support for both joining organizations and attending conferences. We must continue to watch the incomings and outgoings very closely. Given all these uncertainties again in 2023, Dave reports that he is pleased to have ended up where we did.

Concerning our *revenues* for FY2023, there was nothing particularly noteworthy about these. We came in around 105% of what we projected for registration fees (both preregistration and onsite registration) and about 97% of what we expected for membership dues. Post-pandemic it has become clear that costs are up across the board on literally everything. Costs were up for everything at the hotel: A/V (we ended up having to spend more than expected for the spaces where we do use hotel A/V services) and food and beverage (F&B) for receptions, committees, and other events were very high (we were about \$10,000 or more above budget for F&B) were two that required more spending than we planned for. Add to this the fact that 2023 was a transition year for the Assistant Executive Officer position that required two summer stipends instead of one *as well as* costs increasing for graduate student stipends at Virginia Tech (a good thing for sure, all total almost \$10,000 more than expected in 2023). The primary story of 2023, again, like in 2022, was our membership and leadership figuring out what it means to be back in-person at our wonderful annual meeting.

## ***Membership and Annual Meeting Statistics***

Our membership numbers have been increasing steadily since the early 2010s as have our registrants at the annual meeting – certainly up to 2018. EC has been considering our numbers to be plateauing around 2019, but then the pandemic hit, so it will be another two to three years before we can get a sense of what SSS membership and conference attendance might be like going forward. We all should continue to watch this. Of course, the annual meeting is a major source of new members and a motivator for existing members to pay their dues.

## ***Membership***

As the books were closed on the 2023 fiscal year, our membership consisted of 813 members (see Table 2), of whom 30 were Sustaining Members, 390 Regular Members, 320 Student Members, 11 are Emeriti Members (4 with *Social Currents*), and 56 are Unemployed/Contingent Members. We collected \$47,758 in membership dues, net of credit card fees. We had some 16 Departmental Members. This includes 2 PhD-Granting, 4 MA- Granting, and 10 BA-Granting departments of sociology.

Executive Committee members may be interested in the upcoming sites for SSS annual meetings. SSS 2023's Myrtle Beach site was a first for SSS. We are back in NOLA for SSS 2024, Charlotte, NC in 2025, Jacksonville, FL (a rescheduled contract due to COVID) in 2026 and NOLA (Convention Center again) in 2027.

Dave thanks the SSS Executive Committee for their continued faith and confidence in him as Executive Officer and shares that he believes SSS is making significant strides as we emerge out of a global pandemic in a regional, national, and global society that is in need of sociological analyses and interventions more than ever before and that SSS is generating a lot of great ideas and initiatives as to how to move forward, grow, and ensure more inclusivity and justice in our ranks as we do so.

After offering the report, Dave says that he is deeply grateful for the hard work of Assistant Executive Officer, Elizabeth Roberts, who began her transition into this position in 2022-2023. He also shares that the new SSS Executive Officer (Cameron Lippard, Appalachian State University) will be rolling into his new position sometime in May and/or summer 2025. EO and AEO will be working this summer to begin getting all material and digital files ready for the upcoming transition. Dave also shares his gratitude for Program Co-Chairs, Hiromi Taniguchi and D'Lane Compton; President, Gayle Kaufman; and SSS Vice President Irene Browne. He shares that he looks forward to working with President-Elect Dawn Robinson and Vice President-Elect Anthony Peguero. He also thanks Virginia Tech Sociology Department Chair, Jennifer Johnson, as well as colleagues, administrative assistants, and graduate students at Virginia Tech for supporting the work of the SSS through their continued support of the SSS Executive Office. Dave also thanks co-editors of *Social Currents*, Jennifer Augustine and Amanda Koontz and the editorial team at *The Southern Sociologist* – particularly the work of editor Nadia Vera.

### ***Questions/ Recommendations/Action Items:***

- EC discusses the role of graduate student assistants and how best to support them. EC discusses where the next AEO will come from once Cameron takes over as EO and the related issue of getting a tuition waiver from a university to support this student?

### **ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE OFFICER/WEBMASTER'S REPORT (ELIZABETH ROBERTS)**

Elizabeth goes over the list of duties that she does as AEO and shares that this was her first year officially working as the AEO. She makes sure that the website is updated, and this is probably the biggest thing that she does. This year SSS shifted the hosting site. Elizabeth also keeps the schedule, handles communications to SSS members, and manages email questions, among many, many other duties. This is the first year using SharePoint as a repository for SSS documents and she is working to hammer out some kinks with this new system. Finally, she shares that the other big tasks she does are to help organize the logistics of the annual meeting and set up the meeting registration site, in addition to setting up the mobile app, organizing registration and volunteers, and putting out any metaphorical fires that arise. The EO and EC are very grateful for all of Elizabeth's work as AEO.

### **PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT (SHANTEL BUGGS)**

A call for editor for *Social Currents* has gone out, the original deadline was March 20, no applications were received, there are a few folks who have expressed interest, but this may look more like a co-editor team. The new deadline will probably be the first week of May, maybe later. We need to give people time to get their documents together. There is an overlap between outgoing editors and new ones, so that there is a transition period built in. Another thing that has emerged is that there is not written documentation about the size of the editorial board, so there needs to be formal documentation somewhere that outlines the size, composition, and terms of service of the editorial board.

The next item is that there is a contract renewal with Sage Publications Inc. that Shantel is leading with Dave Brunsma. She would like a clear policy going forward on what the Publications Committee and their Chair approves and what the EO (and EC) approves.

Beginning in January 2025, *Social Currents* is going online, SSS will no longer provide the option of paper copies to members. We have time to let SSS membership know about this change, but we need to begin preparing now how we will advertise this to members and make sure they have access to the table of contents and know how to access the journal online. This will save SSS a significant amount of money and streamline how members access the journal. Moving to an online only format will be \$5/member, a huge savings. Sage provided projected royalties through 2028, which was about \$1500/year and from Sage's perspective this is very good and a sign of stability. Dave shares that 2023 royalties were \$3000, so despite their estimates, SSS actually gets a little more. Shantel also shares that the new contract will be five years rather than six years.

### ***Questions/ Recommendations/Action Items:***

- Publications will approve the contract and then provide it and details of any changes to the Executive Committee over the next few months, then the EC will vote on the contract, finally, if and when it is approved, the contract will be signed by the Executive Officer.
- This committee is tasked with working on a clear policy of the size, terms of service, and composition of the editorial board and reviewing current editorial board for the next year.

### **PROGRAM COMMITTEE (D'LANE COMPTON AND HIROMI TANIGUCHI, REPRESENTED BY MELANIE ESCUE)**

The Program Committee reported that in late April 2023, Program Chairs (PCs) and President Gayle Kaufman had an online meeting with SSS2022 Program Chairs James Maples and Carmel Price to learn about the program process. They also met online with Brad Smith of Meeting Savvy to get trained on the software program. In August, President Kaufman drafted a Call for Papers (CFP), and PCs supported this process with edits and suggestions. During this period, the President contacted potential members to join the committee. The committee was fully formed in early fall with the following members: Aarushi Bhandari, Blu Buchanan, Felicia Casanova, Melanie Escue, Won-tak Joo, Nik Lampe, Braden Leap, Gabriela Leon-Perez, Corey Miles, Ugur Orak, Ryan Parsons, Elizabeth Rahilly, Kapriskie Seide, Jaclyn Wong, and Sam Yuan.

In September and October, Program Chairs drafted six weekly digests informing members about Sessions Seeking Papers and responded to members' questions about submission processes. On September 29 to 30, the Program Chairs along with other members of the conference organizing team, made a site visit to Sheraton New Orleans Hotel. They took a tour of the conference area and took notes of suitability of each meeting room for type of session. During the visit, they discussed ideas about how they might add a new collaboration space run consecutively with sessions (which has been incorporated into the program), involve community businesses in the area, and so on.

Program Committee's main work happened soon after the extended submission deadline. Committee members were asked by email (on November 13, 2023) to read submissions assigned according to their areas of expertise and form sessions by mid-December. All members successfully completed their tasks on time. Following this, President Kaufman and PCs worked in mid to late December to draft a preliminary program. Its draft was scrupulously reviewed by Executive Officer David Brunsmas and Assistant Executive Officer Elizabeth Roberts. They spent over two weeks tweaking the preliminary program based on their detailed comments.

The final stage of program-making involves preparing the frontmatter (with Cover art, messages, lists, summary, etc.) and updating of the core program based on requests for changes from members. The final program draft was due on March 1, which they met.

***Questions/ Recommendations/Action Items:***

- Some issues that the Program Committee faced this year were with the six weekly digests, there were many undelivered messages or people saying that they had never received these. They were not sure if it was a glitch with Meeting Savvy, but this issue should be considered for next year. There were also folks who never got acceptances and then saw their names in the program.
- Another issue was how best to increase student participation and this might be increasing student travel funding, so that more students can participate.
  - Gayle suggests that this needs to be taken into consideration and also for faculty too as more universities/colleges are cutting travel funding.

**LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE (HEATHER O'CONNELL AND KEVEN SMILEY)**

Activities to date include picking up brochures and swag from the local Chapter of Commerce; completed a list of nearby restaurants and attractions; tried to find some local childcare options for individual members, but ultimately had to rely on just one local camp plus some broader websites that can connect members with local providers; developed an interactive map that conference attendees can use to identify the locations of restaurants and anything else on our list; submitted a communication to SSS members that includes highlights of all that they have gathered to help attendees prepare for their visit.

Important to note that the service from grad students was incredibly helpful!

***Questions/ Recommendations/Action Items:***

- Cameron shares that the camp recommendations for childcare were a great idea, might be useful for Charlotte in 2025.

**NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE (IRENE BROWN)**

The Nominations Committee worked to recruit candidates for the upcoming election.

The nominations committee chair contacted the nominees, checked their eligibility with the EO, and confirmed acceptance of the nominations from at least two candidates for every open position. The final slate was:

- o *President*: Marni Brown, Arielle Kuperberg, Steve McDonald
- o *Vice President*: J Micah Roos, Daniel Auguste
- o *Executive Committee*: Amanda Koontz, Jessica McCarty, Susan Pearce, Lisa Walker
- o *Publications Committee*: Derrick Brooms, Steven Foy, Ashley Reichelmann, Maria Scaptura
- o *JEDI Committee*: Amie Bostic, Monisha Issano Jackson, Mairead Moloney, Jennifer Sims

This slate was sent to the full nominations committee for approval on November 23, 2023. The slate was approved by a quorum of members. The candidates sent bios and diversity statements to the chair. They disseminated this information to the SSS membership on December 13, 2023. On February 8, 2024, candidates were sent an email inviting them to the “meet the candidates” events scheduled during the welcome reception and the student mixer for the 2024 SSS meetings.

Further discussion needed, moved to agenda for Friday.

***Questions/ Recommendations/Action Items:***

- Hiccups with this committee, there were ten members, but few participated and there were few responses for nominations. Others chime in that this has been an ongoing issue with various committees, especially post-Covid. Perhaps people are burned out, but something to keep in mind for next year with this committee.
- Might be helpful to keep a running log of nominations by year on Sharepoint so this committee has a record year to year.

**HONORS COMMITTEE**

No one from Honors Committee was able to join the Executive Committee meeting, but the EC discussed several issues.

***Questions/ Recommendations/Action Items:***

- Earl shared his disappointment that there has been no winner for the Charles S. Johnson Award since 2016 (the Charles S. Johnson Award is given by the SSS to an individual in recognition of distinguished scholarly contributions on race and the South. The award honors a significant career of professional achievements) and this award is incorrectly highlighted in the program. He also noted that the suffix, Jr., also needs to be added to John L. Moland’s name on the program under past award winners going forward.
- Dawn notes that there Justine Tinkler’s name is missing from the Katharine Jocher-Belle Boone Beard for 2020 and that Lynn Smith-Lovin is missing from the Roll of Honor on the website.
- Make sure these corrections are sent to next year’s Program Committee Chair and to the AEO.

- EC agrees that the award process is a monster of a task and there may be a way to reimagine how these processes are done to make it less burdensome on this committee and so that we get more nominations for awards.
  - Ideas:
    - Splitting up the work among different committees, so that each committee is tasked with finding nominees for awards related to their area.
    - Ask for one letter of nomination with multiple signatories rather than multiple letters.
    - Reimagine the timeline for awards.
- The EC would like to task the Nominations Committee to come up with suggestions to streamline the award nominations process going forward.
- The EC is also curious what is happening with the Distinguished Lectureship Award.
  - Amy Sorenson, last year's Chair of the Committee on Sociology in Small and Community Colleges, submitted a thorough plan for this award.

## **SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE (EARL WRIGHT, II)**

After the 2023 meeting in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina the Site Committee discussed, via email, concerns raised by SSS members regarding future meetings in Jacksonville, Florida and other southern states where laws are being passed that limit the rights of residents and visitors on the basis of race, gender, orientation, and other dimensions. A robust discussion was held and arguments for and against cancelling our planned and future meetings in problematic southern states were made.

It is clear that a large financial penalty will arise if the Florida meeting is cancelled. This is a cost that SSS cannot absorb. While the concerns of SSS members regarding travel to problematic states was thoroughly discussed, so too were the concerns of SSS members working in problematic states who may feel abandoned if we were to cancel or move the meetings.

Ultimately, it was concluded that SSS could not absorb the large financial cost for cancelling a meeting, that we did not want members in problematic states to feel that we abandoned them, and, that we would not only seek spaces to meet within these states that are more friendly to the groups identified above, but that we would actively engage in ongoing efforts in these locales to bring about the changes desired by residents.

### ***Questions/ Recommendations/Action Items:***



- EC agrees that SSS should be a leader in supporting folks in states with problematic policies being enacted and that we should not take resources away from places that need them.
- Question from EC about the possibility of hybrid meetings? Dave and Earl (both on the Site Selection Committee) said this is still something that needs to be thought through.
  - Dave reports that estimates for making a meeting hybrid range from \$40,000 to \$400,000.
  - Dawn suggests Whova as one possible platform for this model.
  - Anthony suggests hosting it at a university.

### **COMMITTEE ON SOCIOLOGICAL PRACTICE (MAMADI CORRA)**

On Tuesday, May 16, 2023, the SSS Committee on Sociological Practice had a virtual meeting with President Kaufman. The President conveyed a desire in SSS committees having mini conferences during the course of the year, leading to the 2024 SSS annual meetings. The idea is to have one or two sessions before the main SSSS meetings, that would focus on topics that further the goals of each committee (in our case, the Committee on Sociological Practice). Members of our committee expressed interest in such a mini conference, perhaps on the general topic of sociological practice and the changing U.S. political and ideological landscape. The idea of a mini conference as such was further discussed in committee but did not eventually materialize.

The committee solicited submissions for Three Sessions for the 2024 SSS Annual Meeting:

- (1) Sociologists Doing Activism. (This session made it to the 2024 Program)
- (2) Sociological Practice under Shifting Political Realities: The Case of Florida.
- (3) Sociological Perspectives in Policy Work.

#### ***Questions/ Recommendations/Action Items:***

- The chair wants to commend the work of the student members and of Dale Wimberly.

### **COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION (JEDI) (JOANNA HUNTER)**

#### ***Questions/ Recommendations/Action Items:***

- This committee requests that the Program Committee (1) consider moving one of our cosponsored sessions so that they are not occurring at the same time; (2) They also request that EC remain supportive of the STARTS program; (3) finally, they request that the EC consider budgetary requests that would allow for honoraria of non-sociologists to be panelists at our annual conferences.

- EC shares that there is a line item in the budget for STARTS and perhaps with the new changes in Social Currents, there will be extra money.

## **THE SOUTHERN SOCIOLOGIST (NADYA VERA)**

### ***Questions/ Recommendations/Action Items:***

- TSS asks the EC for permission to publish two editions each year rather than four. The EC agrees this is a great idea and there is a unanimous decision to approve this change.
- Reminder that a summary of annual meeting minutes and financial report should be published in TSS each year.
- EC asks in what ways TSS can become even more shareable to SSS members, perhaps update the platforms through which it is shared.

## **COMMITTEE ON SOCIOLOGY IN SMALL AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

- No one from this committee was able to join the Executive Committee meeting.

## **COMMITTEE ON RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITIES**

- No one from this committee was able to join the Executive Committee meeting.

## **COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONS**

- No one from this committee was able to join the Executive Committee meeting.

## **GENDER AND SEXUALITY COMMITTEE**

- No one from this committee was able to join the Executive Committee meeting.

## **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

- No one from this committee was able to join the Executive Committee meeting.

**2024 MEETING MINUTES  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING II  
SOUTHERN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY,  
NEW ORLEANS, LA  
Friday, APRIL 5, 2024, 8:30AM – 10:30AM**

**Present:** Gayle Kaufman, Earl Wright II, Dave Brunisma, Irene Brown, Rhiannon Leebrick, Dawn Robinson, Cameron Lippard, Stephanie Bohon, JT Thomas, Cameron Lippard

**Absent:** Megan Underhill, Ali Sewell, Juan Bustamante, David Embrick, Anthony Peguero

Meeting called to order at 8:53AM.

Dave Brunisma provides an update on the 2024 Annual Meeting so far:

- There are 928 registrants as of Thursday (April 5, 2024) and 965 memberships.
- There were some concerns that because of increased costs for the coffee and a need for SSS to order less as a result that there would not be enough, but so far the coffee seems to be lasting and we have yet to run out.
- The student mixer appears to have been a great success and was well attended.
- Shares a reminder about the plenary speaker and that at the EO's request, the hotel was able to fit more chairs in the room given the prediction that it will be a crowded talk.

**BUDGET REPORT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (DAVE BRUNSMA)**

The SSS Finance Committee has now reviewed and approved the proposed budget for FY2025. Our meeting is at the Sheraton Charlotte, April 9-12, 2025. The charge of the Finance Committee is to discuss, vet, and ultimately approve the EO's proposed budget. Here's how it typically goes... The Executive Officer (EO) proposes a budget because the EO has the knowledge of the revenues and expenditures required to run SSS each year, the EO maintains the books and pays the bills, and the EO has all the contracts, historical financial data, and institutional knowledge of the flow of the organization as it interfaces with the fiscal realities of our coffers.

One of the first things one has to do in order to even begin preparing a proposed budget for SSS is to think hard about the location of the annual meeting, the contractual parameters of the hotel we are meeting at, and come up with some reasonable way to assess our membership and registration numbers for that meeting (in this case, SSS 2025 in Charlotte, NC) because these form the basis of the revenues (largely our registrations and memberships) and expenditures (hotel mostly, and mostly Food and Beverage [F&B]).

Everyone should first acknowledge a few things when considering estimating these initial expectations for SSS 2025. First, we have not been to Charlotte since 2014, and, that was our first time in Charlotte ever. Second, the EO signed this contract for SSS 2025 in December of 2018 – and that was on the tails of our highest ever attended annual meeting and very high membership numbers. Third, since we signed this contract for 2025 and certainly since we were last in Charlotte, we had a pandemic and a changing political climate and all these have created different challenges for our colleagues' lives, work, and engagement with academic associations. So, the numbers are always challenging to figure out.

The usual approach is to consider that Charlotte is an "offsite" site for us (e.g., not NOLA, or, it used to be also Atlanta, and may be again, who knows) and therefore one would look at patterns of growth from offsite-to-offsite. The point is that NOLA is our biggest draw, so, the +24.9% used last year to create the budget for FY2024 we simply cannot use again *from* NOLA numbers because: a) we do not yet know them and b) we cannot expect growth from our largest draw location to one we have not been to in over 10 years – would not be prudent at all. And, we are still coming out of a pandemic and mired in the political climate and its effects on higher education which continue unabated right now. So, looking at Myrtle Beach's offsite *and* 2<sup>nd</sup> in-person meeting for SSS since the pandemic makes the most sense here.

The SSS 2023 numbers in Myrtle Beach were good and showed slight growth from SSS 2022 in Birmingham (which was our 1<sup>st</sup> in-person meeting since the pandemic). We should expect some modest growth from SSS 2023 to SSS 2025, but *not nearly* as much as the NOLA bump and I think less than what we saw in the SSS 2022-to-SSS 2023 growth. Now, Charlotte may likely become one of our core meeting places going forward, and if the numbers are higher than we expect, that is icing on the cake we are building here.

For 2025, the EO expects/estimates revenues of \$134,653 and expenditures of \$134,653, leaving SSS with a balanced proposed budget for FY2025. A spreadsheet with itemized amounts is provided to the EC.

#### ***Questions/ Recommendations/Action Items:***

- One concern with Charlotte is that Population Association of America (PAA) will be happening at the same time in Washington D.C., and this could potentially impact SSS attendance.
  - Suggestion to put presentations/panels that might overlap with PAA at beginning of SSS program.
- Question about room reservations in Charlotte, how many? What if they do not fill?
  - There are 1200 rooms reserved, all contracts have 80% attrition, if we fall below 80% then we owe the hotel money for those rooms.

**Motion by JT Thomas to approve budget. Seconded by Gayle Kaufman. Vote. Unanimously approved.**

### **COMMITTEE ON STATUS OF STUDENTS (ANTHONY STONE AND KIERRA TONEY)**

This committee's chairs meet with the EC because they were unable to on Wednesday. They share highlights of the year, which include a successful webinar on the professional elevator pitch in Fall 2023.

#### ***Questions/ Recommendations/Action Items:***

- Would like to boost membership to this committee, right now there are only four members, there should be six.
- Buy-in to committee work is an ongoing issue.
  - Perhaps, students could be elected to this committee by SSS members.
  - Or use app to ask folks and get volunteer opportunities on their radar.
  - Or get names of students who want to volunteer from Qualtrics survey after the meeting.
    - This survey could ask more pointedly not just if people want to be more involved, but how they would like to be more involved and on what committees or in what capacity.
- Request that a graduate student or two from this committee be invited to attend Executive Committee meetings.
  - EC discusses that they can easily extend an invitation and that any SSS member is allowed to attend EC meetings.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### ***Anti-Harassment Task Force***

The EC returns to the item about the Anti-Harassment Task Force. EC members express gratitude for the work of this ad-hoc task force, especially their work getting advocates at this year's meeting.

#### ***Questions/ Recommendations/Action Items:***

- Need for a vote by SSS Members to turn the Anti-Harassment Task Force into a standing committee, the SSS Anti-Harassment Committee. This needs to go onto the May 2024 ballot.
- EC talks through how to fill this committee pending approval by SSS members. EC agrees that Nominations Committee will put out a call for the May 2025 ballot to fill these seats with staggered terms and, in the meantime, incoming President Dawn

Robinson will reach out to current members and ask that they continue through the next year.

### ***Publications Contract***

- The Executive Committee needs to weigh in on the *Social Currents* contract and vote to approve or not. The EO and Publications Chair will get this to the EC soon, if it is approved, the EO, Dave Brunsma will sign, and it will be sent back to Sage Publications Inc.
- The hope is that eventually *Social Currents* will generate enough revenue so that there can be a graduate student hired to help run it. Right now, the editor gets \$5000. If there are co-editors they split this amount.
- The EC would like the Publications Committee to revisit the Editorial Board and make sure it is an up-to-date membership.
  - Earl Wright II would be happy to join the Editorial Board.

### ***2026 Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, FL***

- Kendra Jason, soon to be President Elect, joins the EC meeting to ask for suggestions about how she can prepare for the FL meeting given the current political climate.
- EC discusses the values of SSS, security, and the document that President Gayle Kaufman sent in February 2024 to SSS members asking them to respond to a survey about what sociology is and what SSS should do in response to attacks on sociology in Florida and potentially elsewhere. There were twenty-seven responses to this survey.

Meeting adjourns 10:30 AM.

**2024 MEETING MINUTES  
BUSINESS MEETING  
SOUTHERN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY,  
NEW ORLEANS, LA  
Saturday, April 6, 2024, 7:30AM – 8:30AM**

**Attendees:** Gayle Kaufman, JT Thomas, Sarah Groh, Cerenity Collins, Dawn Robinson, Dave Brunsma, Mike Hughes, Stephanie Bohon, Irene Brown, Rhiannon Leebrick, Shannon Davis

### **President Gayle Kaufman opens the meeting at 7:31 AM.**

President Gayle Kaufman thanks everyone for their attendance. Shares that they believe the meeting is going very well, is especially pleased with the Presidential Reception attendance and drag show. Also, shares gratitude for the Program Co-Chairs, D’Lane Compton and Hiromi

Taniguchi, for their excellent work, and to EO, Dave Brunisma for his support, among many, many others.

**Recording Secretary, Rhiannon Leebrick, gives update on 2024 Executive Meetings:**

- Note to correct award mistakes in program and on website.
- Move to create a standing Anti-Harassment Committee, needs to be put on 2024 Ballot.
- EC approved 2025 budget.
- The Southern Sociologist will now have two yearly issues instead of four.

Shannon Davis asks if EC members not in attendance for the annual meeting can join, especially since this year's numbers of EC members in attendance are low. Also, asks what is the role of the Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee?

- EC notes this was offered this year and there are no bylaws against this happening.
- Add discussion of Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee to next EC meeting agenda.

**FINANCIAL OVERVIEW**

Executive Officer, Dave Brunisma, goes over the finances for the year. He discusses that hotels have raised prices considerably, likely trying to regain losses from the pandemic, but all told it is price gouging, this puts pressure on the budget as SSS is still recovering from the pandemic as well. Shares that the SSS accounts are healthy, \$301,458 all combined and that membership is steadily increasing, at the close of 2023 there were 813 members and 756 conference registrants. So far for 2024, there are 976 members and 939 conference registrants.

Dave shares that upcoming meetings are in Charlotte, NC 2025; Jacksonville 2026; New Orleans 2027. He asks for recommendations for sites beginning in 2028. Suggestions from those in attendance include: Knoxville TN, Savannah GA, Jackson MS, Richmond VA, Charleston WV, Chattanooga TN, Nashville TN, Augusta GA, Montgomery AL, Mobile AL, Little Rock AR, Raleigh (Research Triangle) NC, Memphis TN, Greenville SC, Louisville KY, Lexington KY, Atlanta GA, and Columbia SC. Agreed that there will be a question on Qualtrics survey sent to SSS members post meeting asking for site recommendations.

President Gayle Kaufman passes the gavel to President Elect-Dawn Robinson.

President Dawn Robinson shares her theme for the 2024-2025 year, *The Future of Sociology and the Sociology of the Future*, which will be about navigating the future and our world as we both look at ourselves as sociologists and outward and forward. She thanks EC and committee members who are rolling off and welcomes new committee members and officers: Lisa Walker (Program Chair), Anthony Peguero (Vice President), new EC members, Marisela Martinez Cola and Brandon Jackson, President Elect, Kendra Jason, Vice President Elect, James Maples, JEDI members Dresden Lackey and Jeanette Wade, and Publications Committee members, Sarah Ovink and SunAh Laybourn.

Meeting adjourns at 8:22 AM.

**2024 MEETING MINUTES  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING III  
SOUTHERN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY,  
NEW ORLEANS, LA  
Saturday, April 6, 2024, 8:30AM – 10:30AM**

**Present:** Dawn Robinson, Gayle Kaufman, Marisela Martinez Cola, Brandon Jackson, JT Thomas, Dave Brunσμα, Rhiannon Leebrick

**Absent:** Earl Wright II, Anthony Peguero, Dave Embrick, James Maples, Kendra Jason, Juan Bustamante

President Dawn Robinson welcomes new EC members and shares her theme for the 2024-2025 Year, *The Sociology of the Future and the Future of Sociology*. She notes that our social landscape is experiencing seismic shifts and that hopefully this theme is broad enough to capture the insightful projects that SSS members and future SSS are working on. She also announces new committee members and officers: Lisa Walker (Program Chair), Anthony Peguero (Vice President), new EC members, Marisela Martinez Cola and Brandon Jackson, President Elect, Kendra Jason, Vice President Elect, James Maples, JEDI members Dresden Lackey and Jeanette Wade, and Publications Committee members, Sarah Ovink and SunAh Laybourn. She shares that there was a program meeting the day before and that the committee is very engaged and excited about next year.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### ***Honors Committee***

- Tasking Honors Committee with figuring out a new and better system for streamlining the awards process and making the process easier (see notes from Wednesday's EC meeting).
  - Earl shared his disappointment that there has been no winner for the Charles S. Johnson Award since 2016 (the Charles S. Johnson Award is given by the SSS to an individual in recognition of distinguished scholarly contributions on race and the South. The award honors a significant career of professional achievements) and that this award is incorrectly highlighted in the program. He also noted that the suffix, Jr., also needs to be added to John L. Moland's name on the program under past award winners going forward.
  - Dawn notes that there Justine Tinkler's name is missing from the Katharine Jocher-Belle Boone Beard for 2020 and that Lynn Smith-Lovin is missing from the Roll of Honor on the website.



- Make sure these corrections are sent to next year's Program Committee Chair and to the AEO.
- EC agrees that the award process is a monster of a task and there may be a way to reimagine how these processes are done to make it less burdensome on this committee and so that we get more nominations for awards.
  - Ideas:
    - Splitting up the work among different committees, so that each committee is tasked with finding nominees for awards related to their area.
    - Ask for one letter of nomination with multiple signatories rather than multiple letters.
    - Reimagine the timeline for awards.
- Reminders to think through the timing of these awards.
- Make the awards more visible.
- Make sure the program and website accurately list awards and past awardees.
- Marisela suggests making sure to take pictures and post these to make awards more publicized.

### ***Nominations Committee Buy-In***

- Second year in a row that a few members of this committee have carried the weight of the work. Dawn reports that Anthony has a plan, so we can revisit again next year after he and the committee have discussed these items.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### ***Ad Hoc Social Media Team***

- Currently the EO handles all SSS social media and Dave would like to no longer be in charge of this. Asks what the EC wants social media to do for SSS, right now it serves as a place to make announcements.
- Marisela suggests an ad-hoc social media team and that social media could be a place to announce each year's theme, highlight members, make announcements, link to SSS sponsored webinars, and so forth.
- Dave suggests that perhaps this needs to be spearheaded by graduate students.
- Discussion that whoever is asked to serve on this ad hoc committee have their registration and membership fees waived.
- Brandon asks how many people?
  - The discussion is that probably two would be sufficient.

**JT—motion to approve ad-hoc committee for social media with two appointed graduate students and waive their membership and registration fees. Marisela seconds. Unanimous vote to approve.**

***Committee on the Status of Students would like a student representative to attend Executive Committee meetings***

- The EC agrees this is fine and these meetings are open to any member. If this committee would like an official voting member, this will require a vote by the EC, a change to the bylaws, and approval by SSS members.
- Dawn suggests inviting students to mid-year and annual EC meetings and suggests to them they can craft a proposal if they would like to be voting members of EC. She will arrange a meeting with them to discuss this and their membership.
- Suggestion from Dave that this committee host a caucus of graduate students and then bring any issues that need to be addressed to the Executive Committee.

### ***Meeting Events***

- Gayle says that coffee with new members was a success and would like to see this continue.
- Dawn suggests moving poster sessions to welcome reception where there is food and drink available. New initiatives bring new energy.

### ***Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee***

- Technically on the books but has not met in years.

**Motion by JT to remove Ad hoc Bylaws Committee. Mari seconds. Unanimous vote to remove this Ad hoc Committee.**

### ***Archivist***

- There is currently no archivist. The SSS archives are stored at the University of Kentucky. Beth Rushing (former SSS president), James Maples (former SSS archivist), and Dave Brunsma (current EO) have been working on a protocol to get more recent documents into the archives.
- The head archivist at UK has said having a graduate student dedicated to this project part time for about nine months would really help with systematically coding the SSS archives.
  - Beth Rushing is willing to write a grant proposal to seek funding for this and wants a co-PI. Please contact Dave Brunsma if any EC members want to be involved.
    - Marisela says she is interested.

***Question on Qualtrics survey needs to be added about how the advocates worked out this year.***

Dawn thanks EC for their commitment to the organization.

Meeting adjourns 10:03AM.