

Minutes 2026 EC I

Executive Committee Meeting I Southern Sociological Society Jacksonville, FL Meeting

Wednesday April 8, 2026
2PM-6PM

Present: Kendra Jason, James Maples, Cameron Lippard, Elizabeth Culatta, Marni Brown, J. Micah Roos, Dawn T. Robinson, Lisa Walker, Chasidy Harris, Amanda Koontz (2:45 on)

Not Present: James "JT" Thomas, Marisela Martinez Cola, Brandon Jackson, David Embrick

Meeting begins: 2:10PM

Welcome and Report by 2025-2026 President Kendra Jason.

Welcome to Jacksonville! I am so glad you are here and I hope you enjoy the curated experiences I have compiled for our members.

First, I want to thank Cameron Lippard for his guidance, support, and ingenuity this year. His timely responsiveness has been critical to the decision making, direction, action, and accountability we undertook this year.

This year was full of activity, but **limited voting or action items on behalf of the Executive Committee**. If I recall correctly, the only EC vote taken was for the SSS 2026 Awards Recommendations & Approval where it was voted to approve the selection of award recipients. EC was also informed that the Nominations Committee voted to rename the teaching award to honor Maxine Atkinson.

Most of the work was behind the scenes and navigated by Cameron and myself. This includes:

- Throughout the year, we received numerous emails, texts, and phone calls related to political action against Sociology or individual sociologists in Florida related to the statewide sociology course workgroup, warnings against the conference theme, "sessions seeking papers" and SSS website being "flagged" for targeted language, revisions of sociology courses, the controversial "sanitized" open source Sociology Textbook, and FSU not funding members to attend the conference. I also want to take a moment to thank the program co-chairs, Taylor McElwain and Mairead Moloney for strategizing through some of this terrain.

- In October, some members expressed concern about privacy and security at the conference. We responded with an email blast noting heightened security, including mandatory wearing of badges and no recording devices during the conference.
- About January 6, we were informed from various members that the State of Florida/FSU would not fund members to attend the conference due to language used in the SSS Mission Statement. Graduate students receive funding from another source and would get reimbursed. In response, we came up with the Empowered Travel fund to support anyone who was having financial difficulties attending the conference. We crowdsourced \$1000 in about 2 weeks and presented 10 members with \$100 travel assistance and registration waivers.
- About this time, Cameron and I decided to decouple the preconference writing workshop from the actual conference with hopes that members would not be penalized for engaging in PD associated with the conference. The preconference was scheduled for March 14, virtually, but canceled due to low registration.
- In March, we received a report/request from the Anti-Harassment Committee that a member was anonymously identified as a possible threat to our anti-harassment policy. After reviewing the request with the committee chair, an email was sent to the member reminding them of the policy. They are not attending the conference. This process led to a larger conversation around the process what to do when a member is reported and what action steps can be legally taken. Cameron and Kendra met with the committee chair, Jeannette Wade and asked that the committee take on the task to offer recommendations.

I am happy to report we attained Stronger Committee Engagement: One main goal I had was to improve the infrastructure of SSS, especially as it pertains to the committees. With a collective effort by Elizabeta Culatta, Cameron Lippard, and myself we yielded 100% mid-term committee reports, 100% final committee reports, and 100% program committee attendance at an ad hoc meeting. There were a few processes put in place to support this goal:

1. Elizabeth Culatta worked with Kylie Parrotta over the summer and overhauled the SSS membership handbook, especially where it pertained to committee roles and responsibilities.
2. Elizabeth, Kendra, and Cameron crafted a detailed email to each committee with an overview of its purpose, its members' names, contact information, and term, deadlines and dates of importance, including conference date. The Chair was required to acknowledge the email within one week.
3. Elizabeth followed up when the mid-term report was due with the same information and Kendra followed up with the Chair if the mid-term report was not submitted by the due date. This process repeated for the final report.
4. In October, Kendra met with all program committee members over 3 Zoom meetings to discuss promotion and recruitment of members to attend the conference and strategize on how to handle the various reasons members could not attend. The two main factors were loss of funding and hesitancy to come to

Florida due to political climate. With great effort by the Program Committee in December, we met our CFP goal by 92% with approximately **645** submissions.

This effort would not have been possible without the perseverance and organization of Elizabeth Culatta.

Increased Social Media Engagement: Kendra worked with a local videographer and recorded a promotional video for SSS 2026. There was a lot of positive feedback and it generated some excitement about the conference theme. Kendra paid for the services. Kendra used her resources at UNC Charlotte and used her RA Jeremy Lewis, a Sociology MA and Doctoral Candidate in Organizational Science to run social media campaigns to promote the conference. Jeremy posted at least twice a week to our various social media platforms highlighting sessions, promoting the city of Jacksonville, and encouraging people to register. He would also share information from the SSS email blasts. He improved engagement by using comedy, memes, and engaging language. Jeremy's role ends at the end of the semester. Jeremy created a job description of his duties and responsibilities that was shared with incoming President Marni Brown.

Recap of votes throughout the year.

First, we voted to approve the prior year's meetings (April 2025). Dawn Robinson moves to approve, James Maples Seconds. All present were in favor, Chasidy did not vote, Amanda was not here to vote.

Motion to Approve Mid-Year Meeting Minutes (November 2025)
Cameron Lippard moves to approve, Micah Roos Seconds.
All present were in favor, no against.
(Chasidy did not vote, Amanda was not here to vote.)

Executive Officer Report (Cameron Lippard)

- **Goal:** consolidate some of the platforms – SharePoint, Whova (prints name tags), Meeting Savy (for Submissions and Dues/Membership Collection, etc.). Need to talk to Brad Smith and see if Meeting Savy can do what Whova does. Right now, we pay \$4200 for Whova and \$6K for Meeting Savy – so we need to see if we cut one and be more efficient with our money. Need to get the website fixed to be correct. Last year, Brad added functionality of the website to automate this.
- We had to produce a PDF of the meeting schedule for the hotel. PDF was most correct and website was locked in (and still wrong) so this caused some issues.
- Discussion about which programs to keep and how to save money and use the programs we're paying for to the fullest extent.
- Whova's ability to generate and create meet-ups *at* the conference within the app was much appreciated – the ability to contact people within the app.

- James suggests the EO outsource this role to another committee/group of people to figure out how to use media moving forward. Marni suggests we use people's expertise from past year's meetings.

Assistant Executive Officer Report (Chasidy Harris)

- Chasidy introduces herself, at University of Tennessee working with Stephanie Bohan having just finished her MA and starting on her PhD with a concentration of Political Economy and Globalization.

Publications Committee Report (Gretchen Peterson)

- Publications Committee met virtually yesterday (4/7/26) as most of the committee members were not attending this year's SSS.
- Most of their time was related to issues related to *Social Currents*. Charge for the "southern-ness" of the journal – can mark the Editorial Board and see if they're SSS Members. Intentionally broadened the EB to get more expertise and not keep tapping the same people. Over 50% of the EB were from institutions in the US South. Working on a spreadsheet with the AUTHORS of journal articles. 3 articles connected to the South in terms of topic. Sizeable number of people who had connections to SSS Members.
- SAGE does not send a report to Pubs Committee – may go to the editors directly? May need someone to follow up to request this report – they owe it to us but may not volunteer it.
- SC is struggling to fill a journal issue – April only had 3 papers. June only has 1. Need more papers in the pipeline. Concerns about if people are thinking of SC as an outlet when they're doing their work. Overall # of submissions look good but lots of international that are not quite sociology. Really just this past year with a drop-off in submissions.

Action Item: Final message from Southerners – consider Social Currents for an outlet for your work.
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- No "policy papers" in the front end of SC this past year. Maybe more are coming?
- Nadia (TSS) was at the meeting online yesterday. She's expecting to transition off that role. She's off on a job interview, not wanting to stay as head of TSS next year. Wants to work to connect TSS/SC moving forward.
- Edits to the Publication Committee Section of the Handbook – they are still working on it. Gretchen will send it to Elizabeth after more edits.
- Sarah Ovink will take over as Chair of Pubs moving forward.

Idea: Mid-Year Report template – will you need a time/space at the meeting for your committee meeting at SSS? We're hoping people DO meet if they're here at SSS. If not, virtual can work well.

Program Committee Report (Mairead Moloney & Taylor McElwain)

- Mairead Moloney & Taylor McElwain share importance of reflecting the theme. Over 200 sessions, more than 700 presentations, undergraduate, graduate, faculty, practitioners.
- **Types of submission** – individual, poster, full session proposals, flash talks, roundtables and invited/special sessions.
- **Thematic contributions:** themes listed.
- **Program features/enhancements:** interaction session formats (flash talks/roundtables) and professional development. Purposeful networking and mentorship – open lunch space on Friday. Wellness focus – yoga, running through city, mini conference on reflection/restoration, even a conference playlist.
- Flash talks are all in one session across different sessions.

Local Arrangements Committee Report (Laura Atkins & Stephanie Bradley)

Laura Atkins reports:

- Made arrangements with Visit Jax who will be on site to provide attendees with local information, created a micro-site for sociologists.
- Pour Taproom is for the student mixer on Thursday evening.
- Stride Through the River City -both Thursday/Friday.
- Café Resistance for bookstore partner. Backup bookstore San Marco Books if this one doesn't work out.
- Playlists available on Spotify for SSS.
- Jeremy Lewis student employee = very helpful to put together the Local Guide.
- Easels are in her big blue jeep out front – for the Poster Sessions

Nominations Committee Report (James Maples)

- Met virtually and had important conversations about leadership in a critical time.
- Excellent slate of candidates – started with ~60 people who had been nominated by others and expressed their interest in being in a leadership position. Met with all candidates for President and Vice President to make sure they understood their roles.
- Future: coordinate with upcoming candidates that they attend the meeting for THIS year even though they're running for 2028.
- Discussion: EC Liaison should always be the VP-Elect so they can see what needs to be done. Need to make sure the VP-Elect Elect is on the Nominations committee so they can see what needs to be done.

Motion to Approve Nomination Committee's nominations put forward by Vice President James Maples.

Micah Roos moves to approve, Dawn Robinson Seconds.

All present were in favor, no against.

Site Selection Committee Report (Dawn Robinson)

- 2029 Meeting – chose Greenville, South Carolina. Central to downtown.
- Costs were top of mind – best fit.
- Savannah way off our radar for costs, other cities considered included Nashville and Raleigh.
- Pros/cons of various cities discussed.
- 1053 members came to SSS in Greenville last time it was there.
- Richmond, VA in 2007 (676 members attended)
- Future SSS: 2027 New Orleans; 2028 in Mid-town Atlanta; 2029 in Greenville

Social Currents Report (Hiromi Taniguchi & Andrew P. Davis)

- Andrew P. Davis has report for SC (will be added to the other reports)
- 109 original submissions; 45 Revised submissions, 150 total for 2025
 - Of original submissions – desk rejected 44 manuscripts (40.4%)
 - Rejected submissions 32 (29.4%) after review
 - 22.9% received an R&R (25 papers)
 - 7 remain under review
 - 18 were accepted
- Constructing June issue now – April in process
- Current turnaround is 44 days to final decision on average
- SC authorship – are these SSS members/Southern institutions?
 - 3 papers with topic of US South
 - 12/31 (40%) included at least one author affiliated with US South
- New Editorial Board – 12 people cycled off, recruited 12 replacements for a new term beginning April 2026:
 - Kevin Smiley: Louisiana State University (moving to UNC Charlotte?)
 - Laura Upenieks: Baylor University
 - Jessica Pfaffendorf: North Carolina State University
 - Alexander Kinney: Oberlin College
 - Ashley Reichelmann: Virginia Tech
 - Eric Bjorklund: Occidental College
 - Ana S. Q. Liberato: University of Kentucky
 - Andrew Jorgenson: University of British Columbia
 - Matthew Clement: Texas State University
 - Derrick R. Brooms: Morehouse College
 - Craig Rawlings: Duke University
 - S.L. Crawley: University of South Florida
- Gotten away from regular reports from SC in the last few years, we'd like those reports to go to Chair of Publications Committee and make sure they get to EO
- Q from Dawn: Does SAGE give you a report? Andrew: No, but the online system will let you look up certain statistics. But Editor encouraged to reach out to SAGE directly to ask for reports because they won't offer them proactively.

- ASA gets reports from SAGE for ASA Journals. So maybe the EO of SSS should be requesting these reports from Sage? Need to keep up with reports to SSS EO.
- Submissions – in a plateau
- Q from Lisa: AI concerns? Andrew: No, not obviously. No policy yet.
- Q from Dawn: are you requiring EB members to join SSS? A: not currently. But can moving forward.
- Focusing on the Southern-ness of the journal Editorial Board sounds better than trying to police authorship or topic.

Action item: SC Editors should ask future EB Members to become SSS Members
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CREM Committee Report (Lisa Walker for Quinesha Bently)

- Issue: promoting events being sponsored by committees – need more discussion
- Five \$500 travel scholarships awarded this year to students

Committee on Soc in Com & Small Colleges Report (Catina Galloway)

Catina Galloway brings report:

- Two members are inactive – Maura and Jennifer are inactive due to personal reasons, will need replacements for next year.
- Worked on manuscript for “Challenges of Small and Community Colleges” which they are trying to get submitted for publication by May 5 – aiming for *Social Currents*
- Two sessions/round tables with Teaching and Learning
- Coffee & conversations meet & greet – Cameron sending an email blast NOW
- Scholarships were so important for folks to be able to travel.
- Discussion about the name/type of this committee – who are we representing? People with heavy teaching loads? Or people at institutions with a teaching focus? Because primary instructors at R1 have different issues than professors at small/community colleges. Remaining with current name/intention.

Membership Committee Report (Jamel Catoe for Stephanie McClure)

- Committee felt like they were tasked to do things but did not have the information or resources to do so. Example – they were asked to check/verify membership status for awards – but EO actually did that.
- One member rolling off the committee – Jamel Catoe
- Met 3x virtually this year (completed more work than ever before!)
- “Meet the Member” Session and Coffee Hour = new sessions to support membership
- Talked about recruitment/retention initiatives and how the committee can further sustain Southernness in that way – talked a lot about how we can recruit new faculty

hires at smaller institutions who might not have the same level of support to travel to national conferences.

- One idea: organize for people rides from airport or even sharing hotel rooms to lessen costs of the conference.
- Membership survey discussed – need Atticus to get access to Qualtrics or plan to use GoogleForms for new survey

Committee on Professions Report (Dale Wimberly)

- Rotating off the committee of Sociological Practice and suggested a new Chair for next year
- Most of their work was about the 3 sessions they put together.
- Project: resource packet for Sociology Faculty Facing Hostility

Going to need new members for 2027 – some ideas below:

- Jasmine Davis-Radolph (from Kendra Jason) at Lumin
- Ashley Stone (from Amanda Koontz) at National Racial Equity Initiative for Social Justice
- Sharon Doerer (from Lisa Walker) at TIAA CREF
- Jennifer Brailsford (from Amanda Koontz) UF College of Medicine

Remaining Discussion with the EC:

- Lots of discussion about social media vs. TSS vs. distribution of labor between the positions
- Brainstorming ideas for generating new sources of revenue for the Southern Sociological Society including increasing membership, getting sponsorships, and choosing cost efficient locations for the meetings.

Action item: Cameron Lippard to devise a new division of labor for the EC to spread some of the work off of being just the EO's responsibility but to include other perspectives and make the EC role meaningful moving forward.

Meeting adjourns 5:58

-Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Recording Secretary Elizabeth Culatta

[Note that reports from the following committees could not be completed today due to Chairs arriving late from travel issues and will be presented on Friday instead: Committee on Honors, Gender & Sexuality Committee, JEDI Committee, and Anti-Harassment.]

Reports not given for 2026: Committee on Status of Students Report (Alex Montgomery)
The Southern Sociologist Report (Nadya Vera)

Minutes 2026 ECII

Executive Committee Meeting II Southern Sociological Society Jacksonville, FL Meeting

Friday, April 10

8:30 am – 10:30 am

Present: Kendra Jason, Cameron Lippard, Elizabeth Culatta, Marni Brown (left at 10), J. Micah Roos, Dawn T. Robinson, David Embrick (left at 10), Amanda Koontz, Lisa Walker, Mairead Maloney, Taylor McElwain (left at 10), James "JT" Thomas, James Maples (Arrived at 9am)

Not Present: Marisela Martinez Cola, Brandon Jackson

Meeting begins: 8:33AM

President Kendra Jason called the meeting to order at 8:33am. Pleased with the energy and excitement of the meetings.

First order of business is the Finance Committee report.

8:30-9:00 Finance Committee Report (Cameron Lippard)

- Thank you for your support this week as a first timer – Dave's shoes have been a lot to fill this week. We appreciate Dave for all he did these past 13 years.
- Checked the numbers this morning: Membership = **840** Members; Registration = **767**
- See Full Finance Committee Report for specifics – I will just note some highlights and discussion points here.
- Reminder: Proposed Budget is a *plan*. We came out of 2025 at \$121K which was a little lower than projected, but that's okay. Our largest stream of revenue comes from Memberships/Registrations. We're low on exhibits – those would help pad our budget if we could get more exhibits.
- Discussion of low numbers of Departmental Memberships (only covers undergrads registration fees so PhD granting institutions don't tend to join it, departments don't get much from that membership so aren't eager to join in that way.)

Action Item: Proposal (Marni/Dawn): target emails to the universities who primarily serve undergraduates and bring a lot of more students (especially those who are proximate to meeting location) to the meetings and would benefit from membership that provided free registration to undergraduate students, consider adding reduced membership for graduate students

- Tax Practice updates – need to keep Tax Forms (like I-9s) for anybody who is getting paid or has a contract with us (example: *Social Currents*)
- UNC-Charlotte did not kick in any support from the Department or College this year

- Discussion proposed (Marni/Amanda) of how low the EO Budget is
- Questions (Micah) about expenses: Whova/MeetingSavy are the big budget items (\$4K and \$6K) Whova is going up – MeetingSavy has held steady. Need to figure out how to do one and not use both.
- **Publications** – we pay to send out journals and then we get a revenue check for about the same amount, so it's a net zero.
 - *Social Currents* just paid us \$5,400 as their revenue to the Society
- \$126K were our total expenses – net loss of about \$5K as of April 2026
- Projections are based on attendance expectations, exhibits, job ads, etc.; using Charlotte numbers for memberships and attendance registration fees from NOLA
- Spot for gaining funds: exhibits and sponsorships and program advertisements
- Textbook publishers are also drawing back from anywhere that's not a national conference – so they're only going to larger meetings and have cut staff. Dawn suggests they might be willing to come to New Orleans (because it's a popular destination) so we should still try again next year.
- Discussion on if Brad can provide everything for us (MeetingSavy) instead of Whova but Whova is popular among attendees. A reminder that "this is the cost of things of quality" and we don't want to cut this big budget item if it's serving us well but instead identify additional sources of revenue to pay for it.
- Cost of conference – should we increase the registration cost to attendees?
- Could not get a credit from Hyatt – had to pay up front half (Cameron successfully negotiated half, they originally wanted full payment up front) and so Cameron had to pull from the investment account this year to pay for the conference. So what does that mean in the long-term? Need to figure out ways to cover expenses without doing that every year.
- Strategic Changes to Increase Budget (also at the bottom of report)
 - One idea to increase membership/registration fees by \$10-20 at each level of membership (including on-site) but suggested (Lisa) the raise is staggered so that students aren't raised as much as faculty.
 - Discussion about changing the registration fees – be transparent to membership about cost not increasing since 2009 (or correct year) and our costs have continued to go up, be sure to indicate the value of membership.
 - Cuts in VIP costs (get your plane covered or your room covered, not both)
 - Need EC to ask for money from their departments/colleges or getting more publishers/exhibitors to fund. Need help to get more money into our budget.
 - (Dawn): Giving half page ads in conference program as a sponsor and promotion for department.
 - (Micah): Some departments have receptions to fund food at the conference (no go this year)

Cameron: Need a membership vote to raise membership dues, but could raise conference registration fees without a full membership vote.

9:20-10:00 Unfinished Business

Anti-Harassment Committee Report (Jeannette Wade)

- Increasing visibility of advocates by updating website and emailing membership
- Received a complaint and dealt with it (accused of harassment, and asked not to attend the meeting)
- Organized a session (research based) this year
- Request an attorney/Title IX Coordinator or an investigator/consultant

JEDI Committee Report (Dresden Lackey)

- Continuing annual book raffle – just drew the winners
- Created a Mini-Conference with the theme “Surviving and Maintaining Stability in Shifting Times”
- No Chair in line – Kapriskie Seide (Davidson) has stepped up to be Chair because Dresden needs to roll off to go be Program Committee Co-Chair for 2027 Meetings.
- Could elect three in the next election – several members have need to roll off.
- The name of JEDI is maybe problematic in 2026 for recruiting faculty or students.

Committee on Professions Report (Jasmine Whiteside)

- Noted that the work of this committee is geared toward applied sociology
- Generated two sessions for the SSS 2026 Meetings:
- Session (Jasmine): “Sociology of Profession – Ask Me Anything!”
- Session (Margo): “Sociology of Work” and things you can do with a sociology degree or work outside of academia.

Gender & Sexuality Committee Report (Madeline Williams)

- Work was trying to bolster the committee – it was dormant, trying to pick it back up.
- Generated two fully-filed and well-attended sessions
- Noted that including buzzwords such as “incel” and “trad wife” seemed to bring a lot of people to the sessions to discuss
- Want to continue to expand focus related to gender in online spaces

Committee on Honors Report (JT Thomas for Matthew Ward)

- Successfully concluded.
- Not going to announce the award name change this year.
- We’ll announce it next year (hoping she’ll be able to come) in New Orleans.

Action Item: Membership Highlight featuring Maxine Atkinson as we change the award to “The Maxine Atkinson Award for Distinguished Teaching.”

Marni Brown and Dave Embrick needed to leave to present at 9:55.

Return to Budget Discussion

- JT Thomas: registration and membership levels fluctuate historically where the conference is. So we have many people who don't see a value in being a member beyond where the conference is. The conference expenses have risen for everyone. We need to increase and stabilize membership – we need to communicate the value of our membership beyond the conference.
- Kendra – the conference IS the major motivating factor of being a member of the Society. So it'll be dependent on the city. People don't want to pay for membership.
- Lisa: proposed for each committee to host one virtual event a year – free to members! Example, “So You Want to Go to Graduate School” virtual event by Lisa Walker – session for undergraduate and MA students for a PhD = timing in June.
- Need to think about how to keep our membership steady – could do a three-year membership at a discount and stabilize the membership
- Gayle tasked every single committee to create a mid-year event, but it didn't really happen... need the EC Liaison to step up.

Elizabeth Culatta needed to leave to present at 10:20 as the conversation continued.

9:55- 10:30 New Business

Elizabeth Culatta not present – no notes taken.

Minutes 2026 Business Meeting

Business Meeting Southern Sociological Society Jacksonville, FL Meeting

**Saturday, April 11
7:30 - 8:30 am**

Present: Kendra Jason, James Maples, Cameron Lippard, Elizabeth Culatta, Marni Brown, J. Micah Roos, Dawn T. Robinson, Michael Hughes, Shannon Davis, Kylie Parotta, Gretchen Peterson, Stephanie Bohon (left at 8:10), Andrew Polkin (arrived at 8:20)

Not Present: James "JT" Thomas, Marisela Martinez Cola, Brandon Jackson, Lisa Walker, David Embrick, Amanda Koontz

President's Report by Kendra Jason

President Kendra Jason called meeting to order at 7:34am.

Upcoming Meetings:

2026 – Jacksonville; 2027 – New Orleans; 2028 – Atlanta

Kendra reflects about this past year – a whirlwind. Like the weather we had this week. Felt shocking – but we came here and we did our work. On Friday – when everyone was here, the weather lightened. Along the way, we did what we were supposed to do, we came to work, we went to class, we fought administration, we WERE administration. This conference theme was a call to action and inspiration to motivate and we were not flattened by all this adversary. We were not disempowered in action or condition. But it was hard to understand who we were in this moment. This generation of sociologists hasn't been in this moment. Over the year, as a society, we had to work hard to get here to Jacksonville. Cameron and Kendra were strategic so that we could get here without being targeted. Sociologists persevered. Sociologists in Florida fought against the government to make sure we could be here. A bunch of small actions make a difference. We don't need (only) big hefty actions. We need community and realizing who we can be in the moment. Through visionary leadership and organization we succeed. My program co-chairs were amazing. James was the only bridge to the old. Kendra new, Cameron new, Chasidy new, Elizabeth new. Cameron, Elizabeth, and I really focused on building infrastructure for the organization. Elizabeth and Kylie's work in revamping the Handbook and Communications and working together with the committees – got the response that we were asking for. Building that high accountability. Working with/for the society is not like working at the institutions. This is a volunteer/service position. We have to build infrastructure and accountability to get it done. Conference was awesome. Thanks to everyone and program chairs especially.

EO Report by Cameron Lippard

- Whirlwind of learning despite having shadowed Dave for two+ years but realized in this cycle that Dave did not show him all the way behind the curtain and there was much to learn on the fly. Cameron's job as a Chair of his Department at ASU for the past 8 years trained him well to roll with the administrative punches.
- As of Saturday April 11th:
 - Membership= 851 members
 - Registration = 780 registered – right at average we expected
- Testament to support we provided. There were only 600 people registered a few weeks out – but a lot more registered on site.
- Thinking ahead to New Orleans (our high spot meeting location):
 - Projecting to have around 1026 registrations, and 1100 memberships by then
- Had a lot of conversations about how we encourage membership.
 - EC members are interested in volunteering to create some free virtual workshops during the year to add value to the membership.
 - Students are 45% of our membership. So focus on them in these sessions.
- People vote with their feet – some decided not to come to Florida.
 - However, we note that Florida State University was the only resistance to giving funding and that was overturned by a graduate student newspaper and reversed and gave money. All other schools funded students.
- Budget: 2025 – \$121K was our projected budget but then our total expenses \$126K so put us at a \$5K deficit. Covered by the investment account – use the interest we're earning as revenue.
- Revenue comes from membership, registration, other income (ads, exhibits, money from investments) is the remainder.
- Exhibits: We had a blip this year in getting exhibits here. Did have a local bookstore set up. Didn't do great with new incoming revenue though – need to do better moving forward with solicitation and sponsorships. Did a research "free" table to present about housing Jax.
- Restructuring the workload of the Executive Committee: Don't want EC to be a "vote and leave" position – we need work and lift to support the society. Going to lean on the EC to navigate revenue shortages.
- Expenses – 57% (\$71K) of our expenses are for the conference and EC = 37% (\$46K) of that cost.
- Thanks to Stephanie Bohon we were able to get an AEO Chasidy Harris who is great.
- Lost first Elizabeth Roberts, and then Upali to graduation/getting jobs so then had to scramble to get a new AEO.
- *Social Currents* – expenses covered
- Investment count totals = \$390K (others)
- Huge gain over the year in investment = \$40K so could do a 6% draw of \$19K in 2026, \$20,500, but then had to do an additional \$6K draw to pay the bill ahead of the

meeting. But will be replenished back in following this meeting. We're constantly pulling from these accounts but need to figure out how to replenish.

- Numbers are down at this conference but we met our room nights, we were at 93% so we got comp rooms to cover the VIPs, cost of these things are continuing to rise, we're talking with the EC but we propose that conference registration fees need to go up.
- Changes we're hoping to make:
 - Not a membership fee change, but conference registration fee change. (Membership changes would need a full membership vote, but registration fees will go up to match inflation, by level (lower for students).)
 - VIP costs have continued to rise because travel has continued to rise so being mindful about how much of the travel expenses for EC and special guests are covered.
 - Work with EC to figure out funding better, including asking for money at EC departments.
- 2027 = New Orleans (not the one in Canal Street but the one near the dome/Harrah's) \$36K budget minimum for food/beverage there same as here
- 2028 = Midtown Atlanta
- 2029 = Greenville SC (\$6K from tourist bureau to come)
 - Also looked at Savannah, Nashville, Raleigh, but all too expensive.
 - Knoxville, Memphis, Birmingham, Durham, Louisville, Asheville, Richmond all suggestions
 - Shout out to how welcoming and wonderful at the hotel.

Kendra Passes the Gavel

- To Marni: society in great hands with you
- Archival book and a reflection mirror passed on.
- Note that Presidents sign the book (Kendra signed)

Marni's New Theme/Address

Theme: Interdisciplinary Sociology: The Bridge to Engagement

As sociologists we study trends and patterns, social behavior, problems, and institutions. For many of us, coming to the Southern Sociological Society meetings is where we share our work, talk with colleagues and friends, be in community, and learn from one another. Now more than ever we need community.

We are fortunate to find ourselves meeting in NOLA again, a city that has been kind to SSS in years past.

For the 2027 SSS meeting we will look at how sociologists do this work through interdisciplinary practice. This could look like the integration of sociology and interdisciplinary studies, the merging of disciplines to form interdisciplinary programs, by working on multi-disciplinary projects, or by engaging in interdisciplinary teaching

practices. For many of us, we work in interdisciplinary departments. I want the 2027 meeting to address what interdisciplinary sociology looks like today, this is important as it is the future of sociology.

For those of us not in working in higher ed (teaching, research, admin) what is the application of interdisciplinary sociology in the real world Teaching Sociology with interdisciplinarity in mind.

- Work in interdisciplinary departments
- Study Abroad
- Doing interdisciplinary research
- Talking and presenting to interdisciplinary audiences
- What have been the strengths and what have been the challenges of this kind of work?

Why this theme?

There are a few reasons; personally, I work in a newly formed inter and multi-disciplinary department. Although hired as a sociologist, primarily teaching sociology classes, I have not worked in a sociology department (my current department is “Human Services and Cultural Studies”). I spend most of my time teaching and working with colleagues from a range of disciplines (Anthropology, Religion, Philosophy, Social Work, and Health Sciences).

I want to use this opportunity to highlight the ways sociology happens in these “interdisciplinary” settings. How, why did this happen in higher ed? What does look like for students (undergrad and graduate)? How is shaping our research?

This can include what it is like to be the lone sociologist in a program or department. This is relevant because higher education and sociology, has changed in both popularities, and the role on campus. How do academic disciplines stay relevant? (thinking of enrollment, DFW rates, retention/recruitment/graduation rates, and graduate school and/or job placement).

How have these shifts impacted our teaching and research, our connection with students and outside agencies? How has it shaped our application for grants? (Personally, my grants have been with colleagues from other departments and programs).

As SSS president, one is given the opportunity to select an area of their work to highlight through the meeting, and for me, working at an MSI (although I find this language problematic- a Minority Serving Institution, where almost 65% of our students are first generation and financial aid, I have been a part of building an interdisciplinary program. In fact at meeting in Atlanta years ago, I sat down with Kendra, asking for guidance on what a program like this could like- seeking her health background.

The co-program chairs for next year, **Marisela Matinez Cola (Moorehouse)** and **Dresden Lackney (Wafford)** have their own relationship with interdisciplinary scholarship, teaching, and homes. We have created a fabulous program committee, who will oversee the building of what I hope will be an interdisciplinary program for next year.

This work is not to be done just by the program co-chairs and their committee; I believe it is our time to elevate the work of EC. We have a financial lift that falls on all of us- more to come on this, and equally important, shifting how we work from once or twice a year to a more consistent timeline of effort.

Idea: add a collective feminist space to the organization

Gretchen Peterson: losing students at the undergraduate level – how to sell ourselves as sociologists to undergraduates? We're at a crisis point with our discipline to bring in more undergraduates to our classrooms. Strategies to market ourselves and speak to our advisors. Promote to our undergraduate sociology students. Sell to undergrads and to administrators. Focus on undergraduate needs.

Kendra: Virtual workshop could be helpful here.

Reminder to all: How is the organization giving to the membership and the membership giving to the organization?

Build in sessions/pre-sessions for discussion on undergraduate students.

Work with a consultant to strategize how to keep recruiting students at all levels.

Use career guides – like the ones from James Maples (YouTube) and from ASA like TRAILS

President Marni Brown adjourns meeting at 8:30.

Minutes 2026 New President's Meeting

New President's Meeting Southern Sociological Society Jacksonville, FL Meeting

Saturday, April 11

8:30 am – 10:30am

Present: Kendra Jason, Cameron Lippard, Elizabeth Culatta, Marni Brown, J. Micah Roos, Amanda Koontz, Shannon Davis, Shannon Carter, Dresden Lackey

Not Present: James "JT" Thomas, Marisela Martinez Cola, Brandon Jackson, Lisa Walker

President Marni Brown called meeting to order at 8:49 am.

Introductions of EC all around.

Repeat of the Theme from President Marni Brown – interdisciplinary sociology

Students are asking: Why go to college? If I major in sociology, what are my job prospects?

Discussion of the Committees and their charges

- Membership Committee – survey of members is a part of that.

Kendra:

- Follow up on the action items after the mid-year reports.
- President met with Committee Chair to address issues when they arose.

New Business

Biggest challenge so far – making sure we have the appropriate number of people on all the committees with people needing to roll off for health/personal reasons or at the end of their terms.

Action Item:

Marni proposes two meetings over the course of the year with all committee chairs as well as President (Marni) EO (Cameron) and RS (Elizabeth) to provide guidance and support

Idea (Marni): EC Member to be the new Committeeperson that helps coordinate all the committees

Idea (Shannon): Generate a response letter back from the President (or the EC) that documents their labor from the previous year for inclusion in tenure packets, annual review, etc.

Idea (multiple): Template for mid-year/annual reports – include a “list of accomplishments” and make it a GoogleForm survey instead of just a report.

Action Item (Elizabeth, Cameron, Marni): Committee Report Template via GoogleForm
Give them a list of deliverables/objectives in that opening email.

Communication issues: Inactive members (hard to reach) should be rolled off/removed from the committee

Membership survey – ask people if they want to be on these committees
Problem: only 17 responses total last year

Less than 200 people who vote in the election

Marni: Helping folks remember, reimagine, reconsider why we are here! The work is year-round. What is Southern's? What are our values? What do we stand for? What are we trying to do? So then when we come together for 4 days in the Spring, we are at a reunion.

Goals: Continuing to build up the infrastructure to be a year-round Society.

Action Item (Elizabeth): Ask the Committee to meet virtually the week before the meeting and submit their reports but only have Chairs come to talk to EC if they really have something to say. Recommendations, items for discussion, in the form.

Review Committee Reports on Wednesday – but not necessarily have them show up in person. (Getting them here on Wednesday has long been an issue.... Cut that for 2027!)
Annual Reports = Virtual moving forward. Here are the things that worked, here's what didn't – happening virtually before the meeting is a great option for this! Honor the EC time and the Committee Chair time – not asking them to come on Wednesday. The way we work has changed since this all started. So refresh this process.

Issue: Overlapping substantive sessions with our Executive Meeting time instead make those meetings virtual and only meet once as the EC here. Restructure EC format.

Motion: upcoming year we're going to do the committee reports virtually which will change the structure of the EC Meetings – keep the Wednesday meeting but either drop the Friday meeting – or keep it for unfinished business, but make it short enough for all EC members to go to 10am sessions.

Idea: session – explaining our committees to the membership

Action Item (Elizabeth and others): create a Power Point that shows the Executive Committee (names/maybe pictures) and each Committee (including members' names and maybe pictures) and what each committee does and has accomplished in this past year – play the PowerPoint on loop in a central public space so all can know about the work instead of confining it to reports.

Virtual meeting with all committee chairs and Marni, Cameron, Elizabeth ahead of the SSS Meeting not in New Orleans.

Idea: Opening reception on Friday night – a mic welcoming everybody and explaining what Southern is (briefly) maybe it's a video? Intro to Southern. Introduce them to the EC.
Goal: want to be welcoming – I'm so glad you're here, let me tell you who we are.

Next year: Path of New Orleans Food to highlight different cultures.

Issue: Publications Committee vs. Social Currents gave somewhat conflicting reports.
Reconnect Pubs and SC for next year – Andrew Davis + Derrick Blooms

President Marni Brown adjourned the meeting at 9:49am.
-Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Recording Secretary Elizabeth Culatta