

**Southwest Division of the American Association of Geographers (SWAAG)
Business Meeting Minutes**

La Quinta Inn and Suites San Antonio Riverwalk, Crockett West
San Antonio, TX
6 November 2015

- Michaela Buenemann called meeting to order at 5:50pm
- 2015 business meeting agenda was approved.
- 2014 business meeting minutes were approved.
- Michaela Buenemann read statement by SWAAG Councilor, Darren Purcell, regarding his inability to attend the SWAAG conference and the AAG Councilors' Meeting. Maria Lane noted that Darren Purcell was sorely missed at the SWAAG meeting
- Former SWAAG regional Councilor, Ron Hagelman, discussed what an AAG regional councilor does and reviewed what the AAG Council has done recently. See the [Spring 2015 AAG Council Meeting Minutes](#) and Ron's [2014 Annual Report for SWAAG](#) for more details.
- Michaela Buenemann provided the **Chair's Report**
 - The SWAAG website <http://www.sw-aag.org/> improved during Murray Rice's tenure as Chair and it continues to improve. For instance, business meeting minutes and conference programs are now available there.
 - [SWAAG Facebook page](#) now established. Please contribute content and share info!
 - SWAAG t-shirts were designed and sold at this year's conference. Should this be a new tradition?
 - Changes were made to student competitions; for instance, deadlines were firm.
 - For the first time, SWAAG had a team participate in the GeoBowl competition at the 2015 AAG meeting in Chicago. And all signs suggest that the GeoBowl competition at this SWAAG meeting was enjoyed by most!
 - The SWAAG by-laws have been edited
- Ron Hagelman recognized how Michaela Buenemann has improved the SWAAG website, and noted how her online efforts will be part of her leadership legacy.
- Laurel Smith provided the **Secretary's Report**
 - The 2015 Newsletter was compiled, prepared, and shared in September. It too can be found on the SWAAG website.
- Jason Julian provided the **Treasurer's Report**
 - The treasurer's report is attached to the minutes and will be posted on the website before the next newsletter comes out.
 - The more sophisticated student competition system was a success. For instance, a new

form signed by a student's advisor(s) that indicates that the student did most of the work featured in their paper allows them to submit abstracts/papers they co-authored with others, especially their advisors.

- Jason thanked the SWAAG professors who served as judges, both during the review of the extended abstracts to determine which students' presentations or posters would be included in special sessions, and at the conference during the student paper and poster sessions when finalists presented their papers or posters.
- **Ron Hagelman provided the 2015 Local Meeting Organizers' Report**
 - SWAAG had 215 paid registrants and AGC had 127 paid registrants for a total of 342 paid registrants
 - The meeting organization was a success. For the first time, registration for SWAAG meeting was handled through the SWAAG website.
 - Faculty members from Texas State University and University of Texas-San Antonio worked together on the local arrangements. Ron underscored the key roles played by his collaborators, especially the support staff at Texas State University.
- **Matthew Fry provided the 2016 Local Meeting Organizers' Report**
 - The 2016 SWAAG meeting will take place 20-22 October in Denton, TX. Conference events will be held in downtown Denton, which is a historic county seat with a lively Main Street scene.
 - Matt and his colleagues at the University of North Texas are working to coordinate fabulous fieldtrips, perhaps to the Texas State Fair since it will unfold at same time.
- **Erik Prout provided *The Southwestern Geographer* Editor's Report**
 - *The Southwestern Geographer* is now an entirely electronic journal that costs SWAAG nothing. It runs on a continuous cycle with manuscripts accepted after review promptly published online.
 - Erik and his co-editor John Tiefenbacher would like to receive more submissions! Erik pointed out that the online system makes it far easier to do special issues.
 - The co-editors also call for other co-editors and hope to expand to a full editorial board in the near future. More as it happens!
- **New Business**
 - **Discussion and Nominations for SWAAG Executive Positions**
 - Nominations at the meeting included: Michaela Buenemann for Chair, Jason Julian for Secretary, and Matthew Fry and Emily Fekete for Treasurer
 - It was requested that additional nominations be emailed to Darren Purcell (dpurcell@ou.edu) in the next two weeks.
 - **Future SWAAG Meetings**
 - The 2016 SWAAG meeting will be hosted by the University of North Texas 20-22 Oct in Denton, TX
 - The 2017 SWAAG meeting will be hosted by Sam Houston University 26-28 Oct 2017 in Huntsville, TX
 - The 2018 SWAAG meeting will be hosted by Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, LA

- It is not yet known where the 2019 meeting will take place.
 - **Bylaws Changes** were discussed and accepted wholesale, including an amendment that names the Secretary as key coordinator of the SWAAG World Geography Bowl. The latest version of the bylaws is available at <http://www.sw-aag.org/bylaws.html>.
 - **Student Competition Deadlines** were discussed.
 - Maria Lane recognized that the SWAAG Secretary runs the competition and therefore makes the call regarding tardy submissions, but she suggested we should err on the part of diversity and inclusion.
 - Jason Julian emphasized the need for strict deadlines because the competitions—especially when including the submission of an extended abstract and coordination of special sessions at the conference—require lots of work to organize. This year, there were a total of 33 extended abstract submissions by students, each of which was reviewed by 3 SWAAG professors.
 - Christian Brannstrom insisted that it's the Treasurer's prerogative to organize the competitions as they see fit.
 - Michaela Buenemann suggested that confusion regarding student competition deadlines can be avoided in the future by synchronizing the extended abstract and advisor form deadlines and by announcing the firm deadlines early and clearly.
 - Of the 20 people attending the meeting, the majority was in favor of enforcing the student competition deadlines.
 - **SWAAG Communications** were very briefly discussed.
 - SWAAG has two lines of communication.
 - The SWAAG listserv (overseen by Sarah Bednarz at Texas A&M University), which is open to anyone interested in SWAAG.
 - The AAG Knowledge Community for SWAAG, which is only accessible to members of the AAG residing in the SWAAG region.
 - While it is a pain to maintain both lists, it was decided that the dual system will continue at this time because of how it allows individuals who are not members of the AAG to continue to be informed about events and opportunities in the SWAAG region, even if they are not located in the states included in this region.
 - Bill Doolittle suggested that given the robust budget, SWAAG should double the **amount of student prizes**. The SWAAG officers said they would study the budget and revisit the issue prior to the organization of the 2016 SWAAG student competitions.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.

Meeting minutes submitted by Laurel Smith, SWAAG Secretary

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Treasurer's Report
6 November 2015

Date	Description	Receipts (\$)	Disbursements (\$)	Balance (\$)
8/31/14	<i>Balance forward</i>			4,306.55
10/9/14	Collins -Honorarium		(600.00)	3,706.55
10/29/14	Dunn - 2nd Place Grad Paper		(150.00)	3,556.55
10/29/14	McCollum - 1st Place Grad Paper		(200.00)	3,356.55
11/18/14	Heitmeier - 1st Place Undergrad Paper Award		(200.00)	3,156.55
11/18/14	Phooko - 1st Place Undergrad Poster Award		(100.00)	3,056.55
11/18/14	Ignac - 1st Place Undergrad Poster Award		(100.00)	2,956.55
11/18/14	Rice - Survey Monkey for Elections		(26.00)	2,930.55
1/29/15	Smith - SWAGG Domain Renewal		(18.17)	2,912.38
2/5/15	Univ of New Mexico Reimb to SWAAG	2,224.00		5,136.38
4/2/15	Motselebane - 1st Place Undergrad Poster Award		(100.00)	5,036.38
8/31/15	SWAGG Capitation FYE 2015	1,500.00		6,536.38
8/31/15	Balance			6,536.38

Source: Michelle Ledoux, AAG Membership Director
Submitted by: Jason Julian, SWAAG Treasurer