

Minutes of the 2012 SWAAG Business Meeting

October 25, 2012

The Business Meeting was called to order at 5:05pm at the Ramada Palms Hotel and Conference Center, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

SWAAG Chair Darren Purcell (University of Oklahoma – OU) called for a motion to approve the SWAAG 2011 Minutes. Darrel McDonald (Stephen F Austin - SFA) and Alyson Greiner (Oklahoma State University – OSU) noted several grammar and factual edits to be completed. Purcell agreed to make the needed changes and circulate the amended SWAAG 2011 Minutes electronically for examination and online ratification.

Regional Councilor's Report

Purcell introduced SWAAG's Regional Councilor, Ron Hagelman (Texas State University – TSU). Hagelman indicated that he had no news because he had just begun his term and his first meeting with the AAG executive was yet to come. Hagelman invited comments on the question he posed by e-mail, and asked that SWAAG members send any news they have to him so he could report to AAG. Hagelman agreed to circulate his requests again electronically for further feedback.

Chair's Report

Purcell indicated that he was struck by the collegiality that all had exhibited at the 2012 meeting. He also commented on the many new faculty hires recently completed in SWAAG member institutions, which illustrate the strength of geography in the region.

Secretary's Report

Murray Rice (University of North Texas – UNT) said that the items he would normally cover were on the agenda for later in the meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Rebecca Sheehan (OSU) reported on SWAAG's current financial situation. SWAAG's current account balance is more than sufficient to cover our current obligations relative to the increased student award amounts to be distributed this year.

Local Organizer's Report

Michaela Buenemann (New Mexico State University) reported that the 2012 meetings were a success. The final balance for the meeting will be even or slightly positive.

Purcell commented that he understood that attendance was equal to attendance last year in Austin, quite an accomplishment. He congratulated NMSU for a successful conference.

Southwestern Geographer Editor's Report

Erik Prout (Texas A&M University – TAMU) reported that the new edition (15th volume) has been mailed out. Prout is continuing as co-editor, but his co-editor (Cynthia Sorrenson of Texas Tech University – TTU) has resigned. Purcell issued a call for a new co-editor to assist Prout. Prout indicated that it is absolutely necessary to identify a new co-editor. Prout indicated that the journal will move to electronic publication and open access in the coming year. He indicated that approximately \$1000 would be needed to obtain software to facilitate electronic publication. Prout also raised the possibility of organizing a new editorial board, and general discussion ensued regarding editorial board composition and restructuring.

Purcell encouraged all present to submit manuscripts to the journal and to help their students to submit manuscripts as well.

Prout raised the question of whether to approach the AAG for support regarding the journal and other SWAAG activities (including the division website). Greiner provided some caution as to the likelihood of such a request garnering support, while Erick Sheppard (AAG President) provided his perspective.

Old Business

Purcell passed along his thanks to Hagelman for his assistance in our polling of SWAAG membership on the issue of increased award amounts. Purcell also raised the issue of the possibility of introducing new student travel and research awards. Hagelman summarized the feedback he received on awards in general, and travel and research awards in particular. Juana Ibenex (University of New Orleans – UNO) spoke out in favor of fiscal conservatism. Lane spoke in favor of introducing travel and research awards. Hagelman summarized the key issues as he saw them:

1. Financial sustainability – can SWAAG support these awards financially over the long term
2. Human resources – are people ready to step up and administer the award review process if travel and research awards were to be indeed approved

Purcell proposed that a committee be organized to investigate these awards with a focus on Hagelman's two key issues. McDonald moved that such a committee be organized, Hagelman seconded the motion. The following SWAAG members volunteered for service:

Maria Lane, Darrel McDonald, Bill Doolittle, Paul Mathews

Purcell requested that the committee consult with the SWAAG treasurer with regard to the financial sustainability question, and that they complete a report providing their answer on both of Hagelman's issues by February 1, 2013.

New Business

Purcell issued a call for nominations for all three SWAAG executive positions. The following nominations were received:

Treasurer – Michaela Buenemann
Secretary – Rebecca Sheehan
Chair – Murray Rice

Purcell stated that nominations would remain open for two weeks, to be followed by an electronic poll. SWAAG members wanting a paper ballot should contact the SWAAG secretary.

Purcell also raised the possibility of a Geography Bowl for SWAAG. Discussion ensued.

The following arrangements are now in place for future SWAAG meetings:

2013: Nacogdoches, Texas (Darrel McDonald, organizer), October 24-26.

2014: Albuquerque, New Mexico (University of New Mexico, Host)

2015: Denton, Texas (University of North Texas, Host)

Meeting adjourned at 5:48pm.