

**Southern Rural Sociological Association (SRSA)**

**Mid-Year Executive Council Meeting**

**May 20, 2011**

**(10:00 a.m. EST Conference Call)**

**MINUTES**

1. Call to Order (morning of May 20, 2011)
  - Meeting was called to order by the President (Thomas Gray) at 10:07 a.m. EST.
  - The president welcomed members of the Executive Council, who included: Thomas Gray, Anna Kleiner, Keiko Tanaka, Douglas Clayton Smith, Andrew Zekeri, Gene Theodori, Robert Zabawa, and James O. Bukenya (joined phone call at 10:50 a.m.).
2. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings (2011 Corpus Christi Executive Council Meeting and General Business Meeting)
  - Provided through email attachments, Treasurer/Secretary (James Bukenya) presented the minutes for the meetings that were conducted in Corpus Christi, TX.
  - Andrew Zekeri made the motion to accept the minutes as presented and Keiko Tanaka seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion.
3. Old Business:
  - a) Treasurer's Report (James O. Bukenya)
    - The council reviewed the current status of the association's bank account, depicted here:

**Bank Account Balance (May, 18, 2011)**

Carry Over Balance —Feb. 4, 2011	\$12,236.41
Total Deposits—Feb. 9, 2011 to May 17, 2011	\$4,890.00
Total Payments— Feb. 9, 2011 to May 17, 2011	-\$6,538.48
Balance—May 18, 2011	<u>\$10,587.93</u>

- Anna Kleiner made the motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented and Andrew Zekeri seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion.
- In a discussion, Thomas Gray asked for clarification on refunds for nonattendance at the meeting and on the journal submission fees sent from the Editors to the Treasurer. The treasurer (James) noted that in consultation with the program chair (Andrew) individuals who had pre-registered but did not attend the meeting, and requested for reimbursement, received refunds less processing fees as per the stipulation on the registration form. As for the journal submission fees, James noted that both the editor and the treasurer keep records of payments for journal submissions for verification.
- The council also discussed the great programmatic benefits of supporting meeting attendance of the recipient of the Public Service Award - 2011 Award Recipient John Zippert received approximately \$1,010 reimbursement for travel expenses.

b) Webmaster's Report (Doug Smith)

- Doug Smith mentioned that Google Analytics may go up this summer to track site usage/data views for SRSA. He does need pictures and information about the 2011 award recipients.

c) Journal Editors' Report (Gene L. Theodori)

Three issues of the *Journal of Rural Social Sciences (JRSS)* have been published so far [Vol 25 is posted as 2010]; Vol 26 could be posted by late June this year. We will have two special issues forthcoming: one on the social issues associated with unconventional natural gas development and one on rural veterans [latter to be Vol 26 #3]. For Vol 26 # 2, we have 3 general submission articles accepted, one research note accepted, one submission under 'revise and resubmit', one under review, and one research note under review; submissions have slowed down (Anna will submit her Presidential. Address and a book review in the near future). As of today, regarding submissions in 2011, we had 6 general submissions (not including those for the rural veterans issue). The Editors thanked the council for financially supporting the copy editor (Brooklyn Wynveen). An analysis on when articles came in over 4 years revealed that March, July, and November tend to be more active months for submittals. Lastly, it was noted that Doug Constance is taking the lead on the development of a new logo for the *JRSS*.

d) Awards Committee Report (Andrew Zekeri)

- Andrew will develop and send out an awards nomination announcement to the membership about the awards and nomination deadlines. Dates should be moved up to give recipients more advanced notice about our desire for them to attend the meetings.
- Keiko should develop some space in the program for the Public Service Award recipient to make a presentation. Last year the program was already developed and published before space could be made for an address by John Zippert. We will try to move up the notification date to mid-November, ideally.

e) Program Chair Report (Keiko Tanaka)

- Keiko asked about planning a session for Tuesday morning. We may get a larger group in Birmingham – the council recommended that she reserve rooms for Tuesday, but then see if we need that timeframe for papers.
- Anna asked if we should continue to call for both papers and posters. The council recommended 'yes', that even community groups could submit posters as an alternative to papers, if they are attending.

4. New Business

a) Publishing of Meeting Proceedings

- The issue of whether or not to publish meeting proceedings was discussed, as it was brought up at the last general business meeting by the membership. The executive council recommended not doing this, as we don't have the staff and resources for this type of project, plus presenters should pursue our peer-reviewed journal submission opportunity to build their vita. A motion was made by Thomas Gray to cease discussion on this issue and not pursue it. The motion was seconded by Keiko Tanaka. All voted in favor of the motion.

#### b) Reimbursement to Executive Council Members for Travel

- In regard to mid-year meetings, Andrew inquired about reimbursement to the executive council members for travel. Tom mentioned that the Friday night informal meal/meeting serves a useful purpose of getting people together to talk about the organization more broadly. Andrew mentioned that Atlanta is still a good meeting place for future years. Regarding whether or not the mid-year meeting should be in-person or by conference call, Gene mentioned that it depends on the level of work to be accomplished at these meetings – past years required a great deal of work on organizational issues, and it was important then for the council to travel to one place to meet. Future arrangements will depend on what work needs to be done by the executive council at a particular meeting.

#### c) Joint Session with Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA) and the Agricultural History Group

- The deadline for the SAEA program development is mid-September. Darren Hudson at Texas Tech. is the President. He believes it's a good idea to have a joint session. Ann Eflan (Past-President of the Ag. History group) may also be interested in a session with us, perhaps on an annual basis.

#### d) 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Birmingham Civil Rights Events in 2012

- Robert Zabawa mentioned that this is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Birmingham civil rights events. We should do something at the 2012 meeting in regard to this, perhaps with the Ag. History group.

#### e) Names of Papers on Award Certificates

- At the 2011 meeting, someone asked about the necessity of having the title of an award-winning paper appearing on the award certificate. The council is of the opinion that including the paper title is appropriate and that each individual author should receive his/her own certificate. In addition, Tom did not have the \$200 check for one of the student awards last February. We should have this available at the time of the award presentation.

#### f) Numbering the Annual Meetings

- The council discussed the need to come up with some numbering system to help identify how long the SRSA has actually held meetings. There was a section with SAAS formally organized in the early 1980s, but a "section" group originated in 1969, when people met in Mobile for the original "section" meeting. Gene will forward his 2008 newsletter write-up about the SRSA history, based on documentation he received when researching this. We could then explain this history in the program booklet and on the website, and then as particular milestone years emerge, be able to celebrate a special time period for SRSA.
- Tom will soon be developing the theme for the 2012 meeting.

#### g) SRSA Revenues and Membership Renewals

Tom mentioned that there were 150 names in the 2011 program and around 45 to 50 titles. The council then discussed how to gain memberships, if not through a requirement that all authors join, perhaps through a better-organized meeting attendee follow-up by the Program Chair-Elect – attempt to track members who don't attend a meeting but may want to retain membership. The council tabled this discussion for future study.

A motion was made by Keiko Tanaka, with a second by Andrew Zekeri, to adjourn this conference call meeting at 11:22 a.m. EST. All voted in favor of the motion.