

MSERA Fall Board Meeting

November 7, 2023

Hilton | Pensacola, FL

Officers Present: Adam Elder, Aarek Farmer, Mark Halley, Nancy Hamilton, Lisette Manuel, Michael Mills, George Noflin, Charles Notar, Randy Parker (non-voting), Sarah Parker, Rebecca Robichaux-Davis, Sherry Shaw, Donald Snead, Mindy Waldrop, Ashley Wicker, & Randal Wilson

Officers Absent: Jessica Herring-Watson & Louis Nadelson

Committee Chairs Present: Tina Allen, Kelly Byrd, Larry Daniel, Kasia Gallo, Keicia Hawkins, Gail Hughes, Courtney Jarrell, Jane Nell Luster, Eric Oslund, Tara Wilson, & Rod Uzat

Sherry Shaw called the meeting to order at 1:11.

President's Report (Sherry Shaw)

- Sherry asked everyone to introduce themselves.
- She thanked UWF for hosting the spring board meeting and recapped highlights and priorities from the past year.
- She previewed some of the work that will take place during the fall board meeting.

Executive Director & Financial Report (Randy Parker)

- Randy shared that the budget has mostly been followed from the spring board meeting with the exception of registrations being lower than anticipated, so some adjustments were made including:
 - Some A/V costs were eliminated to reduce the cost to \$6,100
 - Florida Consumer Certificate of Exemption was obtained which saved \$2,100
- He shared the process for the ticketed keynote luncheon.
- There are 12 institutional members and 1 exhibitor, as well as 2 sponsorships.
- There was an anonymous donation of \$1,000.
- The Copyright Clearance Center provided one-time income of \$1,677.34 from *Research in the Schools*.
- He is proceeding with the agreed upon procedures from the approved CPA and it should be completed by the end of Q1 2024.
- Without some income in the next several months, the organization will go into the red. He recommended the board identify income streams to supplement the annual meeting registrations.
- Gail Hughes asked if we could require multi-authored papers have multiple authors register in order to remain on the program.
 - There was discussion about historical precedence for this within the organization.
 - Keicia Hawkins said there needs to be more mentoring, etc. opportunities included with the membership.
 - Sherry reiterated the importance of this and involving at-large directors with these added benefits.
- Randy explained the need for board members to work shifts at the registration table and passed around a sign-up sheet.

Constitution & Bylaws (Rod Uzat)

- Rod asked for any suggested changes for next year to be sent to him.
- There was discussion about editorial changes being made without board and membership approval.

Future Sites (Sherry Shaw)

- Sherry shared that Sean stepped down from this chair position, but that arrangements still need to be made for New Orleans 2025.
- Randy shared that a site has not been designated for 2026 yet, so proposals for sites are needed.

Program & Proceedings (Gail Hughes & Tara Wilson)

- Gail shared updates about cancelations that have been ongoing, but that Oxford Abstracts made the process of updating the program seamless.
- She shared that there was a deficiency of reviewers and reiterated the need for board members to review proposals. Jane Nell asked this conversation to be tabled until later in the meeting.
- Gail said that RIP is growing, which is exciting, but that she is concerned that it may be growing at a rate that may dissuade professionals from seeing the annual meeting as a place for them to present their research.
 - There was discussion about how to handle RIP acceptances and program space.
 - Rebecca Robichaux-Davis suggested that RIPs not placed in paper sessions be placed in roundtables.

Publications/Webmaster (Michael Mills)

- Michael shared that he will not be able to continue as webmaster, and a new one is needed as of January 1.
- Ashley Wicker expressed interest and asked to shadow Michael.

Historian (Jane Nell Luster)

- Jane Nell asked everyone to get off their computers, tablets, etc., and shared her concern that one of the difficulties the organization is facing is that it does not know how to operate.
- She shared that succession plans are needed to grow leadership within the organization.
- She expressed that there may be an issue with expectations versus operations. One of the considerations she encouraged the board to make was adding the requirement that elected members be required to review proposals.
- Jane Nell recommended that Rebecca Robichaux-Davis be approved by the board as the new historian.
- On a motion by Charlie Notar and a second by Mindy Waldrop, Rebecca Robichaux-Davis was appointed historian effective January 1, 2024.

University Student Committee (Mindy Waldrop & Kelly Byrd)

- Mindy and Kelly summarized their work over the summer and thanked everyone for their contributions.

- Mindy shared concerns that the organization's need to increase revenue and the organization's intention to be student friendly will often be conflicting.
- There was discussion about mentorship opportunities and how they are utilized (or not) and why.

Mentors (Larry Daniel)

- Larry shared that a succession plan is place for the mentors (Aarek Farmer) and shared plans for the annual meeting.
- There was discussion about pairing mentors and mentees, the success of that initiative, and facilitation of this using the website.

Nominations (Michael Mills)

- Michael shared that elections will be conducted using Election Buddy which will be fully virtual.
- Only the people who are present will receive an access key needed to vote.
- He shared the process for nominations from the floor appearing as a write-in on the ballot. There will not be actual write-ins.
- Jane Nell encouraged the board to be intentional about engaging with the people who do not win their election so that they stay involved with the organization, potentially as committee chairs.

Institutional Sponsorship (Donald Sned)

- Donald said the work for institutional sponsorships is ongoing.

Membership (Keicia Hawkins)

- Keicia recapped discussions between her and Ramona (co-chair) regarding clarifying expectations and for the membership committee and getting questions answered.
- Jane Nell shared that overlap between various positions such as membership chair and state directors is to promote coordination and collaboration.
- There was discussion about the importance of communication across committees and officers.

Technology (Courtney Jarrell)

- Courtney provided an update about using Google Drive for MSERA collaborative work.
- The MSERA Dropbox account will remain accessible only to the executive committee and historian to ensure key records are not accidentally deleted or changed.

MSER Foundation Report (Larry Daniel)

- The foundation is in a good place and is working on process and procedures since they had deviated from them over time.
- Changes to the bylaws will be discussed at the board meeting.
- There are several members rotating off the committee and there are nominees for those positions that will be considered.
- The foundation will work on a 4-6 year strategic plan, including increasing funds coming in and services going out to members.

- If any non-MSERF board members donate during the annual meeting, it will be matched up to \$500. Larry challenged board members to participate.
- Tara shared that there will be a silent auction again this year which is another way to support the Foundation.

New Business

- Mindy summarized the changes to the University Student section of the operations manual including the wording of the rubric and process for RIP scores transmitted to the MSERF.
 - On a motion by Ashley Wicker and a second by Aarek Farmer, the changes were unanimously accepted.
- Sherry explained that there is not a plan for maintaining the archives.
 - There was extensive discussion about the rationale for keeping a repository of conference papers and issues related to journals saying the documents are already published.
 - On a motion by Charlie Notar and a second by Nancy Hamilton, it was decided that MSERA will no longer maintain a repository of papers presented at the annual meeting effective 2024 (11 in favor, 3 in opposition, 1 abstention).
- Eric Oslund summarized the work done to move *RITS* to Open Journal Systems and associated complications related to technology. He shared that papers are still being accepted on the MSERA website.
- Sherry shared that this is the end of Randy's second term as executive director. He is willing to be considered for reappointment for a final three-year term.
 - Michael Mills motioned, and Rebecca Robichaux-Davis seconded, that Randy Parker be reappointed as Executive Director for another term.
 - There was a discussion about identifying potential successors to Randy over the coming year so that they can begin shadowing him for a smooth transition.
 - The motion carried (1 abstention).
- Sherry recapped the discussions of the executive committee about the agreed upon procedures and summarized the scope of it. The review should be done by February 2024.
 - Jane Nell provided the background about bonding the executive committee and the reason for the external review.
- Mark Halley made the following motion: "In the interest of being an organization that values diversity, equity, inclusion, and academic freedom, I move that MSERA remove Florida from its Annual Meeting rotation schedule until such time as the Board determines that LGBTQ+ people, people of color, immigrants, and other oppressed groups impacted by discriminatory state laws and policies will be safe, welcomed, respected, included, and provided equitable treatment and that the core principles of academic freedom are upheld." Kasia Gallo seconded it.
 - Kasia asked if this would preclude Florida members from participating in the organization.
 - Sarah Parker and others expressed concern that this could cause issues in the coming years with other MSERA member states following Florida's lead and potentially boxing the organization out of holding annual meetings in multiple states.

- Jane Nell and others expressed concern that entering the political arena could exclude individuals who do not agree with the stance, and that these types of political stances likely would not affect actual change.
- There was discussion about elevating the essence of the motion within the organization through programming and collegiality.
- Mark withdrew the motion.
- Sherry informed the board a budget advisory committee is needed and will be considered by George Noflin once he assumes the presidency.
- Sarah Parker made a motion to require that at least one presenter must register for the conference and all other presenters either pay for a membership or attend the conference.
 - There was discussion about concerns regarding logistics and the potential of deterring people from submitting proposals.
 - Sarah removed the motion.
- Tina Allen will continue as editor of *The Researcher* until a new person is identified. She will work with that person to help with transition. Sherry will form a committee to identify the new person.
- Sherry reminded everyone about the board dinner at 6:00.

On a motion by Randy Wilson and a second by Charlie Notar, the meeting was adjourned at 4:58.