

Fall 2016 MSERA Board of Directors Meeting  
Mobile, AL  
November 2017

The 2017 Fall Board meeting was called to Order by MSERA President, Dustin Hebert at 2:06 pm. Gahan Bailey and Nancy Gaillard welcomed everyone to Mobile, Alabama.

Those in attendance: Dustin Hebert, Kasha, Harry Bowman, Abraham Andero, Yuejin Xu, Gahan Bailey, Nancy Gaillard, Kathy Campbell, Julie Holmes, Randy Parker, Rebecca Robichaux-Davis, Rachelle Miller, Larry Daniels, David Morse, Linda Morse, Jwa Kim, Tina Allen, Suzanne Craig, Gayle Hughes, Lindsey Jakiel Diulus, Shannon Chiasson, Jane Nell Luster, Tony Onwuegbuzie, Ava Pugh.

President Dustin Hebert opened the meeting with a tribute to Cliff Hofwolt, longtime MSERA Executive Director who passed away on July 5, 2016.

#### GOVERNANCE REPORTS

President Dustin Hebert welcomed all board member and provided an update on the status of MSERA and the transfer of 15 boxes of MSERA records from Vanderbilt University. Jwa Kim picked up boxes from Vanderbilt. David and Lynda Morse and other Mississippi State members will transport items back to Mississippi State for the Spring 2017 Board meeting. In addition, there are 2000 computer files to transfer from Cliff Hofwolt's computer.

The Association's 501(c)3 status had lapsed. It is now reinstated. At some point MSERA was registered in both Mississippi and Tennessee. The Tennessee registration had lapsed several years ago. We are now only registered in Mississippi. At the Spring Board meeting we will need to revisit the information on MSERA registration with the state of MS.

Dustin named an ad hoc committee with proposal management system. Mindy Crain-Dorough, Rebecca Robichaux-Davis and Tina Allen. MSERA pays several hundred dollars a year for fees associated with that system.

Dustin Hebert and Randy Parker provided a Budget / Review Committee update.

#### ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS

Annual Meeting Overview/Highlights – Pre registration count increased from 109 in 2015 to 181 in 2016. The contracted 2016 sleeping nights is 350 (we have an 80% attrition) with 271 booked by deadline.

Randy Parker – the charges for the hotel are 33% of final bill.

Finances – Dustin Hebert recapped the Finance/Costs of the 2016 Annual Meeting. The Dean of South Alabama has donated \$1000.

Program – Tina Allen, 215 research in progress. Accepted 165 separate presentations. The acceptance rate for the 2016 conference is about 76%.

Graduate Student Engagement/Research in Progress (RIP) and Mentoring Sessions – Lindsey Jaikel Dulus reported on the RIP sessions. The RIP submissions were scored and rank ordered

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Lindsey boosted MSERA facebook posts to generate interest. The committee received 27 RIP and the MSERA Foundation is awarding \$100 to the top 15 submissions.

Linda Morse reported there was one mentor session. The mentor meetings are very interesting. Typically 12 people attend with 6-8 mentors. A few new mentors volunteered last year. Currently we do not have a way of knowing who meets the 15 year membership requirement to serve as a mentor.

#### MEDIA REPORTS

Randy Parker and Julie Holmes reported on the *Researcher*. Dustin extended thanks and gratitude to the Dean at Louisiana Tech for their support of MSERA. The Fall 2016 edition was printed and mailed to over 700 people. Julie presented Artist Proofs of the Annual Program to the Program Chair and President.

Mindy Crain-Dorough revamped the evaluation of sessions to include a QR code. Evaluation are electronic.

*Research in the Schools* – Tony Onwuegbuzie – Four (4) special issues are going out. There were several problems with Fast Track. We now have seven (7) ready to go. The fourth issue is on special education. Tony suggested we name one issue the Cliff Hofwolt issue.

#### ORGANIZATIONAL ADVANCEMENT REPORTS

MSERA Foundation – Ava Pugh, Foundation President presented the minutes of the Foundation Board. She reported that Dr. Carolyn Williams from Arkansas has retired and the Foundation has an opening for Arkansas.

Ava Pugh reported on the status of the Foundation since the passing of Cliff Hofwolt. The sole authorized signor for the Foundation was Cliff Hofwolt. The bank has verified the accounts and the amounts. According to the Secretary of State of the State of Tennessee, the account is considered inactive/dormant and has been dormant for 8 years. Since 2008 the list of officers or board members has not been submitted to the state of Tennessee. We have to get from under the decree of the state of Tennessee before we can move forward. The Foundation has to get in good standing with Tennessee before they can transfer to another state (Mississippi). The cost is approximately \$200.

Jane Nell Luster asked if the MSERA funds are intermingled with the Foundation Funds. We need to ensure the account has the agreed upon money and it is clearly identified as MSERA and not the Foundation. The Foundation is supposed to be holding the funds for MSERA. Harry Bowman stated there is no compelling reason for the Foundation to continue to hold those funds. He suggested the funds be placed in a savings account in the name of MSERA not the Foundation. For historical reference, leadership should check with Bob Ramussen.

Nominations Committee - Gayle Hughes, Past President, has nominations for all open positions. She asked the current director of each state to assist with handing out the appropriate state ballot.

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NEW BUSINESS

Constitution, Bylaws and Operations Manual Revisions – Dustin asked that we review the documents and provide feedback to Harry Bowman ([bowmanh@comcast.net](mailto:bowmanh@comcast.net)) by January 15, 2017. Harry will collect the feedback and present to the board at the Spring 2017 Board meeting.

Only those with current membership may vote on changes to the Constitution and/or Bylaws. At the Spring 2017 Board meeting the changes need to be presented for board approval in order for the General Membership to vote on them at the Fall 2017 meeting.

Harry pointed out that in the review, you will see the Associate Executive Director has been created throughout. We now have the opportunity to revisit this position.

Jane Nell Luster stated we also needed to look at the Operations Manual with an eye for gaps. She noted the need to address the gap in the position of Executive Director.

Executive Committee Recommendations on Executive Director and Associate Executive Director - On a motion by Gayle Hughes and second by Rebecca Robichaux-Davis, the Board unanimously approved the MSERA board appoint an interim Executive Director from this meeting (Fall 2016) until the position of Executive Director is filled.

Gayle Hughes nominated Dustin Hebert to serve as Interim Executive Director. Dustin turned the meeting over to Franz Reneau, Vice President/President Elect until the nomination and discussion was concluded. Shannon Chiasson seconded the nomination. Discussion ensued. Franz called for a vote on the nomination and Dustin Hebert was unanimously approved to serve as Interim Executive Director.

Julie Holmes noted that the president can appoint an ad hoc committee as the search committee. After discussion, Franz Reneau as the new MSERA President could make the appointment effective January 1, 2017. An ad hoc committee of five (5) needs to define the process and execute the search. It can define the procedures that can be recommended to be included in the Operations Manual. The committee will include three (3) members with fifteen (15) years MSERA membership and two (2) other members in good standing.

Franz turned the meeting over to Dustin. While serving as Executive Director Dustin will abstain from voting in the capacity of Past Presidents.

On a motion by Gayle Hughes and second by Franz Reneau, the Board unanimously approved to name Cliff Hofwolt Executive Director Emeriti.

Customer Relationship Management \*CRM) System Proposal will be presented at the Spring 2017 Board meeting.

On a motion by Kathy Campbell and second by Rebecca Robichaux-Davis, the Board unanimously approved to name the RITS special edition *The Clifford A. Hofwolt Special Edition*.

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SRERA Liaison– Harry Bowman reported on the Consortium of State and Regional Organizations and requested the Board keep the dues current.

LERA Liaison – Julie Holmes reported the 2017 LERA Annual Meeting is March 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> in Lafayette, LA. The call was announced October 31, 2016. They have an online Journal, RICE (Research Issues in Contemporary Education). The deadline is November 30, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Lindsey Jaikel Duilus and second by Rebecca Robichaux-Davis, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 4:37 pm.