



**Spring Board Meeting
March 20-21, 2009
Orlando, FL
Disney's Coronado Springs Resort**

MINUTES

The Friday afternoon meeting was called to order by David Gitomer, vice president, at 3:30 pm, March 20, 2009. (James Pappas' flight problems prevented him from arriving in time for the Friday session. He arrived in the early evening and presided over the Saturday portion of the meeting.) Present at the meeting: James Pappas, president; David Gitomer, vice president; Steve Duguid, treasurer; board members Barbara Amen, Debrah Bokowski, Kathleen Forbes, Jo Ellen Lundblad, Bob Smither, Sandy Welter; *ex officio* members Jerry Jerman and Ken Smith. AGLSP office administrative manager Ellen Levine joined the Friday meeting via teleconference call.

1. Fall 2008 board minutes were presented and approved.
2. Treasurer's Report—Ellen Levine reported that the Vancouver conference budget was "a little ahead," partly due to more registrations than previous years, especially student registrations. Ellen noted that at the Vancouver business meeting, the voting members passed a deficit budget due to a \$250 increase in the essay competition award. Jerry Jerman suggested trimming the 2009 *Confluence* budget by \$250 since expenses for the journal will not reach the \$17,000 budgeted amount. This makes the *Confluence* line item for the year \$16,750. Board members agreed to this change.
3. Membership Report—Board members discussed dropped and lapsed memberships and whether to forgive those members who had not paid 2008 dues. David Gitomer noted the precedent problem of forgiving unpaid dues. In an attempt to encourage members to pay past-due dues, several board members will attempt to contact the twelve delinquent institutions: David, Barbara Amen, Ken Smith, and Kathleen Forbes. Discussion continued about an association brochure Kathleen and her Membership Committee were preparing. The text of this brochure will be available for board review by the summer meeting.
4. 2008 Conference Report—The board applauded Steve and the Simon Fraser staff for the successful Vancouver conference. Conference speakers (Carolyn

Merchant and Roderick Nash) will have articles in the fall issue of *Confluence*, and students from Ken's institution will report on their conference experiences in the new *Confluence* blog.

5. Awards Committee Report—Barbara distributed the AGLSP award history. She and her committee are currently revising the nomination process for the annual faculty award. It was noted that award winners, whose remarks have historically appeared in *Confluence*, have not always received clear guidelines for preparing remarks. Board members agreed that an earlier nomination deadline—June 1—would enable an earlier notice to award winners and help ensure better planning for the award presentation and for improved preparation of acceptance remarks. Barbara will email the new nominating procedures to the board for distribution to the membership by the end of the month.
6. Nomination of Linda Paulson to Fellow Member—Kathleen nominated Linda for Fellow membership; Barbara seconded. This recommendation will be proposed at the business meeting in October.
7. Summer Board Meeting—The summer board meeting will be held at the Blackstone Hotel on Michigan Avenue near the Art Institute in Chicago. Ellen soon will send out instructions for making reservations.
8. 2009 Conference—Bob reported about plans for the fall conference. The Friday evening dinner will be at Epcot. Billy Collins will speak then. The Saturday business meeting will occur immediately after breakfast. Jim offered to send a letter to AGLSP members noting the importance of the conference and acknowledging economic problems facing all of our institutions. In this letter, he would offer to send letters to members' provosts or other campus officials encouraging them to support their colleagues' attendance. Board members agreed this would be a good idea. Bob said letters would be sent to the selected presenters with guidelines for effective presentations. Also letters will go to presenters' chairs/directors to inform them of the presentations.
9. 2010 Conference—Jim noted that Linda Paulson had previously suggested a future annual conference at a Stanford-run facility at Lake Tahoe. Linda recently told him that this facility may not be available, but he will follow up with her soon. Linda also had noted that, given conferences in Vancouver and Orlando, it is time to hold a mid-country conference. Several suggestions were discussed (Chicago, Denver, Salt Lake City, Philadelphia, and New Orleans). Further discussion will occur at the board's summer meeting.
10. Student Memberships—This discussion had several different foci: a) National conference participation by students—this did not seem a likely occurrence except for students in the host city. b) More pressing was a need to encourage more symposia like Stanford's. The lunch discussion in Vancouver did not seem to produce tangible results (i.e., more symposia). A special session at the fall

conference was discussed. In preparation, each board member is to identify two or three individuals (directors of programs) to invite to this session. Board members would participate as well. A symposium director would present at this session in hopes that it might help spawn symposia in other parts of the country. c) A brief discussion was held about the creation of a GLS honor society, but there was no real interest in doing this. d) Opportunities for continued involvement by alumni in GLS scholarship/thinking/discussions—several board members recognized the newly developed blog as a good opportunity for “continuing the discussion” begun in graduate school. Ken pointed out that if the blog takes off, funds will be needed to hire a part-time graduate student to monitor the blog to ensure it remains a “civil place.”

11. Publications Committee—Jo Ellen Lundblad distributed a document to outline how a revision of the current association guidebook might be organized, the specific contents of each chapter, and potential authors. Jim emphasized that this publication should not become strictly a product of the board. Discussion included additions to the content of the nine chapters. David pointed out the importance of communication between the authors of chapters with related concerns. Jo suggested the creation of another AGLSP publication: special collaborations and partnerships (e.g., alumni programs, study abroad, mentorships, internships). Other board members said this project might be approached as an online publication or as appendices to the guidebook. Ken discussed the new *Confluence* blog that he and his graduate students have established. Jim asked him to lead a discussion at the summer board meeting about electronic use and applications and to explore the “fuller use” of *Confluence* (via “unraveling”) at the fall workshop. Ken also summarized the *Confluence* writing competition, noting that judges are currently looking at the thirteen or fourteen entries. Ken suggested establishing a fiction/poetry award, and board members agreed this should be offered, beginning in 2010, with the same \$500 award. Ken agreed to distribute information about the new award to board members via email.
12. Web Site Redesign—David discussed the goals of the new association web site. The committee—consisting of David, Kris Rabberman, and Jerry—are looking at design change, functionality change, and brand refreshment. After discussion of the best possible process, David agreed to get a draft RFP to the board within three weeks, with hopes to have proposals from vendors and a vendor selected before the board meets in Chicago. (Proposals will be shared and discussed via email.) The budget for the redesign will be \$10,000 or less. David asked for suggestions from the board on the best ways to get the widest possible distribution of the RFP.
13. Member Survey—Kathleen summarized the responses to the member survey, which she distributed. She said 46 institutions responded but noted the Survey Monkey link is still live and more responses could come in. Kathleen indicated that she would contact individual institutions in order to get more participation.

She said that at the July meeting she would have a draft of the second “wave” of the survey for the board to review.

14. Workshop Agenda Preparation—There was much discussion about the content of the workshop, including Ken’s idea (emailed to board members earlier) about one or more *Confluence* articles on creating an interdisciplinary course that would be followed up at a conference or workshop session. The board determined a preliminary design for the workshop. The morning session would be organized as a nuts-and-bolts session focusing on recession-proofing your program, changing demographics and their impact on GLS programs, administration and budgeting in recessionary times, and the use of web sites/blogs/social networking. The first afternoon session would be moderated by Steve and would bring together three presenters looking at interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary course development from the perspectives of the humanities, the social sciences, and the natural sciences. This would be followed by two concurrent sessions focusing on the online course and team teaching. A debriefing session would close the workshop.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Jerman
March 25, 2009