



Association of Graduate Liberal Studies Programs

**Annual Business Meeting
October 22, 2016
Oklahoma City, OK**

Minutes

Deborah Finkel (Indiana University Southeast), president, called the meeting to order at 9:05 am. She introduced board members, vice president, Martha Banz (University of Oklahoma); treasurer, Michael Garval (NC State University); Christopher Pastore (University of Pennsylvania); Martin Anderson (Dominican University); Rebecca Sharp Sanchez (Rice University); Steven Burr (Loyola University Maryland) *Ex officio* member and editor of *Confluence*; and Marialana Weitzel, administrative manager. Wole Orjurongbe (Dartmouth College), Michele Mrak (Southern Methodist University) and John Logie (University of Minnesota) were not present.

1. Agenda

The motion was made to approve the agenda. The agenda was approved.

2. Minutes

The motion was made to approve the 2015 business meeting minutes. The minutes were approved.

3. President's Report

Deborah Finkel reported the following:

- 2017 Conference: Due to the current HB2 Law enacted in North Carolina in March 2016, the board agreed to address the possible issues posing a threat and possible boycott of the 2017 conference. A PowerPoint was shared with the attendees at the meeting, which would be made available to the membership post conference. The highlights were:
 - The AGLSP signed a contract in January 2016 which is binding and has financial costs associated with canceling. There was no hint that this law was on the books for North Carolina prior to signing the contract.
 - Many states have banned travel to North Carolina which will force some institutional members to opt out due to non-reimbursement of travel and attendance costs.
 - The suggestions of moving the conference and/or finding a new host were discussed.
 - The 2016 election is a factor and the board will revisit the issue post-election and keep the membership informed.
- Debbie reported that a query was sent to the AGLSP discussion listserv on September 7, 2016 to gauge the interest of an annual survey to collect data that would be helpful to the membership. The last survey was completed in 2012. The overall response was to solicit the survey annually and the data collection include:

Benchmark Data
Recruitment
Program Size
Marketing and Advertising Strategies

- The AGLSP website is out of date. The last redesign was in 2008 and no further updates have been made. A query was sent to the AGLSP Discussion listserv on August 2, 2016 regarding the AGLSP Website yielded no response. It was determined that the timing of the email was off and the board should revisit the query. The board generated the following suggestions for the AGLSP website redesign:
 - Better functionality;
 - Interactive functions: calendars and weekly updates;
 - Students Resource Page to include: grant funding options, student research, post-graduation employment.

4. Committee Reports

- Membership Committee, Christopher Pastore
Chris reported as of October, 14, 2016 the total membership stood at 194 members:
 - 86 Institutional Members paid to date with two unpaid memberships. The University of Denver dropped membership for 2016
 - 9 Individual members – Two new Individual Members for 2016
 - 99 student members – Twenty-three new Student/Alumni members and forty-six Honor Society members inducted for 2016
- Membership Outlook:
 - Four institutional were likely to drop in 2016 due to program closings.
- GLS Student Honor Society, Rebecca Sharp Sanchez
Rebecca reported the National Honor Society was approved at the 2015 Business Meeting, and praised Michele Mrak (Southern Methodist University) for her vision and leadership in the development and implementation of the society. To date, five institutional chapters have been formed and forty-six students have been inducted for 2016.
- Awards Committee, Martin Anderson
 - Martin reported that John W. Freeman was the Annual Faculty Award recipient for 2016. For 2017 and onward, nominees not selected from the previous year's pool may be re-nominated by a letter from the director to the AGLSP office by the deadline, March 31st, using the previously submitted nominating materials. Nominations are now open for 2017.

5. Treasurer's Report – Michael Garval

Mike reviewed the association's financials, noting that the AGLSP is in good financial shape, having closely managed expenses. The Association had a net gain for 2015 and was expecting the same for 2016. A balanced budget for 2017 was presented. The motion was made to approve the 2017 budget and was approved.

6. 2017 Annual Conference – Michael Garval

- Michael Garval announced that the 2017 annual conference would be in Raleigh, North Carolina, October 19-21, 2017 hosted by North Carolina State University. The theme is *Practice and Theory*. Due to the current political climate in North Carolina, any decisions regarding the conference would be addressed with the membership immediately.

7. Confluence – Steven Burr

- Steven Burr reported that the 2016 fall issue was published on-line October 12, 2016, coinciding with the roll-out of the newly redesigned *Confluence* website. The journal received forty-four submissions and fourteen were accepted – 32% acceptance rate.
- The journal has twenty-nine Institutional sponsorships for 2016 to date; a 71% increase over 2015.
- The journal will now publish two issues per year – spring and fall, and allow for rolling submissions and ongoing publishing opportunities– no deadlines.
- Print copies can be purchased on demand, on the *Confluence* website for \$6.50 per copy.

8. Board Nominations – Martha Banz

- Martha acknowledged and thanked outgoing Board members Martin Anderson and Michele Mrak. Martha announced the slate for the 2017 Board of Directors:
- Michael Garval – Vice President
- Christopher Pastore – Treasurer
- Mille Kidd – Member at Large
- Larry Knopp – Member at Large (replacing John Logie’s early departure in Spring 2016)
- Jill LeRoy Frazier – Member at Large
- Jerry Van Hoy – Member at Large.
- A motion to approve the slate was approved.
- Martha thanked Deborah Finkel for her service as president since 2014 and presented her with a plaque.

9. New Business – Deborah Finkel

- Debbie thanked the board and the Association for the gift.
- Debbie motioned for vote on the changes to the AGLSP Constitution and Mission Statement to better reflect the scope of programs offered by our member institutions. The motion was approved.
- Debbie thanked Martha Banz and her team for hosting a great conference and reminded all to complete the post-Conference survey they would receive via email from the AGLSP national office.

Debbie Finkel adjourned the meeting at 10:00 am.

Respectively submitted,

Marialana Weitzel
Administrative Manager
October 26, 2016