



Association of Graduate Liberal Studies Programs  
A Forum for Interdisciplinary Inquiry

## **ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING (held in Zoom)**

**October 12, 2020**

**3pm EDT**

### **MINUTES**

Michael Garval (North Carolina State University), AGLSP President, called the meeting to order at 3pm EDT.

Board members present were: Christopher Pastore (University of Pennsylvania), AGLSP Vice-President, Rebecca Sharp (Rice University), AGLSP Treasurer, Jennifer Coleman (New Mexico State University), Tom Cook (Rollins College), Amy Danzer (Northwestern University), Tara Kee (University of Delaware), William Nericcio (San Diego State University), Steven Burr (*Confluence* editor)

Also in attendance were: Michelle Bennett (Stanford University), April Strader Bullin (Wake Forest University), Colin Chapell (University of Memphis), Laura DeSisto (Johns Hopkins University), Kate Montgomery (Southern Methodist University), Anne Mitchell Whisnant (Duke University), and Kim Raptis, AGLSP administrative manager.

- The agenda was approved with the addition of the *Confluence* report. Motion Colin Chapell, second, Rebecca Sharp. Motion carried.
- The 2019 Annual Business Meeting Minutes were presented and approved. Motion, Christopher Pastore, second, Colin Chapell. Motion carried.
- President's Report – Michael Garval  
Mike began by saying how honored he has been serving as the AGLSP President and previously as the Vice-President and as a board member. The last couple of years have been challenging. After some uncertainty with the national office, we were able to relocate it to Rice University. We changed the model of hosting the national conference to an association organized conference. We were looking forward to taking that model to San Antonio, but after COVID hit we had to rethink how to organize the conference. We held the conference virtually for the first time in the association's history. Mike praised Steve for the extraordinary work he has done with *Confluence*.
- Treasurer's Report – Rebecca Sharp  
Rebecca reviewed the budget for 2020. Revenue for 2020 is considerably less than expected because of the reduced cost of the virtual conference. We were pleased with the number of registrants for the virtual conference. Revenue is significantly lower from membership. Some of that can be expected because of COVID. The good news for holding the conference virtually was there were no expenses. The 2021 budget was presented. Rebecca shared that we have made an effort to keep expenses as low as possible. Propose purchasing our own A/V equipment to

save a considerable expense at the conference each year. Chris discussed that we can continue to have success with *Confluence* and conference sponsorships. Have members ask their marketing departments to encourage this support. Tara mentioned that her program's promotional budget has been eliminated. Kate mentioned that the energy was good at the virtual conference. We might consider a one-day event during the year for another presentation opportunity for students. Chris mentioned alternating having a live conference with a virtual conference to help with expenses. Rebecca agreed that is something we should consider. Chris mentioned having regular director events virtually. Chris also asked about using the Google site for the association website. Rebecca said there is some limited functionality with the Google sites. Steve shared that he is pleased with Squarespace for both the association and journal websites.

There was discussion about hybrid conferences that can expand accessibility. Colin asked if there has been consideration of asking undergraduate programs if they would want to participate.

Motion to accept 2021 budget, Colin Chapell, second, Linda Paulson. Motion carried.

- Committee Reports

- Membership Committee – William Nericcio

- Bill reported that the good news is that 45 institutional members have paid their dues. The bad news is that 26% have not paid their dues for 2020. There are 126 total dues paying members for a total of \$21,090. There is one new institutional member, Indiana University Northwest. We lost two member programs due to closing, University of North Carolina Wilmington and Loyola University. Bill shared that he has been hesitant to chase down funds with these difficult economic times. Mike mentioned that we can keep trying to find more members. Laura mentioned that her program asks for specifics of how AGLSP membership and sponsorship help recruit students. Some quantitative data could help with that. Tara offered that she compiled a list of potential new members. Chris encouraged members to have a chapter of the Honor Society and to nominate their students which helps generate revenue.

- Student Honor Society - Kim Raptis

- Membership in the Honor Society is free to members and it is easy to apply. There are currently 24 chapters of the Honor Society. This year 53 students were nominated, and 28 accepted. 14 of those chose the new lifetime membership option.

- *Confluence* Report - Steven Burr

- Steve reported the fall issue is complete and available online. Submissions were down initially because of COVID, but he already has 9 or 10 submissions for the Spring 2021 issue. We have received \$10,500 in *Confluence* sponsorships. There is a new patron sending \$100 a month. Steve said that he is pleased to be able to make money and give back to the association. Steve made a plea to get more nominations for the writing awards. Tara asked how other programs solicit the nominations from their faculty for the writing awards. Kim said that we could use more nominations for the Annual Faculty Award as well.

- 2021 Conference - San Diego, CA

The conference will be held October 14-16 at the Springhill Suites Hotel. The proposed theme is Visions at the Verge: GLS on/in/from the Border.

We were able to re-negotiate the 2020 contract with the Hotel Contessa to 2022. The University of Memphis has expressed an interest in hosting the conference in 2023. Tom asked if the videos from this year's conference will be posted. Rebecca shared that they are currently linked on the conference website and we will have the Zoom recordings added soon.

- Board of Director Nominations – Michael Garval

Chris is moving from Vice-President to President, current board member Tara Kee is nominated to serve as the new Vice-President, Rebecca has agreed to stay as Treasurer for another term. Colin Chapell is nominated to serve on the board for the rest of Tara's term. Motion to accept, Tom Cook, Second, Bill Nericcio. All nominations accepted. Chris thanked Mike for all of his years of service to the AGLSP.

- New Business- None

Meeting adjourned at 4:18pm EDT

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Raptis  
October 12, 2020