

PISC Chicago meeting March 25, 2016

In attendance: Matt Lammers, Patrick Fontane, Maria De Latore, Veronica Medina, Ehren Stover-Wright.

Bring meeting to order.

A message was read on behalf of Dr. Phyllis Baker, RE: 2017 meetings. The purpose of the message was to introduce the committee to the theme of the upcoming meeting, suggest that the submission process for the 2016 joint meetings would most likely be used for the 2017 meeting, and to request volunteers for session organizers.

Committee business:

The board may be adding to the committee description so to bring the committee more inline with both the strategic and long-range plans. There is concern among committee members that the original intent of the committee will be lost. The hope is that the committee can function as a portal for addressing, or bringing to the attention of the board, professional academic and ethical issues of society members.

The committee continues working to increase a diversity of voices of professionals, and soon to be professionals, in the society. Inline with the strategic plan on utility and vitality, the committee should consider offering sessions that address issues of interest to those professionals. Committee members are hesitant to suggest that such sessions, or documents stemming from such sessions, be considered best practices for all institutions or situations. The committee chairman will reestablish connections with the ASA to review strategies used by that organization.

With regard to increasing the presence of PISC within the society, it was agreed that the committee have a table during social hours at future meetings. Sponsoring, and co-sponsoring, more panel or paper session is also a step toward this goal. The committee chairman charged committee members with thinking about session ideas in areas that would help with the utility and vitality mission. While sessions on IRB, ethics in the classroom, and ethics in the discipline continue to be valuable, it is important to expand to areas and issues facing applied sociologists, those dealing in policy fields, those working with non-profit organizations, to name but a few.

As part of increasing the visibility of the committee, some members suggested creating a certificate program or aligning with existing certificate programs. The chairman said he would bring this up at the long-range planning luncheon.

There was some question as to status of the adjunct travel grant. The committee was part of the selection process for the 2015 meetings but heard nothing regarding participation for the 2016 meetings.

The chairman did indicate that he would be connecting with the long-range planning liaison over the summer so to discuss the progress of the committee in taking steps toward the above outlined goals.

Respectfully submitted by committee chairman, Matt Lammers