

## **Midwest Sociological Society Student Issues Committee Meeting Minutes and Report**

The Student Issues Committee met in Chicago at the MSS/NCSA annual meeting on Friday, March 25, 8:30-10:00.

### **Committee Members (in attendance):**

Crystal Miller  
Daniel Alvord  
Dawn Norris  
Zach Rubin  
Neil Quisenberry  
Rosalee Dallman  
Ryan Ceresola  
Derek Lehman  
Kevin Martin  
Matt Reid  
Erin Hoekstra (Student Issues Committee Chair, Student Director)  
Jessica Hausauer (In-coming Chair, Student Director)  
Meggan Lee (Incoming Student Director)  
Lauren Tiffany (Ex-officio, MSS Executive Director)  
Deb White (President-Elect, Ex-Officio)  
Phyllis Baker (President-Elect-Elect)  
Diane Pike (Chair of Long Range Planning Committee)  
Jennifer Talarico (Incoming MSS Executive Director)

### **Committee Members (not in attendance):**

Jacob Absalon  
Evelyn Clark  
Veronica Ferreira  
Jackie Henke  
Lisa Kruse (sent apologies in advance)  
Pooya Naderi  
Ahoo Tabatabai  
Brett Zollinger

### **Introduction and Announcements:**

Phyllis Baker discussed the theme for the 2017 annual meeting on globalization and asked Student Issues Committee members to consider attending and being involved.

Diane Pike discussed the Long Range Planning Committee's upcoming process of revisiting and updating the MSS organizational/strategic plan. She passed out notecards to solicit feedback from the committee members. Information regarding the LRP planning in the fall of 2016 will be circulated for committee input. Part of this organizational planning will include changes to the current Student Director role. A potential new job description for the Student Director role will be circulated to the Student Issues Committee for comment before the fall board meeting.

Deb White thanked the committee members who had served as volunteer session organizers for the 2016 annual meeting. She asked for feedback on the new submission process piloted this year as well as the changes to undergraduate participation. Feedback from this discussion will be shared with the Program Committee tasked with planning the 2017 Milwaukee meeting.

## **Remit of the Student Issues Committee in MSS bylaws:**

“The Student Issues Committee shall develop and recommend policy to the board and monitor activities related to representation of the interests of student members of the Midwest Sociological Society.”

## **Committee work at the 2016 Meeting:**

The Student Issues Committee as well as the Program Committee organized and sponsored a number of activities at the 2016 annual meeting in order to promote student issues and support student members.

- 1) Student Suite – Again this year, we sponsored a Student Hospitality Suite for graduate and undergraduate student members who attend the meeting. Thanks to the Student Issues Committee members who helped the Student Directors staff the open hours. We had a nice suite on the 43<sup>rd</sup> floor that proved to be really popular this year with 136 students dropping in during the open hours. We held open hours before the sessions began each morning, during midday, and again in the evening.
- 2) Welcome reception table for students – At this year’s welcome reception, there was a table for students that was very popular and was an informal way for students to meet each other at the beginning of the meetings. The S.I.C. recommends that this format for the welcome reception be repeated again next year.
- 3) Student outing – Again this year, the S.I.C. hosted a social outing for students during the annual meeting. With around 30 students in attendance, students met at the Student Suite and then divided into groups to go out around town for dinner.
- 4) Student Issues Committee co-sponsored sessions – With the new session submission format, the S.I.C. co-sponsored student-related sessions, with at least one co-sponsored session per session time.
- 5) Student Travel Grants – The S.I.C. oversaw the award of travel grants of \$100 to 150 MSS student members and conference attendees.
- 6) First Generation Students and Faculty Events – A board initiative introduced a number of events supporting First Generation College Students. There was a film screening with a good attendance as well as a booth in the Commons and Exhibits where First Gens could make a short film about their experiences. The S.I.C. discussed these events and agreed that they were important for student members.
- 7) My First MSS and First Gen stickers – MSS had stickers for first-time conference attendees (many who are students) as well as First Gens. The S.I.C. agreed that these stickers were relevant to and supportive of student members.
- 8) The meeting app – This year, we tried out a new meeting app that could be downloaded on attendees smart phones. The Committee agreed that this was a positive step forward for MSS and would support the use of a meeting app in the future.

## **Committee work for the 2017 Meeting:**

The S.I.C. recommends that we continue to organize, facilitate, and support the events and initiatives from this 2016 meeting (as discussed above). Additional events or issues that we would like to consider/raise to the MSS board to consider for the next meeting include:

- 1) Organizing closed sessions – In addition to co-sponsoring sessions that relate to student issues, the S.I.C. plan to organize a number of closed sessions relevant to students on the themes of graduate student issues (particularly navigating the job market), adjuncting or first-time teachers, and applied sociology.
- 2) Revisit the certificate program – MSS has put the certificate programs on hold but has previously offered a number of certificates that are of relevance to students, including the Preparing Future Faculty certificate. The S.I.C. encourages the MSS Board to revisit the certificates at the fall board meeting in the hopes that they will offer some certificates at the 2017 meeting.
- 3) Social media – The S.I.C. is considering starting a Facebook page for students. We also support the MSS board expanding its social media presence.

## **Budget Request for the upcoming year:**

The S.I.C. will again request \$300 to support the Student Suite at the upcoming 2017 conference.

### **Nominations for new members:**

The S.I.C. would like to thank the following committee members whose terms are ending this year:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Term expires</b>
Daniel Alvord	Member	2016
Evelyn Clark	Member	2016
Rosalee Dallman	Member	2016
Kevin Martin	Member	2016
Pooya Naderi	Member	2016
Ahoo Tabatabai	Member	2016
Brett Zollinger	Member	2016

The Committee requests nominations for additional members who are interested in student-related issues and are active in MSS. Please send nominations to Erin Hoekstra at [hoek0057@umn.edu](mailto:hoek0057@umn.edu) or Jessica Hausauer at [jessica.hausauer@mnstate.edu](mailto:jessica.hausauer@mnstate.edu).

Finally, the Student Issues Committee would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Lauren Tiffany, MSS Executive Director, who is retiring this year after working for MSS for over a decade. She has provided tireless support and guidance to many Student Directors during her tenure, and she has been a great advocate for students. Lauren, you will be greatly missed! We also welcome the new Executive Director, Jennifer Talarico, and look forward to working with her in the coming year.