

2018 MSS – Minority Scholars Committee Report

Friday, March 23, 2018

Minneapolis, MN

Regina Dixon-Reeves, Presiding

Attendees:

Regina Dixon-Reeves, University of Chicago (2017)

Members:

Jennifer Andersen, University of Nebraska Lincoln (2020)

Veronica Newton, University of Missouri Columbia (2020)

Ted Thornhill, Florida Gulf Coast University (2020)

Paul Croll, Augustana College

Lisa Covington, University of Iowa

Temple Smith, Hope College

3 committee members pending Board approval

Paul Croll, Augustana College

Derrick Brooms, University of Cincinnati

Lisa Covington, University of Iowa

Temple Smith, Hope College

Regina Dixon-Reeves, University of Chicago

The MSC enthusiastically nominates 4 new members for membership – Paul Croll, Augustana College, Derrick Brooms, University of Cincinnati, Lisa Covington, University of Iowa, and Temple Smith, Hope College. We are grateful for the service and support of Erika Busse-Cardenas and Angela Nelson who will be rotating off the committee this year. We are continuing our efforts to diversify the membership of the MSC committee and will continue to reach out to Native American and Asian American MSS members to join the committee this year. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Minority Scholars Committee, please contact Ted Thornhill at tthornhill@fgcu.edu or request nomination to the MSC committee through the MSS Executive Office at mwsocsoc@centurylink.net. If you request nomination by August 31, 2018, the board will review your request at the upcoming MSS Fall Board Meeting and you will receive notification by the end of the calendar year.

Please read: [Midwest Sociological Society Strategic Plan](#)

During our committee meeting, Friday, March 23, 2018, the MSC committee debriefed the 2018 annual meeting and discussed the best ways to support the long-range goals of the Midwest Sociological Society and the Minority Scholars Committee. The following goals were agreed upon:

1. Propose a robust schedule of professional development and Race, Ethnicity and Inequality sessions for the 2019 annual meeting (Strategic Direction #5)
2. Actively recruit ethnically diverse faculty, undergraduate, and graduate students to join MSS and attend the annual meeting (Strategic Direction #1)
3. Increase the scholarship around issues of race, ethnicity and inequality by proposing a Certificate in Race, Ethnicity and Inequality (Strategic Direction #5)
4. Offer a networking reception for ethnically diverse faculty, students, and allies at an off-site venue at the annual meeting (Strategic Direction #1)
5. Compile a membership directory of self-identified persons of color in the Midwest Sociological Society (Strategic Direction #1)

The following decisions were made by consensus during the meeting:

1. The ideal committee size would be 10-12 people; we need to actively identify ethnically diverse graduate students and faculty of color and invite them to participate on this committee. We need to inquire about the level of commitment of committee members who have been appointed, but never participated in these meetings.
2. Suggest to the MSS leadership that chairs of the Minority Scholars Committee be allowed to serve up to 3-years – this will allow chairs time to achieve some of the committee’s goals rather than rotating off on a yearly basis. Suggest that chairs be appointed for 1 year and then a reappointment of an additional 2 years.
3. Dr. Ted Thornhill has been identified as the incoming MSC President for 2019. Dr. Regina Dixon-Reeves has served as President 2014-2017. Regina Dixon-Reeves is requesting to remain on the committee for another term.
4. Continue to offer the Certificate in Race, Ethnicity and Inequality each year. 2018 was the first time the certificate was offered and 3 people completed the certificate program. Very few people knew there was a new certificate program. We would like to advertise the certificate in the program book and on the app next year.
5. We need to have our Certificate program and Off-site Social event advertised in the program book so that scholars of color and their allies will see them and plan to participate. We need more visibility within MSS – we suggest the following:
 - a. MSC should have its own page on the MSS App
 - b. We should provide Matt Read, media editor with content (articles, books, blog post links, etc.) that will increase the visibility of the scholarship of people of color – include news about the scholarship and announcements of MSS people of color
 - c. Temple Smith to serve as the media specialist for MSC
6. Certificate Review Committee of 4-5 people needs to be identified each year by the chair. Regina Dixon-Reeves, Derrick Brooms, Veronica Newton and Lisa Covington have volunteered to serve on the committee for 2019.

7. Certificates will be sent to completers of the certificate program before the end of the month of their submission. Suggestion that we make the certificate digital to streamline process.
8. Committee suggests changing the name of this committee to one that is more radical and empowering. Suggestions appear below:
 - a. Cooper and Dubois Scholars Committee (doesn't reflect the diversity we want on the committee)
 - b. Minoritized Scholars Committee (allow us to keep same initials)
 - c. Scholars for Racial Justice
 - d. Committee for Race Justice
 - e. Anti-racist scholars
 - f. Race Scholars for Race Committee
9. The suggestion was made that the committee take on a more vocal role within MSS – louder and more unconventional and critical of issues that we see.
10. Dr. Temple Smith will serve as the Media/technology specialist for the MSC and interface with Jennifer about the directory and Matt about the MSS app and inclusion of information about MSC members' work for the MSS website
11. MSC Chair to pay \$8 every year for domain name and website (RDR paid 2018)
 - a. Temple Smith to create
12. Directory of Minority Scholars
 - a. Can we get an excel listing of self-identified people of color from Jennifer?
 - b. Do we need to have an "opt in" for inclusion for the MSS membership to be included in the directory?
 - c. Temple Smith to work with Jennifer to develop the directory
13. Committee did not offer the 3 signature sessions this year. Proposing that we:
 - a. Consider offering the sessions every other year – next offering in 2019
 - b. Revise the session titles, for example - (NEW) Critical Analysis of Race, Teaching and Learning while _____
 - c. Offer new sessions such as Race Scholars Speak Out! – workshop with 3-4 people who share their experiences within their programs
 - d. Session that highlights/features new race books, scholarship and race discourses
 - e. Propose special themes each year, e.g. 2019 -- Women of Color in the Academy
14. Request a table at the Ice Cream Social and ask to be one of the speakers at the ice cream social – speaker would announce name change and invite scholars of color and allies to the off-site reception
 - a. play music at the table to attract scholars of color
 - b. plan an off-site reception for Chicago 2019 meeting
 - i. RDR willing to contact local places for off-site reception
 1. M-Lounge – 1520 S. Wabash
 2. Bureau Bar – 75 E. 16th St.
 - c. Need a poster announcing the committee's new name

- d. MSC needs to request money - \$150 - \$300 to support the networking social
- 15. MSC committee needs to request funding to support grad student participation at the meeting
- 16. For discussion and as an action item during next meeting – MSC to draft a position statement that we send to the Long Planning Committee.
- 17. We should be using Google Docs, Meetings and other technologies to communicate with each other during the year