

Publications Committee Report, MSS 2017, Milwaukee Wisconsin

Present: Kevin Leicht (interim Chair, 2017, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign)

Carrie Coward Bucher, Baker University

Brian Donovan, University of Kansas

Michael Lorr, Aquinas College

Gina Petonito, Miami University of Ohio

Ex-Officio: Michael Haedicke, Drake University

Michael Lacy, Colorado State University (TSQ editor)

N Prabha Unnithan, Colorado State University (TSQ editor)

Tom Conley, Routledge (TSQ's publisher)

Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2:45-4:15 PM, Wright B, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

- 1) The meeting began with a report from the TSQ editors. The submission stream is strong and the issues are coming together. At this point the statistics look good. Committee members asked questions about the number of desk rejected papers relative to the number of submissions and had a long discussion about this topic. The discussion suggested that papers were being submitted that were not ready for review and that many submissions were too narrow.

The editors also have some plans for special issue sections of future issues, including one on Trump and another on Brexit.

The overall discussion led to the suggestion that future MSS meeting publication-related sessions focus on how to construct good papers that are appealing to general audiences.

- 2) Tom Conley then spoke about Routledge's plans for TSQ. He said they were very pleased so far and recommended that the association/TSQ consider putting together "virtual" special issues of current and prior articles around particular topics. These could be marketed to readers on the Routledge website, increase citation counts, and be of pedagogical use in classes.

Tom also suggested that the website needed more traffic to surpass Wiley's website as the location for TSQ. This won't happen via search engines until the Routledge site is "clicked on" numerous times.

Tom also expressed willingness to work with the new media representative at TSQ to publicize and highlight important work that is in TSQ. We discussed the ins-and-outs of engaging in a video production featuring different TSQ authors. Most universities would be willing to do this in concert with their authors to publish their work. The costs otherwise are probably too high for the association to assemble and pay.

- 3) The TSQ paper award. Kevin Leicht mentioned, and the committee discussed the need, for revamping the TSQ paper award. Kevin suggested and the committee discussed, returning to a format where members of the publications committee would (eventually) read every paper from two volumes of TSQ to select a "best paper" for the association. There were concerns expressed about the amount of work this would take, but we discussed ways to break up the work into groups, come forward with a few recommendations, and then have everyone read the last four of five finalists to make a choice.

If the board wishes to continue the award this is the way we will move forward.

- 4) We then engaged in a discussion of whether TSQ favors particular types of work. While no consensus was reached on this issue, the committee recommends that the TSQ editors produce a brief table/report for the board that counts submissions by method and general substantive area (no more than a handful of areas are necessary). This will allow readers to compare published works to submissions to gauge what types of work are being submitted, accepted and published.
- 5) We then had a discussion about the general status of Peter Hall as a co-editor for TSQ.
- 6) We concluded with a discussion of replacements for our three members that are rotating off of the committee (Leicht as chair, Petonito from Miami-Ohio, and Pamela Queroz from U. of Chicago).

Brian Donovan agreed to replace Leicht as Chair of Publications. The committee suggests that the executive office issue a general e-mail call for nominations for the other two slots. Applicants should briefly describe why they want to be on the publications committee and should submit an updated CV. The goal would be to have new members to recommend to the board by the fall board meeting.

The meeting adjourned around 4 pm.