

**Midwest Sociological Society
2010 Annual Business Meeting
Saturday, April 3, 2010
10:00 – 10:45 AM
Chicago Marriott—Miracle Mile**

1. Call to order and President's Report

President Diane Pike called the 2010 Annual Business Meeting to order at 9:52. She described the two functions of the Business Meeting 1) to make the membership aware of the health of the association and 2) to provide an opportunity for members to bring forward items of interest.

2. Approval of 2009 Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Diane Pike asked for a motion for the approval of the minutes from the last business meeting—April 5, 2009. Scott Magnuson-Martinson moved their approval. Anne Eisenberg seconded. They were approved unanimously.

3. Treasurer's Report

Bob Wazienski reported that the finances of the society are in good shape. Six months into the fiscal year, our expenses and revenues are relatively normal. Although MSS has not completely recovered from the market decline in the past, much progress has been made in recovering losses. He also thanked persons who had contributed to the capital campaign.

4. Finance Committee Report

Tom Gerschick began his report by thanking Bob Wazienski for his contributions in bringing greater professionalism to the way that MSS investments are handled. Tom also mentioned that the committee had followed the Board's charge to search for a new firm to advise MSS about our investments. The committee received proposals from five firms, interviewing three intensively. The committee selected TrustPoint—located in La Crosse Wisconsin. It manages accounts with assets of \$1.6 billion, including the assets of 93 non-profits.

Tom said that a potential future challenge comes from the uncertainty facing the publishing industry. Currently, MSS has a five year contract with Wiley-Blackwell that gives MSS revenue exceeding \$100,000 per year for the publication of *The Sociological Quarterly*. However, given the turbulence in the publishing industry, we cannot count on this income source in the future. Given the dependence of MSS on this money for its operation, the Board will need to address how it would replace this revenue if it were to be lost.

5. Annual Meeting Report

Peter Kivisto said that he thought the annual meeting had gone well. Sessions were lively and productive. As in the past, Deb White will send an electronic post-meeting survey to all attendees.

He mentioned that voluntary associations are dependent on the willingness of persons to serve. He singled out the work of Ruth Simmons and Chad McPherson for all their work and thanked them. He also said how enjoyable it had been to work with Deb Swanson, his NCSA counterpart. In response to a question, he said registration was a little over 1300.

6. Past President's Report

None was given.

The floor was opened for comments/questions. They included:

1. MSS needs to look for ways to become more inclusive in terms of committee membership. Persons who volunteer are often not chosen. In the future, there will be information on the website asking for interest to serve on committees.
2. There is a need for session organizers to inform participants in a timely manner that a paper has been accepted. Peter Kivisto mentioned that the change to on-line submission may be partly responsible. Even with on-line submissions, organizers have a responsibility to communicate with participants.
3. A member raised the concern with the problems of presenters not having papers in paper sessions or not showing at all. Peter Kivisto commented that the failure to have papers completed in a timely manner also makes it difficult to have discussants. There is a need to hold persons accountable if they act unprofessionally. This also includes those who fail to register. One solution would be to require a payment with the submission of an abstract. When the person registered, the payment would be deducted from the registration fee. There might also be a benefit to increasing registration fees.
4. A member mentioned that he liked having the award ceremonies occur at different times.
5. A member raised a concern about the small number of publishers who had booths. Only five were at the meetings. One reason is that there are fewer publishers due to mergers.
6. A member suggested that we ask hotels to recycle paper and plastic at our meetings.

Diane Pike transferred the gavel to Peter Kivisto, symbolizing the change in the Presidency.

Peter Kivisto thanked those in attendance for coming.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25.