

**Midwest Sociological Society  
2011 Annual Business Meeting  
St Louis  
9:45 – 10:30 AM**

**1. Call to order and President's Report**

President Peter Kivisto called the 2011 Annual Business Meeting to order at 9:47. He recognized those going off the Board and gave special thanks to Past-President Diane Pike for the innovations she introduced regarding the planning and organization of the annual conference.

President Kivisto recognized Monica Snowden outgoing chair of the Professional Issues and Standards Committee. One of the committee's charges relates to ethics. Currently the Midwest Sociological Society (MSS) uses the code of ethics developed by the American Sociological Association. Two concerns were raised. The first is whether the membership of MSS is aware of the code and supports it. She suggested that we need to engage members more about this issue. One suggestion was to make sure that new members received a copy of the code. The second concern is whether their committee is really prepared to enforce the code or deal with accusations of unethical behavior. There may also be a benefit in reviewing the committee's charge as stipulated in the MSS Bylaws—perhaps giving it a more proactive role. The committee is seeking guidance especially since it does not have the authority to change the Bylaws.

There was a brief discussion covering the following points:

- The Bylaws will be revised in the next 12 to 18 months so that will provide an opportunity for such changes.
- The Bylaws state that grievances be given to the “executive officer.” It is not clear whether this is the President or Executive Director.
- A suggestion that the code be sent out with renewals of membership.
- MSS ought to formally adopt the ASA Code and make it our own,
- We should create an Ombudsperson position,

Peter Kivisto suggested that the committee bring a concrete proposal to the Board for its consideration.

**2. Approval of 2010 Annual Business Meeting Minutes**

Secretary Peter Parilla asked the chair to request a motion for the approval of the minutes from the last business meeting—April 5, 2009. President Kivisto did so, Lauren Langman moved approval. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

**3. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Bob Wazienski reminded the members that MSS has changed the company it works with on investments to TrustPoint. Since the change, our investments have done much better. MSS is in good financial shape. There is a need to increase assets to prepare for future uncertainties.

#### **4. Finance Committee Report**

Finance Committee Chair Tom Gerschick thanked Bob Wazienski for his stewardship and for bringing greater organization to how we handle finances. He mentioned that 61% of MSS revenue comes from the journal, *The Sociological Quarterly*. The committee would like to reduce our dependency to 40% because changes in the publishing industry may reduce journal revenue. Our contract with the publisher ends in four year. He also said that the committee has asked the Board review MSS expenditures. The committee also recommends doing zero-based budgeting and holding persons to their budgeted amounts. The committee is nominating Tim Pippert as Treasurer-elect and are looking for two new members.

#### **5. Annual Meeting Report**

President-elect and Program Chair Mary Zimmerman reported that the conference had gone well. The conference organizers upgraded the software used to make submissions for the conference. They also acted upon members' evaluations of last year's meeting evaluation and sought to lessen the number of no-shows and unregistered attendees. She said that more still needs to be done on those issues. Next year is the society's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and planning is underway to celebrate it. She thanked Pooya Naderi and Kerry Wendel-Hummell for their help in organizing the conference.

One member asked if it was possible to set up the submission software to indicate if a session has multiple sponsors. The answer was yes.

President Kivisto expressed appreciation to Mary Zimmerman for her excellent work.

#### **6. Past President's Report**

Past-President Diane Pike mentioned that she had organized an orientation session for new Board Members and will conduct an evaluation of it. She expressed her thanks for the privilege of serving as MSS President.

There was a brief conversation about the lack of attendance by members at the Business meeting. Several suggestions were made to bolster future attendance.

- Indicate on the agenda that member input is sought—maybe place it first.
- Publish the agenda in the program
- Give out awards at the meeting
- Change the name to “stakeholders meeting”

President Kivisto handed over the gavel to President-elect Zimmerman symbolizing her becoming President. Mary thanked Peter for his service as President. Peter mentioned that it had been a pleasure serving the society as President and looked forward to further service in the future.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30.

Submitted by Peter Parilla, Secretary