

PISC minutes; Milwaukee, Wisconsin
March 31, 2017

Bring the meeting to order.

The chair informed those in attendance of the success of the committee table at the Welcome/Social Hour event. There was some interest in the function of the committee and there were a few who indicated a desire to join the committee.

Committee business:

The major concern at this meeting was to ensure that PISC plays a greater role at the conference and works to help with the strategic plan of MSS. While members of the committee organized sessions and presented their work at the conference, there were no sponsored sessions by the committee that would deal specifically with professional issues faced by those in the discipline. Those in attendance discussed the possibility of emphasizing panels and workshops that address the changes throughout the academy that have an impact on professionalism. It was felt that panels and workshops provide an open space for individuals to voice their concerns and share ideas with all those in attendance. Members were encouraged to pursue this for next year.

While PISC has not been assigned a specific role in the strategic plan those in attendance felt that the committee may be able to assist with increasing membership. In this regard, the committee discussed the possibility of developing a certificate for upcoming meetings. A copy of a certificate offered at the current meetings was shown to the committee so that they would have an idea of what is expected with following this path. Some committee members asked how many graduate students attend the meetings as a certificate may be of interest to many of them. The committee again questioned how we could include more offerings that would attract members not affiliated with four-year institutions. This group would include those at two-year institutions, adjuncts, independent/public scholars, and applied sociologists. The committee was charged with developing strategies that would attract individuals from these populations; it was suggested contacting other organizations such as the Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology.

Once again, questions were raised as to the new submission process. Some in the committee feel that the portal tends to limit the role of the organizer in the process and there is fear that some papers may not be accepted if they do not fit a specific category. A committee member suggested that PISC could sponsor a session(s) for orphan papers that may not fit particular sessions.

With regard to concerns over the description of the committee, the chair informed the committee that the responsibility of editing the mission statement PISC falls to them. The chair will send sample changes to all members after the academic semester comes to an end. All members are encouraged to take a role in shaping goals of the committee

The chair indicated that his term will end the coming year and that someone must assume the responsibility of leading the committee. Veronica Medina indicated that she will request that she be allowed a second term with the committee and that she would be happy to lead as chair for the allotted time. All members present were in agreement with her becoming chair.

Respectfully submitted by committee chair, Matt Lammers