



## **Minutes of Mid-South Educational Research Association**

### **2011 Board of Directors Meeting**

**Oxford Mississippi**

**November 1, 2011**

**Inn at Ole Miss**

**Call to order:** A Board of Directors organizational business meeting of the Mid-South Educational Research Association was held in Oxford, Mississippi, on November 1, 2011. The meeting convened at 2 p.m. on the 1st of November. President Eddie Shaw presiding.

**Present:** Edward Shaw, Julie Holmes, Kathleen York, Linda Kondrick, Cliff Hofwolt, Charles Notar, Randy Parker, Harry Bowman, Michelle Haj-Broussard, Robert Fox, Sarah Backwell, Rose Jones, Dianne Richardson, Rob Kennedy, Pamela Broadston, Shannon Chiasson, David Morse, Kathleen Campbell, Ronald Skidmore, David Bell, Rebecca Robichaux, Vince Thompson, Ann Monroe, Carolyn Williams, Kaye Pepper, Jane Nell Luster, Ava Pugh

#### **Officers' reports:**

President Eddie Shaw welcomed everyone to Ole Miss for the 40<sup>th</sup> Celebration of MSERA. Eddie passed out 40<sup>th</sup> Celebration pins and thanked Dean Richard Hayes at the University of South Alabama for the donation. Eddie acknowledged Walter Mathews for editing of the *Heritage Volume of the Mid-South Educational Research Association*. He requested the board members who worked on the Heritage Volume attend a discussion with the contributors on Wednesday from 4-5 PM. Eddie acknowledged his graduate student Joia Juzang, who created the Wikispaces site for MSERA postings. Board members introduced themselves. Eddie announced that Carolyn Williams, Robert Fox, and Sara Blackwell would be reporting out of order.

Carolyn Williams (\$40 4 40 Project Coordinator) passed out recognition T-shirts. She reported that collections to date for this initiative were close to \$3,000. In addition to T-Shirts, donors will receive ribbons for their badges as well as recognition in the Heritage Volume. She recommended MSERA consider similar ongoing annual fundraising in each year leading up to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary (i.e. 41st Year Club, 42nd Year Club and so on).

Robert Fox (Site Co-Coordinator) announced the local arrangements had been set and coordinated on an ongoing basis with input from appropriate persons from MSERA and Ole Miss. He discussed several points: 1) the Heritage Volume is to be distributed in the registration packets; 2) additional parking permits will be available at the registration table; 3) the 40th Anniversary reception hosted by Dean Rock and the School of Education will be held Wednesday night from 6-7 p.m. in Ballrooms A and B; 4) the President's reception will be held on Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6-7:30 p.m. in Ballrooms A and B; and, 5) the Friday afternoon tours of William Faulkner's home will be made available upon request at the registration desk for a fee of \$10. President Eddie Shaw acknowledged and offered special thanks to Dr. Robert Fox and Mr. Timothy Angle of the University of Mississippi for generously funding the printing of the Heritage volume.

Sarah Blackwell (Special Programs Co-coordinator) reported on the time capsule. The marker for the capsule reads "MSERA TIMECAPSULE: Celebrating 40 Years of Educational Research Excellence. November 2, 2011." The 40<sup>th</sup> time capsule burial will be held in the courtyard of Guitan Hall from 12 – 1 p.m. The capsule will be dug up in 10 years by either a delegation (video-taped and photographed), or at the 50th annual meeting (brought back to Ole Miss), depending on future executive board decision making.

Vice-President Julie Holmes welcomed everyone to Ole Miss and thanked them in advance for their support in the coming year. Julie Holmes announced the spring board meeting is scheduled for March 16-17 at the Griffin-Gate Marriott in Lexington, Kentucky.

Approval of the Minutes: Eddie called for approval of the minutes. No corrections or additions were made. Motion was made by Vince Thompson and seconded by Michelle Broussard to approve the minutes of the spring, February 2011, board meeting as published on the MSERA website. Motion carried. Secretary Kathleen York recorded the approval of the minutes.

Executive Director Cliff Hofwolt presented information from a 2010 audit completed after the spring board meeting. He briefly discussed the 2010 revenues and expenditures, and noted MSERA was behind budget in 2010. Cliff Hofwolt announced that a 2011 budget analysis will be discussed at the Spring board meeting. He noted that we are ahead of budget this year. Cliff underscored the importance of addressing the rising publication costs and postage associated with *The Researcher* and *Research in the Schools*.

Past President Linda Kondrick reported distributing the call for participation information to the various chairs. Linda Kondrick recognized committee members and singled out Kathleen Campbell for her extra and outstanding work on the nomination committee. A conscientious effort was made to have all six member states represented on the slate of candidates. Five of six states were represented. Linda Kondrick announced this year's slate of candidates for terms beginning 2012. She requested clarification regarding protocol for nominations from the floor at the upcoming annual meeting as one nomination was submitted past the deadline. Harry Bowman clarified that allowing nominations from the floor is required, citing Robert's Rules of Order which MSERA abides by.

### **Committee reports:**

Charles Notar (Chair of Development Committee) reported the committee sent 148 letters to deans and chairpersons. The state representatives helped with mailing and the corrections of addresses. Cliff Hofwolt referred members to the Development Report posted at the Wiki Spaces. He pointed out that last year MSERA collected approximately \$6,900 in funds. Currently this year, MSERA has collected nearly the same amount. These figures are down

from a couple of years ago. Charles asked state representatives to send him an email in April with the names of new deans along with their mail and email addresses. Cliff Hofwolt emphasized the importance of clarifying in the mailings that MSERA is seeking institutional membership and always collecting for following year in the mailings.

Randy Parker (Budget Advisory Committee) announced that MSERA is paying extra to have projectors, screens, and technology at this meeting, which is the exception. Ole Miss gave MSERA the in-house price for the use of the equipment this year. Harry Bowman explained this is the exception. He pointed out that outside vendors usually handle the electronic equipment. Randy cautioned that the expectations of members may be for the same set up at future meetings.

Harry Bowman (Constitution and By Laws Committee Co-Chair) reported no proposed revisions to the Constitution and By Laws.

Jane Nell Luster (Historian/Operations Review Committee Chair) asked for guidance from the board as to what is to be preserved. The minutes will be collected and preserved. She asked if the board wants to preserve reports. She also asked if the Board of Directors wants to have an evaluation form for the historian/operations review committee in the operations manual. Eddie Shaw suggested creating a job description for the historian before worrying about an evaluation. The heritage book has been produced. Lynn Howerton is establishing an historian's corner link. The information will be stored electronically, possibly on USBs or at the MSERA.org website. Jane Nell reported the need to further clarify the difference between the Harry Bowman Award and the Walt Matthews' Award. Jane Nell asked whether the Operations Review/Evaluation Committee is to be a standing committee or remain an Ad Hoc committee. Harry Bowman listed the benefits of having a standing committee to help work with current presidents to provide continuity during the transition periods from president to president. The Board of Directors decided to let the committee function as an Ad Hoc committee for one more year and to revisit the question at that point in time.

## 2011 CONFERENCE REPORTS

Michelle Haj-Broussard (2011 Program Chair) reported that approximately 300 proposals were submitted to MSERA for the 2011 annual meeting. Of the accepted proposals the breakdown was 11 training/symposia sessions, 15 40<sup>th</sup> or event sessions, 23 displays, 17 *Research in Progress* sessions, 2 mentor sessions, and 138 general discussion sessions for a total of 206 sessions. More than 206 sessions were accepted, but a few presenters pulled out because they could not attend. Eddie Shaw lauded the merits of the sessions and the versatility of the offerings.

Dianne Richardson (Co-Chair of Evaluation Committee) will conduct a survey to see what everyone thinks of the use of displays as a tool for tenure acceptance. Dianne said she posted (on Wikispaces) the evaluation report from the November 2010 annual meeting, which was first presented last spring at the board meeting. The report is a breakdown of the findings from evaluations. Diane said returned evaluations were not sufficient in number. She requested ideas for higher returns. Shared ideas included handing them out at the business meeting, tucking forms inside the *Researcher*, putting them on-line, and reminding members to complete the evaluations during the main sessions.

## MSERA AWARDS

Vice-President Julie Holmes reported that 2 professional papers and 7 dissertations were submitted for awards. The outstanding papers special session will be Friday morning at 10 a.m. and both awards will be announced at the business meeting on Thursday night. Julie thanked those who served on the committee as reviewers. Julie emphasized scoring rubrics need improvement, and announced that she is considering appointing a subcommittee to look into it. Julie suggested that in the future the outstanding paper be submitted in electronic format as PDF files (title page with names and affiliations separate to enable blind review).

## MSERA RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Lynn Howerton (Co-editor of the *Researcher*)

Eddie Shaw referred board members to the 2011 fall board report posted on Wikispaces. The cost of publishing and mailing *The Researcher* was discussed. The cost has been going up each year. Eddie Shaw recommended having a subcommittee look into going electronic with the publication at the spring board meeting and Rob Kennedy was put in charge of that committee. Cliff suggested considering mailing the fall issue Call for Papers --then after that, you have to be a current member to get issues. Julie Holmes shared her concern for the need to set standards for “official” looking electronic postings. Kathleen Campbell suggested PDF files. Eddie Shaw asked Rob Kennedy, chairperson of the committee, to oversee setting the organizations standards for electronic postings. After the meeting, the final proceedings will be published.

Tony Onwuegbuzie (*Research in the Schools*)

Eddie Shaw referred board members to the report posted on Wikispaces. *RITS* received 24 manuscripts through October 31st of this year. Six manuscripts are pending, 4 are received and accepted, 2 manuscripts are revise and accept and 12 are rejected. Of 30 submissions to the journal in 2010, 20 were outright rejected for a variety of legitimate reasons. The mixed-method issue of *RITS* is used in classes in South Alabama as a resource for graduate courses.

Rob Kennedy (Chair of Publications and Communications) reported that the organization will ease into on-line publication of *The Researcher* and *Research in the Schools*. He said the committee suggested including the general membership in the decision making. The evaluation committee may participate in the process or a general survey may be considered. Eddie Shaw suggested conducting an on-line survey and gradually moving to on-line publications, printing some issues as hard copies and others on-line. Privacy issues were discussed. Cliff suggested personal information about members, such as emails not be posted on-line. Harry Bowman suggested considering a separate/controlled database that has a user name and password to limit access to personal membership information. The cost of outsourcing management of such a database was discussed. Eddie Shaw announced that he and Vice President Julie Holmes will work together to name a chair and form a technological

committee to handle broader issues related to on-line initiatives and the use of technology at the conferences.

Shannon Chiasson (Co-Chair of Graduate Student Advisory Committee) reported the *Research in Progress* category had 22 proposals submitted. One of the proposals had co-authors. Two proposals were submitted by the same person. One author declined to accept the award. Shannon reported the requirements for the *Research in Progress* awards must be made clear to students. She suggested only **one** *Research in Progress* award be allowed per author over a lifetime, so that as many grad students as possible can experience a chance to present their work in progress at MSERA. It was decided that the co-chair and committee we will set clearer guidelines. The foundation will decide the number of awards and send out award letters in the future. Shannon brought books to pass out at grad sessions as free handouts.

Linda Morse (MSERA Mentors) Eddie Shaw referred to the report posted by Linda Morse. Linda's report stated that two informal mentor sessions were held in 2010, and two mentor sessions will be held in 2011 on November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. The questions in these sessions vary from specific statistical analyses questions to general questions on publishing research. Door prizes will be free books provided by departments at the Mississippi State.

David Morse (Archives and Website) reported all of the archived holdings, primarily presentation papers, are held at Mississippi State. Historically, Louisiana State University helped archive MSERA holdings, but their participation ended a few years back. David acknowledged the past librarian liaison who voluntarily helped him with the archives for many years. She has retired. In terms of MSERA holdings of paper publications, MSERA is in good shape. Harry Bowman will provide a copy of one missing issue. Still, some submissions each year are not in a professional paper format. This problem continues despite clear and published statements on the MSERA.org website regarding professional paper requirements. Lynn Howerton acknowledged the importance of the archives to *The Researcher*.

Harry Bowman (SRERA) reported the State and Regional Education Research Association

Consortium is now an affiliate organization of AERA. SRERA has entered into a written agreement with AERA to continue to provide four sessions for distinguished papers at their annual conference, including MSERA's outstanding paper award winner. Another direct benefit to MSERA is the opportunity for membership recruitment at the booth during the conference. Harry Bowman asked MSERA to donate \$200 again this year to help the Consortium underwrite the cost of \$900 for a business meeting room, reception, booth, tables and chairs at the AERA conference. Charles Notar motioned MSERA contribute \$200 and Kathy Campbell seconded the motion. The motion carried. Harry Bowman also brought 300 flyers, made especially for MSERA by ERIC, to encourage members to submit research papers electronically. He requested the flyers be placed at the registration desk for easy distribution to members. He noted ERIC accepts electronic submissions only.

### **MEMBERSHIP and DIRECTORS**

Kathleen Campbell and Jasna Vuk (Membership Committee Co-Chairs) Jasna reported that she sent emails to the superintendents of Catholic schools in Arkansas, Mississippi, and Alabama and received two responses. Jasna started sending emails to other school districts in Arkansas, but she did not get any responses. She also sent a letter to all MSERA members in different states asking each one to personally invite a person (friend or former member) to join. Kathleen reported she sent flyers to the superintendents of public and school districts in Louisiana, Kentucky, Mississippi and received some responses, especially from North Mississippi and the Gulf Coast. Kathleen reported she also sent to the superintendents of Catholic schools and Dioceses, and the heads of private schools in Louisiana and Mississippi. She also distributed flyers at several educational conferences.

Ava Pugh (MSER Foundation) reported the financial standing of the foundation as reported at the Mobile meeting last fall. She also reported a decision was made last fall to pay the full registration fee for members whose papers were accepted for *Research in Progress* awards. The foundation continues to support the outstanding paper up to \$250. The foundation also

helps support the MSERA.org website. Ava reported submitting the names of contributors to the foundation and the \$40 4 40 donors for recognition in *The Researcher*.

Nancy Fox (Alabama Director) reported sending out notices to all of the College of Education Dean at Alabama and encouraged support for this year, especially because it was the 40<sup>th</sup> meeting. She also reported sending out Jasna's letter with her mailings.

Pamela Broadston (Arkansas Director) reported contacting Deans and Chairs of the Schools of Education through mailings about the call for papers. Part of Jasna's letter was incorporated into her mailings. In addition, she requested the name of a graduate student representative from each of the universities. She did not have any volunteers or names submitted.

Ron Skidmore (Kentucky Director) reported working on the list Charles Notar gave him to update the institutional contacts. He sent those on the updated list a brochure about the meeting. He also sent emails to members going back five years to those addresses that were still active. Ron reported sending the institutional contacts the directory lists as recent as last week.

Michelle Haj-Broussard (Louisiana Director) reported that she used Kathleen's list. She also reported linking MSERA's 40<sup>th</sup> meeting information to the Louisiana Education Research Association's website. Michelle reported six *Research in Progress* award winners given to Louisiana graduate students. Michelle also reported Shannon will facilitate the fireside chat for grad students to exchange ideas, discuss the progress of their dissertations and share in the fellowship.

Rose Jones (Mississippi Director) reported sending out emails and contacting the schools of education in Mississippi to encourage participation in MSERA and at the annual meeting this year held in their home state.

Vinson Thompson (Tennessee Director) reported contacting 14 universities and raised the issue of high turnover amongst department chairs and deans.

David Bell (At-Large Director) encouraged the deans of colleges to support MSERA and asked the Deans at Arkansas Tech University to renew their institutional membership.

Kathleen Campbell (At-Large Director) reported she sent flyers to the deans of the colleges of education in Louisiana, Kentucky, and Mississippi and the neighboring states of Florida and Georgia in February and March. Kathleen reported sending a reminder out in May.

Rebecca Robichaux (At-Large Director) reported that she focused on Mississippi State. She spoke to graduate students and department chairs.

## **FUTURE CONFERENCES**

Dianne Richardson (Co-Chair, Future Site 2012) announced the 2012 annual meeting will be held in Lexington, Kentucky, at the Marriot Griffin Gate. The 2013 MSERA conference will be held in Pensacola, Florida. The 2014 MSERA annual meeting is an open year, and no proposal is in place right now. Before proposing a possible site and hotel for the open year, members should contact Cliff through email, and he will provide a list of the meeting specifications.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Charles Notar asked for discussion on the topic of using vendors to help raise funds at the annual meetings. After discussion it was decided this idea has not worked in the past for a variety of reasons. The idea of using sponsors, such as Prentice Hall to host certain events was raised as an alternative way to underwrite some costs.

**Adjournment:** The fall MSERA Board of Directors meeting was adjourned at 5 pm on Tuesday, November 1, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen C. York, Secretary