

**Mid-South Educational Research Association  
2009 Board of Directors Meeting  
Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center  
Baton Rouge, LA  
March 6-7, 2009**

Members Present: Tony Onwuegbuzie, Harry Bowman, Diane Swain, Linda Kondrick, Rose Jones, Nancy Fox, Chris Young, Donna Herring, Charles Notar, Jane Nell Luster, Lynn Howerton, JoAnna Dickey, Eddie Shaw, Cliff Hofwolt, Dana Thames, Dr. Tom Burnham, Dean of College of Education, University of Mississippi, Walter Mathews, Rebecca Robichaux, Bob Rassmussen, Randy Parker, Betty Porter, Julie Holmes, Janene Hemmen, Melissa Burgess

**Organization Business**

**Welcome**

**Dana Thames, President**

President Dana Thames called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. She thanked all who responded to emails and gave input. Dana commended Randy Parker for a great job in Tennessee. She explained the process of considering Mississippi for 2011 since the conception place of MESRA was Mississippi. JoAnna explained how the Kentucky membership was polled on the issue of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference and that the majority of responders were in favor of changing the Kentucky year from 2011 to 2012 to allow Mississippi to host the anniversary conference. Dana thanked JoAnna for consulting the Kentucky MSERA members. JoAnna, co-chair of the future sites committee, shared that Florida had submitted a proposal to host the 2012 conference.

Dr. Tom Burnham gave a presentation regarding the University of Mississippi at Oxford, Mississippi hosting the 2011 MSERA conference. He discussed the facilities and services available, as well as available tours and sites to visit in the area. He was questioned about housing and stated that housing will not be an issue. Parking issues were discussed and Dr. Burnham indicated that parking will not be a problem. Gloria made a motion to change locations for the 2011 conference from Kentucky to Mississippi and to accept the proposal. Rose seconded the motion. After discussion Gloria withdrew her motion. JoAnna discussed a survey that she submitted to her Kentucky delegation regarding change of years for Kentucky hosting the conference. Based on the results of the survey, she made the motion to move the dates for Kentucky hosting MSERA from 2011 to 2012. Randy seconded the motion. After discussion, Dana called for a vote. The motion carried. Gloria made a motion to change the 2011 conference to Mississippi and to accept the proposal from the University of Mississippi. Rose seconded the proposal. After discussion, Dana called for a vote. The motion carried. Cliff will update the Kentucky proposal.

Dana asked members to introduce themselves.

**Local Arrangements**

**Jane Nell Luster, Betty Porter**

Jane Nell presented members with a "Happy Bag" from the local arrangements committee and welcomed all to Baton Rouge.

**40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Co-Chair**

**Walter Mathews**

Walter Mathews, Co-Chair of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration/Conference, discussed plans for the meeting. He suggested that a MSERA Commemorative Volume for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference be published. An outline for the publication was provided with assignments/volunteers. Randy asked for additional volunteers and ideas. Walter would like to include everyone who wants to be a part.

Bob made suggestions about the luncheon and shared his vision about the celebration. Other suggestions included: 1) Develop a slogan, 2) Focus on people involved and what MSERA has meant over the years, 3) Use social events to tie all of the activities together, and 4) Provide an oral history. Julie volunteered to do Story Courts. Walter also suggested that we consider what MSERA will look like in the future. Donna Herring and Rebecca Robichaux will work towards getting info from past members. Walter suggested having a shared database where all could add email addresses and contact information without duplicating

the process. Betty Porter volunteered to arrange the development of the shared database. Email addresses for chairs for 2011 conference were provided on the last page of the outline.

President Dana Thames provided a notebook with Board Member Information for the March 2009 meeting. She explained revisions for the 2009 Operations manual including the Constitution and By-Laws, Procedures, and Facts, Answers, and Questions. She noted that all sections are available on the MSERA website. The updated Operations Manual was provided in the notebook. Harry Bowman will check the updated Operations Manual and will edit the document to be consistent with the wording of the Constitution and By-Laws. Linda Kondrick is working on sections 3 and 4. Dana asked all members to watch for emails from Linda.

The issue of the tie vote at the Fall 2008 business meeting was discussed. Harry Bowman suggested that a parliamentarian be present when elections are scheduled. Eddie Shaw suggested documentation be required for nominations from the floor. Dana suggested that procedures for nomination from floor be added to the constitution. Betty made a motion that the nominations committee develop a procedure for nominations from the floor. The motion was seconded by JoAnna. After discussion, Dana called for the vote. The motion carried unanimously. The procedures should be in place for the Fall 2009 meeting and should be published in the August Researcher.

Melissa Burgess made a presentation on Second Life as a possibility for virtual conference sessions at future conferences. She explained that this is an option that cost no money. Dana suggested that our conference consider taking advantage of this technology in future conferences.

Dana asked members to look at the proposed budget provided behind Tab 1 in the Board notebook. In order to figure the 2009 proposed budget, Dana averaged the budgets from past years and added a 15% increase. She placed two additional items in the budget: 1) \$1000 for local arrangements committee, and 2) \$5,000 for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference planning committee (a one time line item). Diane Swain made a motion we approve the 2009 budget of \$29083.05. Rose Jones seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

Dana adjourned the meeting at 5:00 and reminded all that dinner will be provided at 6:00 pm in the restaurant. The board meeting will begin at 8:30 am on Saturday morning in same room.

**March 7, 2009**

Dana called the meeting to order at 8:35 am.

**Welcome**

**Linda Kondrick, Vice President**

Linda Kondrick reported on the progress on the Operations manual. She discussed the additional detail and noted that time tables have been added.

**Review of Minutes**

**Donna Herring, Secretary**

Donna discussed two changes made in the Fall 2008 minutes. Randy made a motion to accept the minutes. Diane seconded. The motion carried. Donna made a motion to post the approved minutes on the web. Donna will attempt to get previous meetings to David Morse for posting on the web. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. Linda suggested that we pilot Google docs in order for members to make changes to the minutes. Donna made a motion to post the minutes on Google Docs so that members can make edits. Linda seconded. The motion was carried unanimously. Donna will post the minutes on Google Docs and members will make edits if necessary. Harry stated that the minutes become official after 4 weeks of being posted. Donna will send a list of motions to Harry Bowman, the President Elect, and the Executive Director after each meeting. Harry will determine if additions need to be made to the bylaws.

**Past President's Comments**

**Randy Parker**

Randy welcomed all to Baton Rouge and the Hilton Capitol Center. Dana thanked Randy for his work.

**Executive Director's Report**

**Cliff Hofwolt**

Cliff provided a copy of the Accountant's Review Report and gave a summary of the review of MSERA books. The review stated that no material modifications should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in conformity with the cash basis of accounting. An Itemized Income/Expense statement for 2008 was provided as well as a Budget Analysis from 1997 thru 2008. He reported that the current balance in the bank is about \$40,000 and around \$41,000 in a money market account. Approximately 331 attended the Knoxville conference. Jane Nell asked that registrations versus dues be tracked in the income statement. Dana agreed that the information would be helpful.

The MSERA registration software was discussed. The software now forces the user to enter info in required fields in order to move forward. The user automatically gets an email along with the program chair regarding info submitted. Cliff is also working towards including a program planning tool in the software. The ability to join a program committee has been disabled from the proposal submission process. Cliff agreed to have the submission process open by March 31, 2009 and anticipated closing it on June 15, 2009. The executive board will test the software in the next few days. Dana thanked Cliff for his work.

**Development Committee Chair's Report**

**Charlie Notar**

Charlie reported that he had visited all web sites of universities with a College of Education to update addresses and contact information. He plans to send a cover letter and include an invoice for Institutional Membership this year. He will send a second letter for those that do not respond. Charlie reported that there are two levels of institutional memberships: 1) \$250 and 2) \$400. The \$250 membership includes the university name in the program and provides the dean with membership and all publications. The \$400 membership adds membership for four. Charlie submitted a report that listed the 2009 Institutional Members at each level. The report also included a list of institutions that did not renew their memberships.

**40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Co-Chair**

**Walter Mathews**

Walter commended the committee on their professionalism and work with MSERA.

**Constitution and Bylaws**

**Harry Bowman**

Harry did not have additional information to report.

**2009 Program Co-Chairs**

**Eddie Shaw, Julie Holmes**

Eddie reported the committee's plan to have software in place to design the MSERA program for the fall conference. The committee is interested in exploring the possibilities of virtual presentations. Dana asked

Melissa and Tony to provide a strand for virtual presentations via Second Life at the 2010 Mobile conference. Tony agreed. Eddie asked for volunteers to assist with proposal reviews. Dana suggested that we pilot a couple virtual presentations at the Fall 2009 conference. Dana commended Eddie for his work.

#### **Future Site**

**Patrick Kariuki, JoAnna Dickey**

Jo Anna submitted a report. Cliff will update the Kentucky proposal for 2012. Several MSERA members have volunteered to work on the Future Sites committee. JoAnna will be contacting those. It was noted that contracts have been signed for Mobile. Dana will notify Larry Daniels of changes for 2012 and inform him of the next open year should Florida want to submit a proposal for hosting the conference.

#### **2010 Local Arrangements**

**Gahan Bailey, Eddie Shaw**

Eddie provided a handout and brochures of conference hotels and area attractions in Mobile. These will be available for attendees at the Kentucky Conference. The conference will be split between two hotels. The actual conference hotel is located at Riverview. Some luncheons and/or events will be held at The Battle House which is less than 2 blocks away. Sleeping rooms will be blocked at both hotels. The Battle House is more expensive but attendees will have both options.

#### **Researcher**

**Lynn Howerton, Mary Jane Bradley**

Lynn provided handouts. Due dates were provided regarding items for the Researcher. Lynn explained the Production Planning Calendar and the Contributor Responsibilities and Deadlines. The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference will be covered in the Researcher.

#### **Research in the Schools**

**Tony Onwuegbuzie, John Slate**

Tony submitted a status report from the Research In The Schools editors. He commended Janene for her great work. Tony and Janene described an Internal Review process that was put in place to save reviewers time. He noted that Janene is doing the typesetting. It is very time consuming and slows down the process but saves money. The next issue will be in March and one will follow in June. The June issues will include an editorial on APA. Outstanding Reviewers were listed in Tony's report. The information is posted on the RITS website. Cliff will send certificates to the award recipients. Tony asked members to encourage people to submit a manuscript. Randy commended Tony on the electronic review process. Tony asked for recommendations for reviewers. Janene hopes to have FAST Track ready soon.

#### **Evaluation Co-Chairs**

**Julie Holmes, Mary Nell McNeese**

A report of the evaluations was compiled by Eddie. Copies of the report were provided. There were lots of good feedback and positive comments. Three major problems were evident: 1) No shows are a problem, 2) Lack of available technology is also a negative, and 3) Overheads are not used much. Julie explained that presenters expect technology to be in place. She also stated that lack of program availability at the conference is a problem. Several suggestions were made. Dana asked Jane Nell and Betty to explore possible solutions for providing better access to the program for those who do not have a program once they get to the conference.

Betty made a motion to send a letter to no-shows with a copy to their deans concerning the fact that they did not show for their presentation. It would include those who notified the program chair that they were cancelling and those who do not. The letter would specify that as well. Julie seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Dana will take care of sending the letter. Donna suggested that a no-show/cancellation list be passed to the next program chair. Several suggestions were made regarding the presider problems. One suggestion was that one of the presenters in the session be the presider (like LERA). Tony suggested that the person who goes last be the presider and keep up with time. Jane Nell suggested a combination that would involve more members. A presider could be assigned with the last presenter as back-up. Eddie and Julie will work on a best solution.

#### **Nominations**

**Randy Parker**

Randy announced that the call for nominations was in the recent Researcher. He is putting together a committee to assist with nominations. The following positions need nominees: At least 3 At-Large Members, a 2-year term Graduate Student Representative, Vice-president/President Elect, and the SDE/LEA Representative. Randy asked for assistance in developing the slate of officers. Randy noted that

representatives can serve two terms.

**MSER Foundation**

**Rob Kennedy**

Minutes from the Thursday, November 6, 2008 meeting of MSER Foundation were included in the notebook. Dana thanked the Foundation for their financial support to graduate students.

**Graduate Student Advisory**

**Michelle Georgette Haj-Boussard  
Pam Broadston**

A report from the Graduate Student Advisory Committee was provided in the notebook. Randy reported that Michelle and Pam are excited to continue the RIP sessions. They would like to add a poster session for graduate students. The breakfast and social events for graduate students will continue. A notation in the program to indicate sessions that would be helpful for graduate students may be added.

**MSERA Mentors**

**Linda Morse**

A report was not provided.

**Archives & Website**

**David Morse**

Dana reported that David has requested funds for managing the MSERA website. The Foundation will provide the financial support for David's request. Look for changes to be made to the website.

**Proceedings**

**John Petry**

A report was not provided. Dana commended John for his work.

**Membership**

**Paige Baggett, Rebecca Robichaux**

A membership report was provided and listed activities for the coming months. Julie shared a sample copy of the membership brochure. Paige and Rebecca would like feedback on the brochure.

**Alabama Representative**

**Nancy Fox**

Nancy stated that the numbers of attendees from Alabama was very good at the Knoxville conference. She shared plans for promoting the conference to Alabama universities. Nancy plans to work with Charlie to distribute info on the Fall conference to key people at Alabama universities. Charlie shared that he had email addresses for key university personnel and would be glad to share that info with state representatives. Dana asked Charlie to send that info to state representatives.

**Arkansas Representative**

**Pamela Broadston**

A report was not provided. Dana will send this later.

**Kentucky Representative**

**JoAnna Dickey**

JoAnna distributed a report. She contacted Kentucky professors who were accepted to present prior to the Fall 2008 conference to welcome them and provide information. She also visited sessions conducted by Kentucky presenters. JoAnna's report included the survey results discussed earlier. She requested that the Executive Committee send a letter/e-mail to the Kentucky membership explaining the re-location/re-scheduling of the 2011 conference and thanking the Kentucky membership for their cooperation. Dana agreed to do this.

**Louisiana Representative**

**Betty Porter**

Betty has developed a database of all who have attended from Louisiana in the last 3 years. She will also use the information from Charlie to promote the Fall conference.

**Mississippi Representative**

**Rose Jones**

A report was provided in the notebook. Rose will use the information from Charlie to promote the Fall conference to Mississippi members. She requested a list of Mississippi members and email addresses from Cliff.

**Tennessee Representative**

A report was not provided. Randy reported that Barbara was excited about working with MSERA.

**Barbara Young****At-Large**

A report was not provided.

**David Bell****At-Large**

Julie shared a poster she developed for LERA with info about MSERA and the Baton Rouge conference. She gave information to LERA attendees. She offered the poster for use at other conferences. Randy announced that he has some red MSERA luggage tags available.

**Julie Holmes****At-Large**

Eddie shared that he attended a workshop on taking the PRAXIS II. He hopes to start a WIKI with tips for passing the PRAXIS II for students. Eddie will send an email when the WIKI is up.

**Eddie Shaw****At-Large**

Diane plans to send an electronic invitation to join MSERA to their large number of online students. This would reach students all over the world.

**Diane Swain****Graduate Student Representative**

Chris would like to send information to graduate professors who teach Graduate Research classes and ask them to share the info with their graduate research students. He asked the committee members to send him names and/or email addresses of Graduate Research instructors at their institutions. Dana suggested getting email addresses for Graduate Student Councils at different universities as well. Chris will work with Pam and Linda to promote MSERA to graduate students. Chris suggested that graduate students in RIP get their check ahead of the conference. This could help graduate students better afford MSERA and possibly stay for the entire conference.

**Christopher Young****Distinguished Awards**

Linda will use the email addresses from Charlie to send out information about the awards. Linda asks for volunteers to serve on the review committee.

**Linda Kondrick****Publications & Communications**

A report was included in the notebook.

**Rob Kennedy****Distinguished Awards**

A report was not provided.

**Richard Kazelskis**

Linda made a motion to adjourn at 11:47 am. Julie seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.