

11/1/08

AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION

Annual Business Meeting Minutes – Cathryn Chappell

Saturday November 1, 2008

10:15-11:45 am

Savannah Marriot Riverfront Hotel

Savannah C

I. Welcome and Announcements

II. Reports

The Board of Tellers – Andrew McKnight certified, for the Board of Tellers, that the online and onsite voting was fair and valid. Susan Franzosa announced the results of that vote. The Vice-President is Audrey Thompson, the 3 new Executive Council members are: Silvia Bettez, Raquel Farmer-Hinton, and Kristen Luschen.

2008 Program Chair- Kathy Hytten reported on the conference.

Site Coordinator & Treasurer– Sandra Spickard reported as both the Site Coordinator and Treasurer. Executive Committee has approved an increase in fees for 2009. Future eco-friendly options for conferences were requested.

Secretary- Cathryn Chappell reported as the secretary. Attendance was approx. 483 with 52% being students.

Educational Studies- Rebecca Martusewicz introduced PK Smith as the Co-editor and reported on Ed Studies.

Executive Council- Kathy Hytten brought forth from the Executive Council, the discussion of SIGs (special interest groups). 2 groups currently are loosely SIGs in AESA – Eco-democratic reform and Education of women. Issues of space for groups without encouraging fragmentation were noted. Kathy Hytten noted that 12-15 folks responded to her invitation to comment on the subject. She suggested that if a group wants space, they need to contact the program chair – does not require us to change much. Gene Provenzo suggest focused groups could meet in formal sessions to discuss. The necessity or lack thereof, of a separate item, beyond alternative format, on the conference proposal was discussed. Sofia Villenas(?) noted that a structure, perhaps a designated room for groups to meet, be included. Deron Boyles expressed concerns about institutionalizing what should be a grassroots movement. Sue Ellen Henry felt that our bureaucracy could function to encourage grassroots. Kathy Hytten stated that a more formal approach may be more inclusive. Rebecca Martusewicz noted that this structure would be a way of drawing folks with like interests together in less of a haphazard way. Using the program and designated spaces would help with that. Kathy reiterated that contacting the program chair is an effective way to be included. The ideas of working groups, fireside chats, a more inviting space were added. Kathy Hytten and Deron Boyles stressed that folks need to come up with ideas for groups, meetings, working groups, etc. and contact the program chair – it is not the job of the program chair to generate ideas and groups.

III. New Business

A. By-law Change Introduced by the Executive Council

"The Designated Chair of the Critics Choice Book Award Committee will serve a term of three years and sit on the AESA Executive Council as an ex-officio member."

After discussion, this item was tabled for a written proposal of the changes to be crafted, with subsequent voting to occur online. Primary focus was of the addition of a co-chair and membership, etc. in the Executive Council. Basic idea seems to have general approval of those present.

B. Resolution

Introduced by Dennis Carlson and co-sponsored by Richard Quantz, Beth Powers-Costello, Chet Bowers, Barbara Thayer-Bacon, and Jesse Goodman

"We decry the effort by some in the mass media to portray our colleague, Professor William Ayers, University of Illinois-Chicago, as a traitor, a terrorist, and un-American. We view this attack on a highly-respected scholar, teacher, and public intellectual as an attack on us all, designed to intimidate and silence dissent in the academy. We affirm the importance of academic freedom and intellectual dissent as important foundations of democracy in the U.S. and encourage educators to speak out against all forms of McCarthyism and attempts to silence dissent."

Dennis Carlson presented the proposed resolution. He touted this action as a way of affirming our commitment to activism and as solidarity as academics. When one of us is attacked, all are attacked. He stressed that this resolution was not about what happened in the past, it is about what is happening now – the silencing etc. of those in the academy from speaking up, critical dissent, and ramifications of this. Much discussion followed. Several examples of hate mail and negative reactions for signing proposals about this were shared. If the resolution passes, Dennis will send to the New York Times. Deron Boyles called the question and the vote was unanimous. Rebecca suggested putting it in Ed Studies and consensus was received.

IV. Passing of the Gavel

President Susan Franzosa, in honor of AESA's 40th anniversary, donated and presented incoming president, Kathy Hytten, with an engraved gavel/plaque to commemorate this important occasion.

V. Adjournment – President Kathy Hytten's first action as president was to adjourn the meeting and express hope of seeing all in Pittsburgh in 2009.