

**Revised Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature
Executive Advisory Council Preliminary Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2019**

Members Present: President Jeff Hotz, Mary Minock, Mary Catherine Harper, Roger Bresnahan, Phil Greasley, Robert Beasecker, Marcia Noe, Marilyn Atlas, Laura Julier, Mary DeJong Obuchowski, Sara Kosiba, Scott Emmert, Doug Sheldon, Pat Oman, Ross Tangedal, Rachael Price, Joyce Meier, Don Daiker

1. **Call to order:** President Jeff Hotz called the meeting to order. (See Agenda.)
2. **Nomination of the President Elect for 2019-2020:** Andy Oler was nominated, seconded, and approved by the Executive Advisory Council. His nomination will be provided to the membership at the annual business meeting.
3. **Nomination of two members to the Executive Advisory Council, with terms from 2019 to 2022:**

Dan Lockhart and Michelle Campbell were nominated, seconded, and approved for the male and female Executive Advisory Council positions with three-year terms. Their nominations will be passed forward to the membership at the annual business meeting.
4. **Report on the Society's Finances:** SSML Treasurer Roger Bresnahan reported that the "Society is in good financial health." He provided print-outs of the MSU Federal Credit Union Statement of Account for March 1 – March 31, 2019 and described the funds held in each account and CD (See MSU Federal Credit Union Statement of Account.) as well as of actions, such as reducing the amount of rented storage space for the journals, to improve the Society's financial picture.
5. **Report on the 2019 Symposium:** Laura Julier, Conference Chair and Scholarship Coordinator, reported preliminary on the 2019 conference. This year we have 34 panels as opposed to 26 last year; this year has 83 moderators and presenters. We have slightly fewer students than last year, and paid out \$2,200 in student scholarships. (See preliminary 2019 Conference Chair's Report.)

Compliments were received on the book display/sale area and the number of books there. The question was raised whether SSML should charge booksellers to display and sell in the book area. The suggestion was made that we should offer book publishers the option of sending the books and not sending representatives, but rather having Ross Tangedal's students handle their sales for them and remit the money to them.

The following charge rates were recommended and agreed to by the Executive Advisory Council:

\$100 charge to presses to display and sell in the conference book area.

\$25 for publisher staff who accompany their books and sell them in the book area. (This is the same charge as for non-presenting individuals attending the conference.)

No charge to Society members who bring their own books to sell.

No charge to display and sell books for presses that are SSML members, or for the press representatives to attend the conference.

Laura asked Ross Tangedal to notify publishers of the charges for future book display and sale in the SSML book area. She noted that current FIRM SSML deadline for submission of paper proposals is January 31. (Note that the corporate board has subsequently moved forward the submission deadline for paper proposals for the 2020 Chicago conference to January 1, 2020.)

6. **Journal Editor's Report:** SSML Publications Editor Marcia Noe reported that the status of SSML's journals is good. (See Marcia's written report.)

7, 8. Writing Prizes Report and Report from the Society's Liaison to MLA and M/MLA:

Marilyn Atlas reported that things are going well with both the writing prizes and the liaisons with MLA and M/MLA. (See Marilyn's combined reports on these areas.)

She indicated that the seven-year report by SSML for future inclusion in MLA will be due soon and she is getting SSML people to help her prepare that report.

She noted that conference participants should present papers and revise and submit their conference papers for prize consideration. She also announced that starting in 2020 submissions for consideration for prizes will be handled electronically.

9. **Report from the Society's Liaison with ALA and the Midwestern History Association:** Sara Kosiba, SSML's liaison with ALA and the Midwestern History Association, presented the report. (See Sara's written report.)

Sara expressed her feeling that having the liaison with ALA and MHA helps get SSML's "name out." She also said that SSML and MHA are attempting to coordinate conference dates for 2021.

10. **Report on the David D. Anderson Award:** David D. Anderson Award Chair Andy Oler reported. (See Andy's written report.)

Articles considered for the D. D. Anderson Award must have been published between January 1 and December 31 of the year in question. Articles published in online journals can be considered.

Andy reported that the first year's competition went very well, that writers of articles considered by the award were very impressed by the Society's action, and that arrangements have been made for the 2020 David D. Anderson Award, complete with a prestigious outside judge, Dr. Terrion Williamson, from the University of Minnesota; Dr. Williamson is the founder and director of the Black Midwest Initiative and the author of several books.

Andy reported that SSML interest was high at the first year award session, with 47 people in attendance. Additional people came to SSML based on the award, Andy believes. We hope that the winner and some others will continue to attend the conference in future years.

11. Information on Mailing the Society's Journals: Laura Julier and Sara Kosiba reported.

Laura indicated that Roger wants out of the ongoing hauling and mailing of boxes of journal copies. Laura is looking into what mailing services would cost SSML. She sees using the USPS as very expensive as well as time and labor intensive. Marcia Noe is happy in the interim to go with our current publishers, who are willing to take the journals to the post office in addition to their current roles. This has appeal but our publishers are also aging and the labor-intensive effort could fall apart at any moment. Sara Kosiba indicated that the University of Nebraska Press can provide services to us. She is exploring the possibilities.

Sara, Laura, Roger, and Marcia are looking into options. They want to know all the services provided by each entity and the individual and total prices by each vendor.

The Executive Advisory Committee agreed to authorize the exploration of options and prices.

12. Update on the 2020 Symposium in Chicago: Laura Julier and Sara Kosiba presented their updates. (See the Updates on the 50th Anniversary Symposium report.)

13. There was no Other Business.

14. The Executive Advisory Council thanked outgoing president Jeff Hotz for his excellent service to SSML and welcomed Mary Minock, who becomes the SSML President at the General Membership Business Meeting on Saturday, May 18.

15. The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Phil Greasley, Recording Secretary