

67th Annual Meeting of the Mississippi Philosophical Association
February 3-4, 2017, Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS
Minutes of Annual Business Meeting

A) The business meeting was called to order at 12:45 p.m. on Saturday February 4th in McCain Hall at Mississippi State University.

B) Members present included: Mike Bruno, Mississippi State University (President); Anthony Neal, Mississippi State University (Vice-President); Neil Manson, the University of Mississippi (Secretary-Treasurer); Steven Smith, Millsaps College; Steven Skultety, the University of Mississippi; John Bickle, Mississippi State University; Alicia Hall, Mississippi State University; Marica Bernstein; and Alex Braud.

C) Manson began by giving a statement of the finances. There was \$1295.01 in the MPA account at the University of Mississippi. \$80 in membership dues were collected at the conference.

D) Manson gave an update on the funding model adopted two years ago. At the 2015 meeting, it was agreed that the multi-person departments in the state would contribute directly instead of having dues collected through their faculty. Mississippi State University and the University of Mississippi would each contribute \$200 annually, while Millsaps and the University of Southern Mississippi would each contribute \$100 annually. Manson noted that Millsaps did, indeed, contribute \$100 at the beginning of 2016, but instead of putting money into the MPA account, Mississippi State University and the University of Mississippi had picked up the tab directly for conference-related expenses (e.g. the graduate student prizes, speakers's fees).

E) Neal suggested that it was not necessary for Mississippi State University and the University of Mississippi to put money into the MPA account if they were paying expenses in excess of \$200, but he also suggested that both departments prepared statements that documented the expenses paid by each department. These statements could be included into the minutes and would enable future leaders of the MPA to track past spending. Department chairpersons Skultety and Bickle agreed to this proposal. Skultety and Bickle also suggested that both departments ought to put \$200 into the MPA account annually anyway. That way, there would be \$300 going out annually (\$200 plus \$100 for the two graduate essay prizes) from the MPA account, but \$500 coming in (\$200 each from Mississippi State University and the University of Mississippi, plus \$100 from Millsaps; the University of Southern Mississippi has not paid and no representatives came to the conference). This would enable the MPA to build up cash reserves for use in a future conference, particularly if extra money was needed at Millsaps. Bickle asked that a billing statement be prepared by Manson and given to Bickle so that Bickle could have the necessary documentation for the funders at Mississippi State. Manson agreed.

F) Manson asked if anyone wanted to move away from the themed conference model and back to an open-call conference. It was agreed unanimously that the themed conference model had worked well and ought to continue going forward.

G) Elections were held for the three officers of the MPA. Anthony Neal ran unopposed for President and was approved unanimously. Neil Manson ran unopposed for Secretary-Treasurer and was approved unanimously. Alicia Hall ran unopposed for Vice-President and was elected unanimously.

H) Hall suggested that the theme of next year's conference would be "Well-being."

I) Prizes were awarded to the best two graduate student papers: Derik Timmerman of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (\$200) and Marcus Hunt of Tulane University (\$100).

J) Neal was thanked for running an excellent conference. The theme was "Civic Studies," with Peter Levine (Tufts University) as the keynote speaker.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15.

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