

**Minutes of the Association of Global South Studies Executive Council meeting
Hotel Albuquerque Old Town Albuquerque, New Mexico
November 19, 2018**

The Association of Global South Studies (AGSS) Executive Council (EC) was called to order by Michael Hall at 6:00 PM on Monday, November 19, 2018 in the Fireplace Room of the Hotel Albuquerque Old Town in Albuquerque, NM. The president-elect Dr. Ryan Alexander did not attend the conference because of a family issue. Present were the following EC members: Dr. Doyin Coker-Kolo, Dr. Lauren Eastwood, Dr. Michael Hall, Dr. William Pederson, Dr. James Winchester, Dr. Jose Da Cruz, Dr. Funke Fontenot, Dr. Gary Kline, Dr. Brian Parkinson, and Dr. Philip Szmedra. Dr. William Head and Dr. Paul Rodell attended as invited guests.

- The minutes of the previous Executive Council meeting held at the AGSS meetings in Marrakesh, Morocco in December, 2017 were approved without correction.
- Dr. Hall encouraged the AGSS membership to run for office and encouraged those members that did not succeed this year to run again in the future. Self-nomination is encouraged. The results of the 2018 election of AGSS officers is the following: Vice president/president elect – Dr. Jose da Cruz; Secretary – Dr. Philip Szmedra; Treasurer – Dr. Paul Rodell; Chair Nomination – Dr. Michael Hall; Chair Information – James Winchester; Chair Teaching – Dr. Lauren Eastwood; Executive Council B – Dr. Gary Kline.
- The treasurer’s report was submitted and approved as corrected. Dr. Fontenot, the AGSS treasurer, explained that a corrected treasurer’s report was required to include the Isaacs’ estate gift now that the probate process had been completed and the proceeds from the estate had been distributed. Dr. Fontenot also mentioned that the final payments for the Morocco conference had been made in March 2018. Dr. Fontenot mentioned that funding was needed to assist in the transition of the treasurer’s post to Dr. Rodell. The EC approved that funding.
- A discussion began regarding the rate of return on the considerable monies in the treasury as a result of the Isaacs bequest. Dr. Eastwood suggested finding a financial advisor to assist in the determination of the best allocation of funds. Dr. Winchester offered that prudence must be exercised in selecting someone to provide financial guidance as did Dr. Rodell. Dr. Kline suggested that an accountant in Americus, GA could provide financial advice. No resolution was reached on the issue.
- Dr. Eastwood stated that she has applied for the AGSS to have access to the global climate negotiations at the United Nations in which there has been an overwhelming response from other groups to also participate. Dr. Eastwood mentioned that she would be attending the climate change conference in Poland in December. She also mentioned that she has a new book being released on November 21st. Dr Kline praised Dr. Eastwood for being the AGSS point person at the U.N. adding that the climate issue is especially important for marginalized people who are disproportionately affected.

- Dr. Peterson stated during his Executive Director’s report his concern for the shrinking numbers on the membership roles. All members should be actively recruiting to increase the membership.
- Dr. Parkinson noted that the attendance for last year’s conference in Marrakesh was much larger than the current conference. He stated that better outreach to local universities was required to expose the Association to a broader spectrum of potential members. He noted that the University of New Mexico was in close proximity to the conference venue and there were no conference participants from that institution.
- Dr. Eastwood offered that the domestic conference dates should be in reconsidered suggesting October rather than during the Thanksgiving break. Dr. Winchester thought that the domestic conference should be in December rather than Thanksgiving. Dr. Eastwood agreed. Dr. Hall mentioned that having the conference earlier in the fall semester may limit the attendees as decisions regarding funding awards for travel may not take place earlier. Dr. Rodell offered that many organizations have their annual meetings in the spring. Dr. Head suggested that Thanksgiving meetings were not a good idea.
- Dr. Eastwood suggested that the AGSS education officer reach out to local institutions to have faculty and students participate in future meetings. She also suggested that a committee should be established to evaluate conference paper submissions.
- Dr. Eastwood suggested Savannah as the AGSS venue for 2020. Dr. Hall offered that Savannah was easy to do. The conference site for 2019 will be Buenos Aires. Tentative sites for upcoming meetings are: 2020 – Savannah; 2021 – Bulgaria; 2022 - Portland, OR.
- Dr. Kline reported that the new editor of the Journal of Global South Studies is Dr. Ryan Alexander upon approval of the EC which was granted. The new editor for Latin America is Dr. Luis Sierra which was also approved by the EC. He also mentioned that Georgia Southwestern State University would continue to provide \$4000 per issue to assist in publications costs for the journal.
- There was a discussion about funding new association editors as well as retaining Ms. Sarah Abernathy as editorial assistant. Ms. Abernathy will be retained. There was no resolution regarding funding editors.
- Dr. Head mentioned that the new journal was an accomplishment that every member of the AGSS could be proud. All EC members agreed that the new iteration of the Journal of Global South Studies (JGSS) published by the University of Florida Press was a step forward in assuring the vibrancy and relevance of the journal and the association in the coming years.
- Dr. Hall suggested that all conference programs from the past be posted on the AGSS website. Dr. Kline asked for feedback from the EC about the website as it is still a work in progress.

- Dr. Hall mentioned it continues to be difficult to find candidates to run for organizational office. Dr Head expressed disappointment is the total number of members voting in the election (25). There was a discussion on how to better handle the election process in order to solicit greater member participation. Dr. Hall suggested electronic voting with a code. There was a discussion about the nomination process and informing the nominees and encouraging those that lost their election to self-nominate and run again.
- Dr. da Cruz suggested that future conference programs be made wholly electronic saving the AGSS printing costs and more importantly allowing the ability to make quick changes to the program.
- Dr. Hall offered thanks from the EC to Dr. Kline, Dr. Manian, and Dr. Fontenot for the executive positions they have held in the past and their service to the organization.
- A motion to adjourn was accepted and the meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Philip Szmedra
Secretary AGSS