

**Minutes of the Association of Global South Studies (AGSS)
Executive Council Meeting (Amended 3 January 2023) 10 October 2022
Salty's Restaurant, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada**

EC members in attendance:

Ryan Alexander
Jose de Arimateia da Cruz
Doyin Coker-Kolo
Michael Hall
Brian Parkinson
William Pederson
Paul Rodell
Cathy Skidmore-Hess
Philip Szmedra

EC members absent:

Sura Rath
Olufunke Fontenot
Patrica Moral
Jack Mangala

With nine of the thirteen EC members present and a quorum established the meeting was called to order by Cathy Skidmore-Hess at 6:00 PM. Paul Rodell motioned for Cathy Skidmore-Hess to continue her association presidency as acting president while Sura Rath, the incoming president, deals with serious family issues. The EC voted unanimously for Skidmore-Hess to continue in the presidency as acting.

(Amendment) However, on 28 December 2022 Michael Hall contacted the AGSS Secretary indicating that the appropriate Constitutional response to the president not being able to carry out his duties would be the Vice President taking over the presidential responsibilities. The current Vice President of the AGSS is Brian Parkinson. He now assumes all the responsibilities of the president.

Treasurers Report: Paul Rodell provided a partial treasurer's report indicating that the full report would be forthcoming in January 2023 when the financial results of the Halifax meeting are tabulated. The meeting minutes will be amended when that information becomes available. Dr. Rodell also mentioned that three new members had joined the organization through the website indicating that the organization is

establishing a presence in cyberspace and possibly demonstrating where membership recruitment should be focused.

Future Meetings: The 2023 conference will be held in Decatur, Georgia in the greater metropolitan Atlanta area. Brian Parkinson, as the incoming VP/President-elect will be coordinating arrangements for the meeting working with Sunita Manian and Jim Winchester of Georgia College. Arrangements for Decatur had already been established by Sunita and Jim for the 2021 conference but were pushed back to 2023 due to the pandemic.

The 2024 conference will be held in Sofia, Bulgaria in conjunction with the American University in Bulgaria (AUBG) and its Elieff Center for Education and Culture that houses AUBG's Executive MBA program. The Elieff Center, where the conference sessions will be held, is in center city Sofia. Philip Szmedra is coordinating conference arrangements.

Election Results: Michael Hall announced the results of the most recent election. Twenty-six ballots were cast for the positions of VP/President-Elect and EC seat 2. The winners of the election were Brian Parkinson outpolling Yassaman Saadatmand for VP/President-elect and Funke Fontenot outpolling Alwen Yeung for EC seat 2. Hall emphasized the need for more members to be willing to run for office and urged the candidates that were not successful in this election to consider running again.

Membership: Paul Rodell will take up the task of sifting through the membership list to determine which individuals are current with their dues, which are not, and those former members that have not been heard from in years. Philip Szmedra mentioned that each time a membership-wide notification is sent about sixty emails bounce back to the secretary. Rodell offered that his work in making the membership list current should address that issue. Rodell's plan is to send three email reminders to past members and then if no response is received to strike their names from the membership roster.

The Journal of Global South Studies (JGSS): Ryan Alexander, the editor of the JGSS, reported, in response to a question by Szmedra that he does not maintain data on the journal's acceptance rate but did offer that he desk rejects about 25 percent of submissions. In addition, while his contract as editor expires in 2024, Alexander is willing to continue as editor on a year-by-year basis and assist the next editor into the job. He asked the EC to think of potential successors in the next two or three years. Alexander also offered that he had changed his mind about

converting the journal to an all-digital format and wants to continue with the print edition. A digital edition is available with a passcode available from Alexander to those individuals that would prefer to receive the journal in that format. He also stated that he enjoyed working with the editor at the University of Florida Press, the publisher of the JGSS.

Michael Hall offered that the JGSS is becoming much better known around the world. The journal over the past few years has fed individuals to the AGSS conferences. Doyin Coker-Kolo and Alexander mentioned the notion of distributing the journal at libraries to promote wider circulation and better recognition of the AGSS. Skidmore-Hess suggested that AGSS members promote JGSS authorship when attending other conferences that focus on the Global South. Rodell suggested that Alexander do a video promoting JGSS authorship and placing the video on the AGSS website.

Logo: In response to solicitations for a new logo to represent the AGSS five individuals offered seven distinct designs. The EC chose two as finalists. There was discussion about having Alexander take these two entries to the University of Florida Press and have the UFP graphic design team develop similar design themes that the EC would select as the winner. (Amendment) But some members voiced concern that ethical considerations preclude the EC from engaging in that type of activity. No decision has been made about how or whether to pursue the new logo initiative. All entrants were notified that the logo contest has been suspended pending further discussion by the EC at the 2023 meeting in Atlanta.

Conference Fees: Skidmore-Hess suggested that conference fees be raised to establish financial integrity and sustainability in what is now a money-losing event. She suggested that fees be based on a participant's income rather than a flat rate depending on whether the attendee is from the Global North or Global South which is the case currently. Student fees would continue to be much lower than the regular attendee fee. Hall suggested that a higher conference fee could be better justified by including the cost of pre and post conference excursions into the fee structure. Szmedra offered that the basic law of demand holds here: as conference fees increase more potential attendees will think twice about attending the conference. A conference registration fee of between three and four hundred dollars, which was the dollar amount that was offered by a number of EC meeting attendees, could create "sticker shock" among the membership. The discussion then moved to the 2023 meeting in Atlanta (Decatur). Since the academic density in the Atlanta region is high Brian Parkinson suggested that an effort should be made to invite both faculty and graduate students in the relevant academic

disciplines to the conference. There was no discussion of how that would be accomplished although the implicit understanding was that members in University System of Georgia institutions would reach out to their USG colleagues to make them aware of the conference and to solicit paper submissions. Hall emphasized the importance of putting people in the conference hotel as unused rooms would be charged to the organization. A motion was made and seconded to maintain the conference fee at its current rate of \$140 for global North attendees for the upcoming Atlanta conference and then re-evaluate the situation next year at the conference. The motion was passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Philip Szmedra
Secretary, AGSS