

**Minutes of the Association of Global South Studies (AGSS)
Executive Council (EC) Virtual Bi-Meeting 7 April 2022**

EC members in attendance:

Ryan Alexander
Olufunke Fontenot
Michael Hall
Cathy Skidmore-Hess
Patricia Moral
Brian Parkinson
Sura Rath
Paul Rodell
Philip Szmedra

EC members not in attendance:

Jose da Cruz
Doyin Coker-Kolo
Jack Mangala
William Pederson

Meeting Convened: The meeting was called to order by Cathy Skidmore-Hess at 5:00 PM. The minutes of the previous meeting which was held virtually on 16 December 2021 in conjunction with the virtual AGSS conference were approved unanimously as amended.

Approval of the Board of Editors (BOE) of the Journal of Global South Studies (JGSS): Michael Hall indicated that the AGSS constitution requires that the EC approve the members of the editorial board of the JGSS every three years. Dr. Hall acknowledged that the members of the BOE do not actively engage in the business of the JGSS and that approval of the members of the board by the EC was a perfunctory action. Ryan Alexander agreed that the BOE does not engage in any of his day-to-day activities as editor. The membership of the current board was approved unanimously by the EC.

Moving the JGSS online: Ryan Alexander reported on his talks with the University of Florida Press, the publishers of the JGSS. Apparently demand for the hardcopy journal is declining which follows a trend in academic publishing toward digital platforms. The transition makes sense both economically and environmentally. Michael Hall mentioned that digital access to the JGSS already exists, and the question is whether we move to a strictly digital format and cease the publication

of the hardcopy journal. Dr. Hall reminded the EC that it engaged in a strenuous search for a publisher just a few years ago. If the hardcopy version was abandoned, it would be very difficult to re-establish if that was the want of the EC at some future date. Cathy Skidmore-Hess mentioned that open access is becoming a popular alternative for academic publishing. However, it was noted that going digital would not make the JGSS open access. Phil Szmedra mentioned that some academic organizations (American Economic Association) offer a membership price differential with the member choosing access to both print and digital (most expensive), print (at a reduced cost), and digital (least expensive). Paul Rodell offered a motion to table any action on print versus digital until the AGSS meeting in Halifax in October 2022. The motion to table any action concerning digitizing the JGSS was agreed to unanimously by the EC.

AGSS Conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada October 2022: Michael Hall announced that the Call for Papers for the Halifax conference is on the AGSS website. A link is needed on the website to effectively register for the conference and simultaneously submit an abstract. Paul Rodell is working to establish that link. Sura Rath stated he wasn't sure when his duties in the abstract selection process will begin. Cathy Skidmore-Hess will work with Dr. Rath in the paper selection process.

The 2021 Curry Award will be awarded at the Halifax meetings. Ryan Alexander and Paul Rodell constitute the award committee. Dr. Alexander has expressed the wish to remove himself from the Curry Award committee as his professional schedule has become heavier with his assumption of departmental chair at his institution.

AGSS Logo: The EC was asked to evaluate designs for a new AGSS logo after preliminary discussion of this topic at the Buenos Aires meetings in December 2019. Patricia Moral offered five designs created by her daughter. Phil Szmedra suggested that a competition was the most appropriate way to select a new logo rather than restricting the choice to submissions by one individual. Dr. Szmedra will contact the membership to form a committee that will initiate a design contest to select a new logo. The creator of the design chosen will receive a \$500 prize for her/his creation. The hope is to have a new design by the Halifax meetings.

Treasurer's Report: Paul Rodell reported that he was in the process of seeking better financial returns for the assets of the AGSS than what is being paid by Wells Fargo Bank which is the current repository of the organization's funds. The EC began talking about this issue at the December 2021 virtual EC meeting. Some

alternatives include Vanguard, Charles Schwab, and possibly TIAA. The first three months of 2022 have seen declining equity markets, so the issue is not one that requires immediate action. However, those monies should be ideally positioned to take advantage of a market upturn if one occurs later this year. Dr. Rodell also mentioned that the association's website membership page has been completely revised so that membership application submission and the payment of dues are now completely electronic. Kudos to Dr. Rodell! Dr. Rodell reported that he is in the process of revising the AGSS membership lists to determine who is current on membership dues if they are yearly members, those that are not current, and an updated list of life members. Dr. Rodell reported that the virtual conference in December of 2021 had revenues of \$2,164.

Future Conferences: Phil Szmedra asked whether future AGSS conferences will be both in person and virtual. Michael Hall pointed out that there are significant financial commitments made to hotels in Halifax for 2022 and Decatur, GA in 2023. Therefore, there are no plans to have an in person and simultaneous virtual conference in 2022 or 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Philip Szmedra
Secretary AGSS