

**Minutes of the Association of Global South Studies (AGSS)  
Executive Council (EC) Virtual Meeting 16 December 2021**

EC members in attendance:

Doyin Coker-Kolo  
Olufunke Fontenot  
Michael Hall  
Cathy Skidmore-Hess  
Jack Mangala  
Patricia Moral  
Brian Parkinson  
Sura Rath  
Paul Rodell  
Philip Szmedra

EC members absent:

Ryan Alexander  
Jose da Cruz  
Bill Peterson

Meeting Convened: The meeting was called to order by Cathy Skidmore-Hess at 5:10 PM. The minutes of the 2019 meeting in Buenos Aires were approved without further changes. Kudos were offered to Sunita Manian and Jim Winchester for encouraging their students at Georgia College to participate in the virtual conference. The role of John Colbert who created the conference online program and oversaw the technical side of the meeting's sessions was also acknowledged.

Results of the Election: Michael Hall reported the results of this year's election for Executive Council officers. The new Vice-President / President-Elect is Sura Rath; Secretary- Phil Szmedra; Treasurer- Paul Rodell; EC Position #3- Doyin Coker-Kolo; Nominations and Elections - Michael Hall; Information Services - Jack Mangala; and Teaching - Jose da Cruz. Dr. Hall mention that it was gratifying to see new faces on the EC including Drs. Mangala and Rath and encouraged more members to run for office.

Financial Report: Paul Rodell next offered the financial report. Dr. Rodell stated that the 2021 Treasurers report was incomplete because of as yet uncalculated costs and revenues of the virtual conference. The matter of maximizing returns from the AGSS funds currently in a business savings account at Wells Fargo Bank

was brought up. Dr. Rodell suggested that the funds be actively managed by the investment firm Edward Jones which had had good results with his own retirement account. Dr. Coker-Kolo suggested looking into the Vanguard Group which the AGSS had used to manage the funding of the Curry Award. Dr. Szmedra suggested that rather than having the entire balance under management perhaps a more conservative approach may be more prudent. The EC voted to have Dr. Rodell investigate options available for the funds through Edward Jones.

Dr. Hall questioned a \$500 charge as an expense for an “election helper stipend” on both the 2020 and 2021 financial statements. Dr. Rodell answered that one of the entries was in error and would be corrected in a revised version. The financial report was approved with corrections.

Dr. Rodell mentioned that looking to the future of the AGSS and the EC he will be searching for a successor to his role as treasurer. Dr. Hall mentioned again that it is difficult to convince people to run for EC office especially those positions that require a modicum of work. Dr. Rodell suggested that there be a link in the AGSS web page to PayPal to make the membership payment process easier.

New Business:

Drs. Alexander and Rodell offered a suggestion to send the journal of the AGSS to select institutions in the Global South rather than to individuals which has been the practice in the past. The feeling is that individuals receiving the journal are not as effective in popularizing both the journal and the Association to their students and colleagues as would libraries and other institutions in the Global South. The University of Florida Press is considering creating an online version of the journal which has the potential to expand readership. A committee will be formed to determine which institutions will receive free journal subscriptions.

It was suggested that it would be beneficial if the EC would meet more often than once per year. There was general agreement that meeting more often would be useful.

Future Meetings: Dr. Hall announced that the 2022 meeting will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. Details will be in place by March 2022. Tentative meeting venues for 2023 and 2024 are Decatur, Georgia, and Sofia, Bulgaria.

The individuals involved in selecting the Curry Award winner asked for an additional month to make their selection.

Dr. Fontenot announced the President's Award winner this year was Dr. Michael Hall. Well-deserved congratulations to Dr. Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted  
Philip Szmedra  
Secretary, AGSS