

Minutes of the Association of Global South Studies Executive Council meeting
The Sheraton Hotel, Jeffersonville, Indiana
November 21, 2016

The Association of Global South Studies (AGSS) Executive Council (EC) was called to order by President Dr. Jyotimaya Tripathy at 6:30PM on Monday, November 21, 2016 at the Sheraton Hotel in Jeffersonville, Indiana. Present were the following EC members: Dr. Doyin Coker-Kolo, Dr. Lauren Eastwood, Dr. Olufunke Fontenot, Dr. Michael Hall, Dr. William Pederson, Dr. James Winchester, Dr. Gary Kline, and Dr. Philip Szmedra. The EC members absent were Dr. Norman Provizer, Dr. Jose Da Cruz, Dr. Kaylan Chatterjee, and Dr. Rita Koyame Marsh. Invited guests included Dr. Sunita Manian, Dr. Wu Shu-Hui, Dr. Brian Parkinson, and Dr. Wang Xingang and Ms. Zhao Na of Northwest University in Xi'an, PRC.

- The meeting began with praise for Dr. Coker-Kolo from all members of the committee for her role in hosting the 34th annual meeting of the AGSS at the University of Indiana Southeast where Dr. Coker-Kolo is the dean of the College of Education.
- The minutes of the EC meeting held in Quito, Ecuador in October, 2015 were approved without changes.
- Gary Kline proposed that the representatives from Northwest University in Xi'an PRC be allowed to offer their future hosting proposal. Dr. Wang offered Northwest University as the site of a future AGSS meeting, either in 2018 or 2019 either in October or May. Xi'an is an historical and attractive city in central China. Northwest University would provide lodging and food for the AGSS attendees. Only the purchase of air tickets would be required. According to the Chinese representatives US\$60,000 had already been allocated to hosting the conference by the school of History at Northwest University. Dr. Wang acknowledged that the university administration may reject the proposal from the school of history but that decision would be made by February 2017. If the proposal is rejected by the university administration then Albuquerque would again become the 2018 venue.
- Michael Hall was very enthusiastic about the Northwest University proposal. Dr. Hall is organizer for the 2018 meetings to have been held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Dr. Hall withdrew that proposed site in favor of the China offer. The Albuquerque venue would be moved to 2020. Holding the 2018 meetings in China would mean three international meetings in succession: 2017 in Marrakesh, Morocco, 2018 in Xi'an, PRC, and 2019 in Argentina, but Dr. Hall saw no problems in altering the traditional sequencing of annual meetings which had been alternating years of domestic and international venues.
- Dr. Eastwood argued for the proposal as did Dr. Coker-Kolo.
- The EC voted unanimously to accept the proposal and hold the 2018 meetings in Xi'an PRC.

- Dr. Sunita Manian, the co-organizer with Dr. Fontenot of the 2017 AGSS meetings in Marrakesh, Morocco, spoke of hotel options and prices as well as costs of holding the meetings on alternative dates. December offered the most affordable costs for the association and members traveling. The EC voted unanimously to hold the meetings during the period December 14-16 at the Al Andalous hotel in Marrakesh.
- Dr. William Pederson offered the Executive Directors report in which he lauded Dr. Coker-Kolo for her efforts in organizing the 2016 conference, Dr. Kline for his untiring work on the journal, Dr. Hall for his work in conducting elections, and to the devoted members of the organization that have worked to move the AGSS through its transition from the ATWS.
- Dr. Coker-Kolo asked about whether the new AGSS logo infringed on any copyright. Assurances were given that the global map is in the public domain.
- Dr. Kline spoke of the need for an updated membership list which is especially important now that the journal's publication and distribution are about to be taken over by the University of Florida Press (UFP). Dr. Fontenot expressed the need for membership, membership renewal, and conference registration be completely online. Dr. Kline suggested establishing a chair for the membership committee. Dr. Eastwood expressed interested in doing this although offered that a new committee is not required. Establishing a new committee would require a change in the constitution. Dr. Eastwood can accomplish the tasks involved in cleaning the membership lists as chair of the teaching committee.
- The discussion moved toward the membership term and making the membership coincide with the calendar year rather than one year from the paying of dues. A motion was made and carried unanimously to change the membership term to one calendar year beginning 1 January through 31 December.
- The conversation moved to upgrading and modernizing the AGSS website. Dr. Fontenot stated that a professional web designer was required to give the organization a web presence that was commensurate with the esteem that the membership has for the organization. Dr. Hall suggested that a new domain was needed independent of the Georgia Southwestern State University server. Dr. Eastwood volunteered to lead the search for a new web site creator.
- Dr. Kline described the negotiations with the UFP in moving the journal's administrative functions to UFP. Of issue are the costs that UFP would levy on AGSS for those functions. Those costs would include giving up the \$4,000 to \$5000 that the journal earns from subscription services. The AGSS would be responsible for soliciting articles for the journal as would UFP. The AGSS would be responsible for making an edition print ready. UFP would promote the journal, print and mail it to the membership list as well as to institutional subscribers. Dr. Hall offered that an association with the UFP would provide prestige to both the journal and the organization. Dr. Coker-Kolo asked whether the costs levied by the UFP could be negotiated. Dr. Kline replied that they could not.

- A motion was made to accept the UFP contract as brought to the EC by Dr. Kline. The motion was unanimously accepted.
- Conversation continued about the upcoming edition of the journal. UFP needs a nine month notice in change of editorship. UFP wants to begin immediately in producing the Fall, 2016 edition. Dr. Hall suggesting skipping the Fall 2016 edition during the transition. Dr. Kline offered that institutional subscribers are expecting two editions of the journal per year and that we could not skip an edition. Dr. Hall suggested an abbreviated version of the Fall 2016 edition to include book reviews and a note from the editor. A motion was made to continue with the internal production of the Fall 2016 edition and then turn over the production to UFP beginning with the Spring 2017 edition. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Dr. Kline proposed a new associate editor for Latin America. Dr. Ryan Alexander of SUNY Plattsburgh was approved unanimously by the EC.
- Dr. Kline spoke of the ongoing probate process of the estate of Dr. Harold Isaacs. Dr. Kline estimates that after the sale of the remaining property the value of Dr. Isaacs' bequeath would be about \$222,000 which would reinforce the financial integrity of the AGSS.
- Dr. Fontenot offered the Treasurer's report stating that the financial health of the organization was sound. The Indiana conference will end in the black when all revenue and costs are tallied. Dr. Fontenot also mentioned the need for an external audit of the organization's finances. The EC agreed but no timeline to undertake an audit nor the mechanics were discussed.
- Dr. Coker-Kolo stated that the roles and responsibilities of the EC need to be evaluated as written in the AGSS constitution. Dr. Hall offered that some EC members are silent when EC member input is requested on issues that periodically arise. When changes to the AGSS constitution are deemed necessary, the EC proposes those changes to the membership and the membership affirms those changes or collectively denies those changes.
- The secretary will send the constitution to the membership by 15 December after changing each mention of ATWS to AGSS.
- Dr. Hall announced the election results. A total of twenty four members voted. Dr. Sunita Manian is the new president. EC position 1 was won by Dr. Brian Parkinson. The runners-up will be asked to stand for office at the next election. Dr. Hall urged the EC to help increase election participation by the membership.
- In New Business Dr. Parkinson spoke of the importance of having increased numbers of graduate and undergraduate student participation in the upcoming conferences as a source of new membership in the organization. He also encourage the EC to enhance the AGSS presence on social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter. Dr. Hall encouraged more graduate students to be involved in the organization as book reviewers.

- A motion to adjourn was accepted and the meeting adjourned at 9:40PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Philip Szmedra, PhD
Secretary AGSS