

ArkPSA Fall 2020 Executive Board Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: Kevin Brennan (OBU, at large board member), Matt Evans (NWACC, secretary), Matt Gross (HSU, vice president), Hans Hacker (ASU, ex officio), Mike Rogers (ATU, treasurer), Karen Sebold (UA, president), Heather Yates (UCA, at large board member)

Meeting conduct virtually through Zoom conferencing software on Aug. 27 at 1 pm

Sebold made a motion to start the meeting; motion was seconded and approved. She thanked everyone for their attendance after the initial meeting planned for Monday was postponed for technical issues.

Sebold announced that: the Scholar Award Committee has been formed and the call for nominations was sent out; Mark Mullenbach (UCA) is heading the committee; that the Treasury officer's term will end in 2021 and the Secretary's in 2022, and there needs to be a call to fill these positions (though, Chris Housenick of ATU has shown interest and may become the treasurer)..

-- Evans will put out a call to the membership for these two positions.

The following items were discussed:

Moving the ArkPSA conference online

Sebold suggested that most of our colleagues would be doing work online and going to conference online, and not be attending them in person. Gross pointed out that most of the conferences have moved online, like Midwest Model United Nations, and that we should follow suit. Yates said that it would be absolutely important to conduct the conference online rather than cancelling it because students and others would lose an opportunity to present their work and advance their careers. Rogers suggested that Fort Smith be reconsidered as an in-person conference site in the near future.

Motion introduced, seconded, and approved to host the ArkPSA conference virtually in 2021.

Sebold said reconfiguring the work of planning and administering the conference from a program chair to a conference committee that would be chaired by the

program chair and include all of the section chairs. Rogers offered that it would be good to have someone with previous ArkPSA conference planning experience in the committee and that the ex officio should be in this committee.

Sebold said that we should consider reducing the conference fees, but Rogers said that the numbers had to be examined first. Though, Rogers said that it would most likely be possible to waive undergraduate/graduate conference fees.

Motion introduced, seconded, and approved to waive ArkPSA conference fees for 2021.

— Evans said that the virtual CFP with waived undergraduate/graduate fees will go out with the newsletter in September.

[NOTE: After the meeting, Rogers emailed both Sebold and Evans to say that the association was in good enough financial shape to put the faculty conference fee at \$30.]

Specifying the Conduct Policy

Sebold said that we need protocols and processes as part of the draft conduct policy (that was borrowed from SPSA), as expressed by several board members by email prior to the meeting; that it would probably be best to form a subcommittee to look at it; and that perhaps the association should seek out legal advice on the wording, procedures, or processes in the policy. Hacker said that he could put the draft before the ASU school attorney or ask for them to make a recommendation. Rogers pointed out that the association needs to get a price quote before engaging the services of any attorney and we need to be mindful of expenses, and that reaching out to the APSA for guidance might be helpful.

Motion introduced, seconded, and approved to create a five person subcommittee from the membership and put out a call to solicit participation in the subcommittee.

— Evans said that the call for the subcommittee will go out with the newsletter in September.

American National government general education requirement:

Evans said that this issue was brought to the executive board's attention by member Haroon Khan (HSU); after discussions in previous years, the interests of the membership and how to go about impacting this change were unclear. Gross pointed out that opening up the mandatory general education requirements may backfire to remove ANG. Rogers said that the Executive Committee needs to decide to keep it on the list of business or move it off, we need to see the support for it from the membership, perhaps we can offer our expert advice to the state legislature, other states have gotten ANG as a gen ed like Texas (that's referred to as the political science employment act). Karen said that this issue should be brought up at the 2021 ArkPSA business meeting. Gross said that the issue has been supported in the past by the membership at a business meeting. Sebold cautioned against taking the vote from the previous year with different association membership to speak for the current association's membership.

Motion introduced, seconded, and approved to move discussion of the ANG general education requirement to the 2021 ArkPSA business meeting.

Karen motioned the meeting to adjourn; motion was seconded and approved.