

CESJ SIG Business Meeting Minutes
AERA Annual Meeting, April 10, 2006 6:15-8:15 p.m.

- I. Welcome, Mingle, Refreshments, Introductions, Community Circle
- II. Overview of Status
 - A. Brief review of decision-making regarding the Immigrant Rights March and the Business Meeting; some folks decided to stay and hold the meeting to address somewhat pressing SIG business, in case others showed up in lieu of attending the March or because the message about going to the March instead did not fully circulate;
 - B. Largest SIG in AERA—approximately 300 active members, 200 or so lapsed Members;
 - C. Special thanks to Christine Clark for her work on the Newsletter and the Website;
 - D. Budget update—most of the resources, \$6,693.12—went to pay for the website, the receptions, tonight's refreshments, and a small portion, about \$600 paid for travel costs for most of the officers to meet once in January 2006 to plan for this conference, another \$600 or so is still needed to pay for the newsletter printing.
- III. Election

Two candidates for Program Co-Chair: Yuri Wellington and Nana Osei Koti. Candidates are introduced and given an opportunity to speak about their interest in the position. Yuri expressed an interest in developing within the SIG the ability to mentor new scholars in a variety of ways; Nana expressed the idea of building greater coordination between our SIG, other social justice-related SIGs, and the AERA social justice-focused initiatives.

Sally is asked to describe the work of the elected co-chair role in relationship to her appointed co-chair role—namely the idea of having her role to provide continuity year to year, and the elected role to bring in new energy; two people are needed to cover the workload in All Academic.

The idea of conducting an election online or via the website is thrown out. In response the idea of having both candidates share the elected co-chair role—co-co-chairs—is suggested as a way of allowing the SIG to pursue both of the ideas highlighted by the candidate (the mentoring idea and the social justice focus coordination idea). This meets with the consensus of those present, the candidates agree.

IV. Discussion Points from the Newsletter Message from Mara

The discussion of the ideas raised by Nana and Yuri organically gives way into a discussion of where the SIG might go next. Five ideas are eventually codified as areas to explore and possibly concentrate efforts over the next year. These ideas are:

- A. The three Program Co-Chairs may develop a Program Committee to engage a larger group of folks to help with this work of the SIG; use the SIG budget to facilitate ways for folks to meet and get work done;
- B. A Growth and Development Committee may be established to engage a larger group of folks to help with the implementation of new ideas, especially folks who have expressed an interest in getting involved in non-officer roles, also to have “built in” place to involve “new blood,” and to enhance SIG communication;
- C. Explore the development of an “Invisible College” related to the SIG; and,
- D. Examine the ways that the Invisible College and the Professional Development Course may or may not be connected;
- E. Develop a “List of Willing Elders” —folks who are willing to help out social-justice oriented junior- or middle-tier scholars looking for external reviewers as a part of the tenure and promotion processes.

Sally Thomas, Yuri Wellington, and Nan Osei Koti agree to explore their three-pronged chair roles in relationship to the 2007 Program, the two focus areas (mentorship and the collaboration), and the development of the Program Committee idea.

No clear decision was made regarding the Growth and Development Committee idea.

Jerome Frieberg, Pat Hinchey, and Margarita Berta-Avila agree to work on the Invisible College or "Day of Justice" idea, Margarita will contact SIG elders for historical information as is needed. Margarita also agreed to contact Cathy Spidell and Patricia Alvarez—two folks who expressed an interest in getting involved in the work of the SIG—to try to involve them in this work. Secondary ideas that this group will consider include—by what process will folks find out about this initiative? (possibly through the collaboration idea that Nana may work on or through an ad in AERA publication); how can the initiative be designed to encourage faculty members to bring students—grad and undergrad?; what ideas will the initiative engage? (possibly a series of thematic issues like: "As a new faculty member..." or "What happens if..." or learning circles in the Highlander tradition with action plan outcomes or Social Justice in the Classroom and Social Justice in the Community); how could SIG officers be used as "guides" for the event? What role will the SIG play—to offer sessions and/or to participate in them? Both? Neither? Should "key" social justice movement folks be involved—like well-known activists—and, if so, in what ways? How will this initiative be developed to address the major concern about the depersonalization of AERA in a formalized way? Should it have a "Speak Out" component—with a focus on "social justice issues in my, your, our, their own interest" type of theme? How could youth, parents, teachers, and local activists be involved? Could /should this initiative be developed into a "sawdust" or emergent counter conference to the beast that the AERA conference has become?

Mara Sapon-Shevin agreed assist with the connections between the Invisible College and the Professional Development Course, and to work out the future of the Professional Development Course with the others involved in it the last two years.

Maurianne Adams and Suzi Soohoo agree to work on the Development of the List of Willing Elders.

V. Closing Circle

The remaining attendees gather into a circle and each offers their "last words" on the meeting experience.

