

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

[Presentation](#)

[Chat](#)

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Attendees

Voting: Birgit Kopainsky, Len Malczynski, Paulo Gonçalves, Jack Homer, Raafat Zaini, Stefano Armenia, Sharon Els, Thomas Wittig, Shayne Gary, Hyunjun Kim, Will Glass, Lees Stuntz, Asmeret Naugle, Sara Metcalf, Bob Eberlein, Paul Newton,

Non-voting: Nici Zimmermann, Luis Luna-Reyes, Gloria Perez, Eduardo Franco, Vinícius Picanço, Jorge Sousa, Billy Schoenberg, Elke, Raquel Buzogany, Fernando Redivo, Rebecca Niles

Agenda

0:05 Welcome (Paulo Gonçalves)

0:15 VP Chapter and SIGs Report and Chapter Harmonization Warmup (Stefano)

0:45 Future of Meetings Continued (Len/Sara)

0:20 SPOC Update - Program Guidelines (Sara)

0:05 Announcements

Adjournment

Minutes

President Paulo Gonçalves brought the meeting to order asking all PC members to register for the conference and spread the word on it.

Secretary, Brad Morrison, was not at the meeting so the PC could not proceed with the motion to approve the February to April 2021 minutes.

VP Chapter and SIGs, Stefano Armenia, thanked Vinícius and Eduardo for their support on the committee. Stefano presented the outcome of chapter & SIG annual reports, based on 7 out of 21 chapter reports and 9 out of 17 SIG reports submitted this year. *Chapter analysis:* chapters need resources to support activities, and membership harmonization is key to this process. *Chapter challenges:* track activities by members, maintain activities and marketing, membership growth, delivering value. *SIG analysis:* lack of transparency on what SIGs are active, membership harmonization would also be helpful for SIGs. The Structural Racism SIG has been very active, some SIGs are developing library databases, and the Water SIG is trying to create a network. *SIG challenges:* managing and maintaining membership lists, leadership transition, hosting regular activities.

Executive Director, Rebecca Niles, shared news on the agreement with the Palmer House Hilton, Chicago. The 2021 contract was renegotiated to 2023, which means there is a location but no host for the 2023 conference. The renegotiated contract includes reduced room and catering costs and the right to cancel if there is labor dispute or renovation at the hotel. Clauses that were not accepted included: food and beverage cancellation damages limited to profit (30%), mitigation clause (resell cancelled rooms), compliance with guidelines (e.g., covid), new and improved force majeure, right to cancel if change in management, mutual cancellation clause for the Society to get damages from hotel if they cancel.

Rebecca is happy with the deal and would like to sign after a thorough review of the final text. Discussion continued on the hotel's risk of declaring bankruptcy, recent developments (change of management, funds for renovation, recent opening of the hotel) point to a small risk. We did not get a change in the impossibility clause - not clear how this would be settled at court. Sara: what would be the risk if we waited after the conference deadline. Rebecca: the hotel claims the Society are the only ones that haven't settled on a deal, no sound legal support to wait. Shayne: sounds like a good deal given the past situation. Bob: double-check dates for the conference in 2023; we need a motion for this.

Bob moves to approve the Palmer House Hilton, Chicago, Illinois as the 2023 Chicago Venue subject to Rebecca/Sara/Len review the final agreement document (Sara 2nd). The motion passed unanimously. Participants congratulated the team on this issue. The proposed contract was sent via email to the PC. PC was asked to get any comments to the proposed contract to RN or Len in 24 hours. Comment by RN: Please note that they DID make the cancellation date mistake so we could get out of it by 12/31/2021 for about \$17K if we want. Billy: If it was me I would sign that contract ASAP. I would then put Chicago back into the running as a potential conference site for 2023 and any other submissions for 2023 as a site gets a \$17K charge to cancel Chicago. Then we can weigh 2023 like we would any other.

VP Meetings, Len Malczynski, shared responses to the survey on what is important for participants in conferences. Len and Sara Metcalf continued detailing questions that would need to be answered to make site decisions for future conferences (e.g., physical site and/or virtual component? Who makes the decisions?). Sara then detailed aspects to be considered in terms of communication affordances (immersion / listening, presence / voicing and suspending, sense of community / respecting) which translate into virtual conference goals and recommendations: maximize accessibility, manage platform effectively, facilitate professional networking. Participants were asked to split into breakout rooms and describe their ideal hybrid conference trying to use specific attributes. Groups shared main discussion points upon returning. Birgit on group 1: passionately for a hybrid conference for more inclusiveness, avoiding 1st and 2nd class participants - split activities (some only being virtual), attract speakers. Shayne on group 2: hybrid only if executed seamlessly (prevent diff experiences), internet broadband is crucial site selection, social aspect of virtual participants is challenging, avoid further splitting into EUA and Europe attendance polarizations, still encourage physical attendance (virtual would be minimal). Will on group 4: virtual could detract from physical experience, maybe alternate between them - but every physical should have the possibility of virtual. Paulo on group 6: audio broke off, assumed the conference to be hybrid, would allow broader presentation, concern to understand questions (mic and video), still interested on physical for the social aspect. Sara on group 7: tradeoffs, benefit of smaller venues (sign up early and smaller costs), seek multiple sites.

SPOC Chair, Sara Metcalf, is working on revised program guidelines and encourages PC members to check out the document and let her know about any comments or suggestions.

President, Paulo, announced there is no meeting in July because of the conference.

Paulo asked who would like to adjourn the meeting. Sara moved. Birgit seconded. Motion approved.