



**Executive Committee Meeting
Southern Regional Honors Council
SRHC – Uptown Westin
Trade
Thursday, March 30, 2023
12:00PM-12:50PM (EDT)**

Call to Order

SRHC President Aaron Hanlin called the meeting to order at 12:01pm (EDT). Present were the following Executive Committee members and invited guests: Aaron Hanlin (President, Florida State College at Jacksonville), Rusty Rushton (Past-Past President, University of Alabama Birmingham), Maria Vandergriff Avery (Vice President, Catawba College), David Coleman (Treasurer, Eastern Kentucky University), Jon Blandford (Secretary, Bellarmine University), Heather Waldrop (Faculty At-Large, University of Tennessee-Chattanooga), Tom Jones (Parliamentarian, Gardner-Webb University), Taylor King (Student Vice President, North Carolina A&T), Emma Nantz (Student At-Large, Catawba College, attending virtually), Madison Cothorn (Student At-Large, University of Tennessee-Chattanooga), Jared Reeder (Student At-Large, Gardner-Webb University), Denise Lynch (2023 Conference Co-Organizer, University of North Carolina -Charlotte), Wilson Hawkins (Gardner-Webb University), Norris Feeney (Catawba College), Linda Frost (UT-Chattanooga), Rebekah Vaughn (Gardner-Webb), and Chase McKinney (Gardner-Webb)

Appointment of Parliamentarian

Aaron appointed Tom as parliamentarian. No objections.

Approval of Agenda

Aaron called for the approval of the meeting agenda, circulated in advance over email. *Maria so moved. David seconded. Motion unanimously approved.*

Approval of Minutes

Aaron called for the approval of the meeting minutes circulated in advance. *Maria so moved. David seconded. Motion approved.*

Treasurer's Report

103 paid, back where we were pre-pandemic. Anticipate we will be back up around 110 at the end of the year. Opened up a CD I in December – \$50,000 (will make a little over \$2,000 on it)

Current balance is \$138,000 (+ \$50,000 in CD)

Aaron asked if we have had any dues payments since the 20th?

Discussion of by when dues need to be paid for an institution to be eligible to vote. 6 hours before vote or any time before gen business meeting? Will confirm we revised that in constitution.

Wilson asked if Grenadine fees are monthly, but we only use once a year? David pointed out the \$1200 and change we pay for this is a lot cheaper than alternatives. Aaron explained that it is not the most user-friendly, but is most budget-friendly. Aaron talked to Ex Ordo and it would be \$10,000, which does not include registrations. Ex Ordo was not popular with NCHC conference attendees. Grenadine requires more manual work, but Ex Ordo is better for users.

2023 Conference

Maria shouted out to Norris and Denise and the work they have done. Charlotte is a great city, but only option accommodating a group of our size was an expensive option.

Denise stressed that A/V expenses were through the roof. Projector and a screen with a cable - \$1200 per day, per room WiFi - \$23 per device per day (chose not to do it, bit gives a sense of how exorbitant these costs are). Other costs similarly stratospheric. \$139 for a gallon of coffee, had we chosen to provide that. We absorbed reg fees for payment processing this year too.

599 registered for conference, which is a big increase from 478 last year. Exciting number and recharging of conference attendance.

Only options for conference our size were this hotel, convention center (no lodging, so wouldn't have worked), and Embassy Suites out near race track in Concord.

With 17 grad school sponsors and contract with Charlotte Visitors Bureau (\$5 back form hotel and \$5 back from bureau for each room) and getting deposit back, we are going to come out in the black – either even or slightly ahead.

President's party tonight with band, dessert, and cash bar.

Reminder to thank Shannon too (other ½ of UNCC team) – ordered swag, etc.

Karen asked about how this year's attendance compares to others. Discussion of how when we do it in NC, we get good attendance. On the margins (Arkansas, Memphis) we have lost money. And yet, if we are going to be fair to everyone, need to go to the West of our region periodically.

What are we going to do about A/V costs going forward? Cost us \$30,000 for this conference.

Options include no A/V or \$100 extra per person. Raised registration cost by \$30 to fold in A/V, but that did not cover it.

Student perspective on A/V – Madison explained some people really need it. Emma agreed with Mara that it is an accessibility issue, especially for attendees who may be hearing impaired.

What about raising cost and fee waiver?

Rebekah said she could not imagine doing the philosophy presentation she is giving this weekend without A/V.

Emma elaborated that this has come up before and she thinks A/V is almost necessary, not necessarily for the presenter, but for the audience. Even if not, then the conference should allow a printout or handout for every attendee or some sort, because a lot of people are visual learners. It's something she's found that with teaching, even when she says something, she has to have it on the board, or at least write it on the board, for anyone to pay attention. And for math/sciences, graphs would be very difficult to understand if they couldn't be seen.

Karen asked could we defray by raising institutional dues? Raising those already (being voted on tomorrow).

Aaron reminded us that we are a bargain, and pay less in dues than Florida honors council does.

David: QR codes instead of A/V?

MEHA holds regionals on campuses instead of hotels (Aaron started that). UNCC max was 525 for ballroom, so wouldn't have done that this year. Jax could potentially make that work.

Consensus that we need to charge A/V fee.

Question from Norris about if students did not pay a fee for previous conferences that required one, did they assume they would still have A/V?

Jon recommended covering this in FAQ or direct comm to directors.

Everyone expressed appreciation for Karen's HBCU outreach. HBCU networking event happening tonight!

2024 update

Will be in Jax, Florida, with negotiated room of \$169 a night

April 3-6 - bumped room counts up for that Wednesday, so really need high attendance on Wednesday night

City as Text with riverboat? Beach clean-up?

Aaron is planning with UNF's Jeff Chamberlain.

Aaron pivoted and agreed to host, even though he hosted last year and did a lot for this year.

Tax-exempt in Florida, because we are incorporated in Florida, which will save us lots of money.

2025 update

David moved that agenda be amended to include 2015 update. Taylor seconded. Motion approved.

Linda Frost at meeting representing Victoria Bryan, who is taking over for Juan-Antonio (who left committee and higher ed one year into three-year term).

Rooms are at Marriott (also \$169 room rate). Low food minimums.

Aquarium for reception, with new sturgeon petting pool.

Possible that first night of conference at UTC building.

Jon explained the process for replacing Juan-Antonio.

Elections

QR codes for each institutions instead of paper ballots.

Each institution has own voter identifier key, which will make for smoother process and instantaneous results.

One vote per institution or individual member. Ballot-stuffing used to be the norm before we changed

Side note – re-evaluate individual membership? Cheaper to get individual member and register than to pay non-member rate? We want to incentivize people to pay institutional memberships.

Update from student reps

Taylor pointed out that social media has really grown

Student event planned for Friday with vision boards, trivia, conversation cards, giveaways.

Aaron called for motion to adjourn. David so moved. Taylor seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 1:02PM.