



**Executive Committee Meeting
Southern Regional Honors Council
Committee met Online via Zoom
Wednesday, September 15, 2021
11:00-12:00 (EDT)**

Call to Order

SRHC President Kathy Cooke called the meeting to order at 11:00am (EDT). Present were the following Executive Committee members and invited guests: Kathy Cooke (President, University of South Alabama); Aaron Hanlin (Vice President, Seminole State University); Jon Blandford (Secretary, Bellarmine University [left meeting early to teach class]); David Coleman (Treasurer, Eastern Kentucky University); Heather Waldroup (Faculty/Staff At-Large, Appalachian State University [joined meeting late because of another commitment]); Steven Elliott-Gower (Faculty /Staff At-Large, Georgia College and State University); Karen Jackson (Faculty /Staff At-Large, North Carolina Central University); Hayley King (Student Vice President, Morehead State [joined meeting late because of another commitment]); Patrick Jacobs (Student At-Large, North Carolina Central University); Molly Rovinski (Student At-Large, Bellarmine University); Mason Hand (Student At-Large, The Citadel) Greg Tomso (Webmaster, University of West Florida); and Tom Jones (Parliamentarian, Gardner Webb University)

Appointment of Parliamentarian

Kathy Tom appointed as parliamentarian. No objections.

Approval of Agenda

Kathy called for the approval of the meeting agenda disseminated. *David so moved. Aaron seconded. Motion unanimously approved.*

Approval of Minutes

Kathy called for approval of the minutes from the previous meeting. *David so moved. Aaron seconded. Motion unanimously approved.*

Kathy began recording the meeting.

Discussion of Spring 2022 Birmingham Conference Planning

Aaron explained he has met with Mike Sloane, Greg, and David.

Possible themes discussed by them were "Honors as a Call to Action: Exploring the Power of Community," "The Power of Honors: Identity, Empowerment, and Engagement," and "A Strength to Love, Explore, and Learn: The Power of Honors Education." Steven said he likes the last one because of breadth of possibility. Karen pointed out the reference to King ties into opportunities in Birmingham. Aaron indicated he is leaning toward the last option. Jon mentioned the second and third options assign power to honors, while the first calls honors to change while assigning power to the community. Given

the history of inequities in higher ed and honors in particular, is that something we would want to consider? David talked about the history of community action in Birmingham. Kathy suggested swapping Honors and community with the third option

Aaron will write up a description prior to the Orlando conference to discuss at the meeting there.

Greg and Aaron are working on a website for the conference.

Aaron asked about who typically designs the conference logo. Greg shared that in the past it has been a contest, with student members sending out logo requests. Could student board send out a call for design ideas and get us some possible logos by Orlando? Steven suggested getting students the description and having them brainstorm logos based on that. Molly pointed out that we could post a call for logo ideas on our SRHC social media.

Tom asked about price estimate for pins with conference logo? (have had these at past conferences)
Kathy asked about how many pins we would need: 500?

Aaron asked if we need a keynote. David recommended talking to colleagues at UAB including Past-President Rusty Rushton and Mike Sloane about a potential keynote, emphasizing both the practical benefits of getting somehow local and also how that would tie into the power of community theme. Aaron said he would reach out to Mike and Rusty.

Tom inquired whether UAB still does a tour of the city for all freshmen. Kathy pointed out that could be a good City as Text experience. Controversy over monuments especially pertinent in this context, because by law they can't be taken down in Alabama.

David reminded us that a lot was already planned for two years ago that we could draw on again this time (and also reminded us that UAB's Rebecca Freeman, who carried a lot of the workload before, asked out of planning responsibilities this time around).

Greg explained we will do a refresh on the website as soon as we have the theme, registration links, and stuff like that. Need to figure out how to link Grenadine into the website.

David Coleman reported that Greg Tomso has agreed to serve as the 2022 Conference Finance Chair and will open a bank account in SRHC's name at his local Wells Fargo Branch in Pensacola, using his UWF business address (11,000 University Parkway, Pensacola, FL 32503).

Greg shared that this account has to be opened in the name of SRHC and that we need to keep conference accounting separate from the rest of SRHC's finances. That way, if we were ever to get audited, it keeps the accounting clean. David observed that is the way it has always been done. Phil Frana and Rick Scott told David when he stepped into the role of treasurer that the rules are clear that as a 501c3 we cannot have more than \$50,000 a year in the main account. If we did have more than that, we need to file for a different tax status.

Kathy asked about how confident we are that we are in full compliance of tax law, and recommended we do a consult with our legal folks in Florida.

Kathy reminded us that we need to get insurance for conference, which we did two years ago and had a company we were working with then we could potentially use again.

Discussion of *Sanctuary*

David reported that SRHC has historically subsidized UAB \$2,000 to help with the publication of this journal. Production costs have gone up from \$3,000 to \$4,700. David recommended we increase subsidy to \$3,000 so UAB is not absorbing a disproportionate amount of the cost. In his opinion, we wouldn't want to go higher than that because we want to continue to encourage them to keep costs down.

David framed this suggestion as a motion. Steven seconded.

Heather asked about transitioning from print to digital. Jon mentioned he has brought this up with Rusty, and thinks this would help broaden the audience for the journal. Tom believes having both print and digital would be ideal. Aaron launched MEHA's journal, which is housed on the digital commons at Kent State's library. Greg observed this conversation comes up every few years. Students and Rusty prefer the print artifact, but there has been a digital version too in the past. Suspects it is an issue with finding someone who has the ability and time to create the digital version.

Motion to raise subsidy carried.

David reminded us all to encourage our students to submit work to the journal.

DEI Initiatives

Karen updated the rest of the committee on outreach efforts to HBCUs. She has been contacting HBCUs in our region and creating a database of HBCU honors directors.

People from HBCUs to whom Karen has spoken love the SRHC conference. It is a positive experience for them and their students, but promoting and messaging may be an issue. Funding is an issue as well.

Karen observed that some programs seem to be in leadership transitions, which complicates matters further. Given the number of programs in leadership transitions, what if we were to hold a half-day SRHC workshop on program development? Could be a cheaper alternative to the new directors institute in Lincoln. Henry said she loves the workshop idea and would be willing to help organize. Could we do in the spring. Maybe April? Jon mentioned that if we were to do a workshop in the fall instead, that would give us two SRHC events for the year, one in each semester. Karen pointed out we would need to consider institutional equity when deciding whether to hold any such events in-person or virtually. Along those lines, Kathy asked whether SRHC might provide funding support for programs in crisis. Kathy shared that if we have some sort of program and professional development event, whenever we decide to do it, we should find ways to make SRHC funds available to provide leadership and financial support to encourage attendance among colleges and universities that face financial obstacles.

Several members pointed out the need to include Hispanic-Serving institutions and Indigenous-serving institutions as well in our outreach.

More generally, need to list the members 11 states that comprise SRHC on our website.

David pointed out there is question of whether Virginia is going to stay given the formation of a new Atlantic regional.

Student Leadership on Social Media Plan

Student VP Hayley King reported that SRHC student leadership team had met last week to plan social media strategy for the coming year.

Molly reported that the intention is to have two original outreach posts on each of the three social media outlets in the weeks leading up to Orlando NCHC in fall and to Birmingham SRHC in spring: First, a “Meet your Rep Mondays” set of profiles on Executive Committee members, and then “Thesis Thursdays” spotlighting student thesis or capstone projects that will be presented in Orlando and then in Birmingham.

Patrick reported on the division of labor on which they had agreed (Patrick in charge of Twitter, Hayley on Facebook, and Molly & Mason teaming up on Instagram).

Kathy called for motion to adjourn. *David so moved. Steven seconded.*

Meeting adjourned at 12:02pm (EDT)