



**Executive Committee Meeting
Southern Regional Honors Council
NCHC – Dallas Sheraton
Majestic 3
Friday, November 4, 2022
12:00PM-12:50PM (CDT)**

Call to Order

SRHC President Aaron Hanlin called the meeting to order at 12:02pm (CDT). 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), Juan Antonio Alonso (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), 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), Emma Rayfield (Gardner-Webb University)

Appointment of Parliamentarian

Aaron appointed Tom as parliamentarian. No objections.

Aaron observed that it was David Coleman's birthday. "Happy Birthday" was sung, with dubious tunefulness but great gusto, and David was gifted a card signed by the SRHC Exec Comm.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Aaron called for approval of the minutes from the previous meeting (held Monday, September 12 over MS Teams), circulated in advance over email. *David so moved. Maria seconded. Motion unanimously approved.*

Treasurer's Report

David distributed a printed copy of treasurer's report, and explained that we are in good financial shape, with 79 institutional members (78 at this point last year). For the first time in over four years, our bank account went over \$100,000 in October 2022.

Committee agreed to offer 12 PITP scholarships of up to \$800 each, with no more than one per institution. That is the same number and amount as last year, when we increased the award from \$700 each because of rising costs. Last year only 7 out of 12 were awarded because we only received 7 applications.

Maria moved to approve treasurer's report. Juan Antonio seconded. Motion unanimously approved.

Aaron asked about whether we make want to take advantage of high interest rate by moving a portion of our savings into a guaranteed annuity that we can then use to fund scholarships. David agreed this is a good and suggested moving half (\$50,000).

Maria motioned we move half of treasury into an interest-bearing account. Taylor seconded. Motion carried.

2023 Conference Planning Update

Denise provided details about the upcoming conference in Charlotte, which will take place from March 30-April 2 at the Westin in Uptown Charlotte, with Catawba and UNCC co-hosting. Secured a room rate of just under \$200 a night.

Students have been meeting and participated in a site visit with conference planning committee right before school started. Students have been tasked with planning student events and social media campaign.

There will be a City as Text experience, and Denise attended master-class here at NCHC to get ideas.

Working on securing a keynote speaker – Brenda Tindell, who is an historian at Harvard and is an amazing, dynamic speaker who spoke at North Carolina state-level Honors conference before.

Norris elaborated on the conference theme of “Honors in Transition,” noting that Charlotte is, like other places in the fast-growing South, a city in transition. Connected this to how our students are undergoing transitions, including entering higher ed and graduating.

CFP is on website, and Jon will send it out in email today. January 30 is proposal deadline.

Registration costs are being finalized – will be somewhat higher than last year because the cost of everything has gone up.

Looking Ahead to 2024 & 2025

Juan Antonio shared that the convention center is the only space big enough in Chattanooga for a conference the size of SRHC, but it is unavailable for 2024. Because of that, we are moving Chattanooga to 2025, when facilities are fully available. Convention center and hotel downtown both under contract, with a really good room rate of \$169 a night locked in at the latter. Receptions will take place both on UTC campus and at aquarium

Sites discussed for 2024 included Jacksonville (where UNF can host, and there is availability downtown), Montgomery, Amelia Island, and Greenville. Lynn Stallings at U of Auburn has indicated that 2026 would work better for them than 2024. Jeff Chamberlin willing to take on conference planning responsibilities for JAX.

David moved that we recommend Jacksonville as host site for 2024 conference. Juan Antonio seconded. Motion unanimously approved.

Dues Increase Proposal

Executive committee discussed last year increase in dues by \$25 (from \$75, to \$100), but was not able to get that posted in time to put to vote at last spring's meeting. Notice now posted on website so we can vote at the general business meeting in Charlotte.

David emphasized that this is first increase in 10 years, and is needed to keep pace with rising costs. Aaron pointed out that it is same as Florida state honors org dues, but also acknowledged may create issues around inclusivity and access.

Jon motioned that we take proposal for a \$25 dues increase to membership for a vote at conference in the spring. Rusty seconded. Motion unanimously approved.

Student Rep Update

Students reported out on visit to conference site. Emma shared the big ballroom will be perfect for student event, and that they are planning on having music like we did at Orlando.

Taylor said she is happy to help with social media, and Jared reported that the student reps plan to meet on Zoom soon to discuss both conference programming and social media campaign /presence. Madison asked about hashtags, social media filters.

Jon promised to get passwords to students

Other Business

David asked if we still want to use Grenadine – consensus was yes (Ex Ordo, which NCHC switched for this year, has not been popular with attendees).

Rusty asked about theme in Birmingham – wasn't it also Honors in Transition? Aaron reminded us that it changed to a social justice focus after he took the reins for that conference post-COVID postponement.

Aaron explained the plan is to use Eventzilla for proposals and registration again in the spring.

David mentioned Denise needs to be added as a signatory to the SRHC bank account, and that it would be a good idea to have the conference planner and SRHC President added each year, as that it is a best practice for a non-profit.

Maria moved that we add the conference organizer and SRHC president as signatories to the bank account. Juan Antonio seconded. Motion carried.

Tom pointed out we need to adopt this in bylaws, and that we should amend business meeting agenda tomorrow to add this as a discussion item.

Karen Keaton Jackson not able to attend, but shared via email with Aaron some of the outreach she has been doing with HBCUs. Possibility that some HBCUs not from our region but from states adjacent to our region (e.g., Delaware) may be in Charlotte.

David mentioned we need to make sure Stripe account is still connected accurately to event system.

Adjourn

Aaron asked for a motion for adjournment. David so moved. Emma seconded. Approved.

Meeting adjourned @ 1:45pm