



**Executive Committee Meeting  
Southern Regional Honors Council  
Birmingham – Sheraton Hotel  
Jefferson 1  
Saturday, April 2, 2022  
1:04PM-2:00PM (CDT)**

**Call to Order**

SRHC President Aaron Hanlin called the meeting to order at 1:04pm (CDT). Present were the following Executive Committee members and invited guests: Aaron Hanlin (President, Seminole State); Kathy Cooke (Past President, University of South Alabama); Rusty Rushton (Past-Past President, UAB); Maria Vandergriff-Avery (Vice President, Catawba College); Jon Blandford (Secretary, Bellarmine University); David Coleman (Treasurer, Eastern Kentucky University); Karen Keaton Jackson (Faculty/Staff At-Large, North Carolina Central University); Heather Waldroup (Faculty /Staff At-Large, Appalachian State); Taylor King (Student Vice President, North Carolina A&T); Madison Cothorn (Student At-Large, Chattanooga State); Emma Nantz (Student At-Large, Catawba); Jared Reeder (Student At-Large, Gardner-Webb); Tom Jones (Parliamentarian, Gardner-Webb University); Mike Sloane (2022 Conference Co-Organizer, University of Alabama-Birmingham) Denise Lynch (2023 Conference Co-Chair, University of North Carolina-Charlotte); Shannon Zurell-Carey (Admin Support for 2023 Conference, University of North Carolina-Charlotte); Linda Frost (2024 Conference Organizer, UT Chattanooga); Wilson Hawkins (Faculty /Admin, Gardner-Webb); and Norris Feeney (Faculty /Admin, Catawba College)

**Appointment of Parliamentarian**

Aaron appointed Tom as parliamentarian. No objections.

**Approval of Agenda**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Aaron called for approval of the minutes from the previous meeting. The secretary had not had time to finalize and disseminate those minutes in the two days since the last meeting, so read a draft summary of them instead. *David so moved. Kathy seconded. Minutes approved.*

## **Welcome and Introductions**

The committee welcomed new members Emma, Madison, Taylor, Jared, and Maria. Current and outgoing members all introduced themselves as well.

Aaron acknowledged the extent to which the DEI efforts that Kathy had made a priority and Karen has helped us realize were evident throughout the weekend in the conference theme, presentations, and participation of HBCU institutions.

## **Treasurer's Report**

David shared that we are right under \$100,000 after conference in terms of our general treasury, less what we have committed for PITP scholarships. Reiterated that we would need \$150,000 or more to survive a full conference cancellation.

Aaron asked if we have ever pursued investments. David explained that we did have CDs at some point, but no sense in having those now given the negligible rate of return. NCHC has a money market account. Would we want to pursue something similar?

Aaron asked for motion to approve treasurer's report. *Kathy so moved. Maria seconded. Motion carried.*

## **2022 Conference Review: Successes and Lessons**

Kathy credited conference success to Aaron, Greg, Mike, David, and Jon. Aaron thanked Mike Sloane for all of his work on the ground in Birmingham. Maria mentioned band was awesome, really pulled people together. Kathy suggested we could have maybe done band on Friday, but had to do a lot of pivoting. Shout out to Dr. Vaz for City as Text, which was excellent and well-attended.

Kathy asked if we might want to put together etiquette for moving between sessions, perhaps even FAQs on the website for people new to conferencing. Aaron mentioned that FCHC does something like that by disseminating conference etiquette guidelines. Our students would benefit from clear descriptions of how things work – format, expectations. Denise suggested LinkedIn might be a good venue for sharing that information.

Heather stressed the need for training of student moderators, citing the awkward misgendering of a presenter by a moderator this year ("*she* likes to be refereed to as *they*")

Consensus that pronoun stickers were a good idea, but that we need to include pronouns in registration.

Jon mentioned some panels had Q&A in between each presenter, and some all at the end. Need to be consistent, and panels with Q&A all at the end tended to have much better conversation.

Signage might have been helpful this year given the two hotels (Aaron had ordered that, but it fell through because of the printer).

## 2023 Conference Planning

Denise explained that they have already formed student steering committees and will charge them with coming up with ideas over the summer. Margaret Kanipes from NC A&T eager to have students moderate. Allison Kellar at Wingate has students who can help as is well. Heather is going to connect us with museum. Everyone agreed band and dancing would be good given the success at this year's president's reception.

Denise shared that layout of Westin is very basic. They own a poster a printer at UNCC so will be able to create signs.

Jon encouraged students on exec committee to begin thinking now about what student-led programming they would want for the conference.

Will want to get a networking sessions for HBCUs on the schedule.

What about professional development sessions for students and networking opportunities for faculty?

Maria talked about NCHC's Beginning in Honors – what about something like that at the regional level?

In between conferences, could host virtual once-a-month meet-ups /problem-solving conversations.

Jon asked whether resume and mock interview workshops like we had at NCHC last year might be a possibility. Denise said Charlotte career center would be eager to get involved.

A/V Plan? Costs are exorbitant – fees this year only covered 1/3 of the expense; paid for tech that was not utilized. Kathy suggested using a QR code and having people access materials that way. Heather asked if we could assume A/V in every panel and work into reg cost. Mike suggested not to use AV

\$1000 for A/V per room for a day \$27,000 to have video in every room all day long (and that would be without Wi-Fi) Could we negotiate to bring our own A/V?

Mike stressed that seated lunch is the bottleneck that determines which hotel you can use because only so many hotels have that capacity.

Taylor King indicated we could push a message out to students recommending they present without. Emma said she thinks visuals are more for audience than for presenter – easier her to follow if there is a visual anchor. That's also how students are taught to present when they learn how to do presentations for class.

Madison, who herself is deaf, highlighted that having A/V is an accessibility issue. Jared pointed out that students have an array of public speaking skills.

Aaron called for a motion to establish an ad hoc committee to address the issue. *David so moved. Kathy seconded. Motion carried.*

Heather volunteered to facilitate this committee – Jared, Madison, and Rusty will also participate.

*Kathy moved that we have ASL at large public events. David seconded. Motion carried.*

### **Social Media and Website**

Aaron is revamping website, but we need a new webmaster now that Greg Tomso is no longer available.

*Kathy motioned that we create an ad hoc committee to work on social media and web presence. David seconded Motion carried.*

David recommended we recruit Hayley, Mason, and Molly to work on this.

### **Other Business**

David moved to ask Chattanooga to host 2024. Kathy seconded

Linda graciously agreed, and indicated Juan Antonio at Chattanooga State and Victoria Bryan at Cleveland State would also be able to help.

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

**Meeting adjourned at 2:00PM**