

**EGSG Business Meeting Minutes**  
**2009 AAG Meeting in Las Vegas**  
**Ethnic Geography Specialty Group**

**Session 3311, Royale Pavilion 6, 11:55am-12:55pm Tuesday March 24, 2009**

**Past Chair:** Wei Li (Arizona State University)

**Chair:** Emily Skop (University of Colorado, Colorado Springs)

**Vice Chair:** James Smith (Towson University)

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Stavros Constantinou (Ohio State U)

**Board of Directors:**

Joy Adams (Humboldt State University)

John Frazier (University of Binghamton)

David Kaplan (Kent State University)

Heather Smith (University of North Carolina at Charlotte)

Ian Yeboah (Miami University of Ohio)

Susan Hume (Southern Illinois University Carbondale)

Ezra Zeitler, student representative (UW-Eau Claire)

**Webmaster:** Ezra Zeitler (zeitleej@uwec.edu) (UW-Eau Claire)

**Newsletter Editor:** Thomas Boswell (University of Miami)

Members present: 30

1. Introduction of new members of EGSG who attended the business meeting. Delighted to see at least 10 new members join us for the business meeting.
2. Approval of minutes for the business meeting of EGSG during the 2008 Boston AAG meeting.
3. Chair's Report on AAG 2009. We need to do our outmost to get students involved. EGSG keeps steady with sponsored sessions and membership, but need to increase the size of the group given current/future growth of AAG.
4. Report on Specialty Group chair meeting – Wei Li reported on her attendance at the meeting of the Specialty groups at the AAG meeting. More than 60 specialty affinity groups, thus AAG encourages the merging of specialty groups with considerable overlap. The goal will now be to organize high quality sessions where individual participation at the AAG annual meeting will be limited to two activities, e.g. two presentations or one presentation and one panel discussion. AAG is investing 150K to update their computer system which should help create a better listserve which will in turn help EGSG with getting more sponsored sessions..
5. Treasurer's Report and discussion–Stavros Constantinou reported that EGSG has a total of 196 members. This membership consists of 67 students and 129 non-student members. At the time of the business meeting the treasury had \$944.92.

The treasurer asked for an increase of the membership fees. After a brief discussion, EGSG voted to raise the membership fees for non-student members from \$5.00 to \$6.00. Student membership fees will remain unchanged at \$1.00.

EGSG also passed a motion to create a new "contributing membership" category to accept additional individual contributions from EGSG members. The overall goal is to increase the balance so that we can give out more rewards.

6. Report and vote on EGSG by-laws. After a brief discussion on the proposed by-laws, as drafted by Lawrence Estaville, Linda Fair, and Heather Smith, EGSG approved them with minor modifications. Great gratitude expressed to the committee for their hard work on this task.
7. Report and vote on EGSG listserve. There were several concerns expressed regarding the AAG listserve. A discussion followed whether EGSG should maintain its own membership list. The chair will be in charge of sending out emails from individual members to the group, since it is unlikely to be a very time-consuming task.
8. Boswell reported on Newsletter and solicited contributions to newsletter from individuals on their research. He also asked for a person to help proofread the newsletter. . Alan Marcus was nominated as a new board member and agreed to act as the co-editor of the Newsletter.
9. Report on EGSG's Web Site by Ezra Zeitler ([www.unl.edu/geography/ethnic](http://www.unl.edu/geography/ethnic)). Nothing new to report – always looking for contributions!
10. Report on EGSG's Student Paper Competition. Joy Adams reported that there were no student paper submissions. Another reason to use the membership list rather than the AAG listserve.
11. Report on EGSG's Best Dissertation Proposal Award. Heather Smith reported that there were six submissions for the dissertation award. This year's winner is Samarth Joseph, Department of Geography, State University of New York at Buffalo. Her Doctoral Proposal Title is "The effects of remittances on Haiti's economic development and the factors that motivate New York Haitian Diaspora to participate in the remittance economy." A check for \$250.00 and an award certificate will be mailed to her.
12. Report on EGSG's Distinguished Scholar Award. Dave Kaplan reported that Ron Johnston is the 2010 Distinguished Scholar speaker.
13. Report on EGSG's Distinguished Ethnic Geographer Career Award. No report.
14. Report on Specialty Group chairs meeting. Wei Li. This item was moved under item 3.
15. Report on REP IV. Great meeting – congratulations again to the organizers at University of Miami, and the Binghamton University crew for doing such a fine job.
16. Elections. Tom Ptak (University of Oregon) was elected as the new Student Representative. Ezra Zeitler was elected as a new board member and Heather Smith and John Frazier were re-elected as Board members.
16. Suggestions for paper sessions and field trips for the 2010 AAG meeting in Washington, D.C. Send to the chair!
17. Other business? Ran out of time!!!