

MINUTES (TO BE APPROVED AT CHICAGO AAG MEETING)

0. Meeting called to order; greetings by Heather Smith, EGSG Chair and minute of silence for Larry Brown and Harm de Blij who recently passed away.
1. **Introduction of new members of EGSG who are attending the business meeting**
Four students and one faculty member introduced themselves as new members of the EGSG.
2. **Approval of minutes for the business meeting of EGSG during the 2013 Los Angeles AAG meeting**
Smith asked whether there were any amendments or adjustments to the minutes circulated before the meeting. Members present unanimously approved minutes.
3. **Chair's Report on AAG 2014**
There are approximately 6100 attendees at this year's meeting; about 30% are international attendees. There was no other significant news to report.
4. **Report on Specialty Group Chairs meeting**
AAG is aware of the issue that life-time members are often not included in specialty group listserves; Smith strongly encouraged members who are not getting EGSG emails to contact the AAG to be added to the EGSG listserve.
EGSG had about the same number of sponsored sessions at the Tampa meeting as in the past.
5. **Secretary/Treasurer's Report**
The EGSG currently has 179 members. The dues are \$3 for students and \$10 for others, the balance as of March 31, 2014 is \$2416.35.
6. **Report on the EGSG Newsletter**
Smith praised newsletter editors for their work. Boswell reported that he added a table of contents and considers producing two issues a year. He also asked for more contributions from members, such as a past-president's/president's column, reports on highlights, members' accomplishments and book reviews.
7. **Report on EGSG Web Site**
Smith congratulated the website committee for designing the new EGSG website and thanked Zeitler for hosting the website at UW Eau Clair. Smith invited membership to send messages to website committee with corrections or additions.
8. **Report on EGSG Student Paper Competition**
Scott Basford from University of Tennessee at Knoxville won the student paper competition. The issue was raised why there is a requirement that students attend the AAG meeting. In the past, the oral presentations were judged as well, but the rule could be reconsidered.
9. **Report on EGSG Best Dissertation Proposal Award**
Claire Schuch from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte won the dissertation proposal award.
10. **Report on EGSG Distinguished Service Award**
No award given this year.
11. **Report on EGSG Distinguished Scholar Award**

Teixeira emphasized the importance of this award for the EGSG and announced the winner—Lawrence Estaville. He will be honored at the upcoming REP conference.

12. Report on EGSG Distinguished Ethnic Geographer Career Award

Smith reported that this award is only given when somebody has distinguished themselves in teaching, mentoring, service to the EGSG, etc. Tom Boswell received this year's award and was honored in a special session earlier that day.

13. Report on REP VII

Frazier commented on the huge loss of Larry Brown who provided excellent advice and made immense contributions to ethnic geography.

Frazier thanked the EGSG for co-sponsoring REP VII in October 2014, alerted members that fieldtrips are filling up fast, and provided some information about speakers and entertainment (information is available on the REP website)

0. Report on Student Committee

Smith thanked the Student Committee for their work putting together student sessions at the AAG Meetings and at the REP Conference as well as for recruiting new student members. Cook briefly reported about student sessions and future plans.

14. Suggestions for paper sessions and field trips for the 2015 AAG meetings in Chicago, II

Smith asked members to contact the EGSG chair with ideas for sessions and fieldtrips for the Chicago meeting in 2015. Estaville reminded members of the tradition of having EGSG dinners and suggested that Contantinou should take charge of organizing a Greek dinner in Chicago.

15. Other business:

- Discussion of nominations challenges :

Smith thanked those who were willing to serve on committees and reminded members that more nominations are needed. She also reminded members of the importance of diversity in committees, e.g. new and long-term members.

Sandoval cautioned members that some people who self-nominated for positions are not present at the meeting.

Smith reported that EGSG membership has decreased. Several members contributed ideas for reaching out to potential members such as sending the newsletter to people who might be interested, inviting people who presented on EGSG-related topics at the EGSG, promoting EGSG at the REP conference, etc.

Discussion returned to the issue of the listserve provided by the AAG and how a more complete list could be compiled.

- Email non-response

Smith reported that there have been issues with members not responding to EGSG-related messages as well as Board members not responding to emails about EGSG business. Smith reminded members that response rates must improve; people in EGSG positions have committed to serving, so this is their responsibility.

- Adjustment to Program Committee

Because of the persisting problem with getting members to serve on the Program Committee (despite repeated requests nobody from the Board stepped up to help in the past year), Smith proposed a permanent change to the committee: the EGSG chair, chair of the Awards Committee and one member from the Board should be the core of the committee, with other board members helping out as needed.

Membership agreed to vote on the issue right away; motion to change Program Committee was seconded; motion passed unanimously.

- Goals for 2014-2015
Smith reported that the next major task was to revise the bylaws to more clearly define the responsibilities of the various committees.

0. Frazier and Estaville praised Smith for her effective leadership of the EGSG.

16. **Elections**

Elections for open EGSG positions were held (paper ballots). The results will be distributed to membership via the listserv.