

## **Minutes of SEMSEC Business Meeting – 3/17/07 – Athens, GA**

- Minutes of previous meeting were approved.
- There was no old business.

### **Election of Chapter Officers**

- As per bi-laws Gavin Douglas (UNCG) succeeded Laurie Semmes as Chapter President.
- A question was raised about whether the Past President automatically became a member of the Chapter Advisory Board. The discussion was tabled pending a check of the by-laws.
- Frank Gunderson (Florida State) was elected as Vice President. He will also act as Program Chair for 2008 Chapter meeting, to be held in Tallahassee. He will decide date of next year's conference.
- It was assumed that Ben Koen from Florida State (not present), who proposed the location of next year's meeting, will act as Local Arrangements Chair.
- James E. Cunningham (Florida Atlantic University) was elected Chapter Secretary/Treasurer.
- Trevor Harvey (Florida State) was elected Chapter Student Board Member. He will also continue as Chapter Website Manager and List-Serve Administrator.

### **Financial Report**

- It was reported by Gavin that there is approximately \$280 dollars in the Chapter account from the previous year. (An accurate financial accounting will be forthcoming.)
- The Chapter accrued a net profit \$373.49 from the Athens conference.

### **New Business.**

- James Cunningham suggested making web master recognized position in SEMSEC. Discussion followed, with the decision being made to create the position of Electronic Communications Administrator, which will necessitate amending the Chapter Bi-Laws by a vote of membership. Jean Kadula expressed appreciation to Trevor for all his work on Chapter website in preparation for the regional conference.
- It was agreed upon by those present that incoming President Gavin Douglas would write a letter of appreciation to Laurie Semmes for her work as Chapter President. It was also agreed upon that Laurie would write letters of appreciation to Jean and Gavin for their work as Local Arrangements and Program Committee Chairs respectively. Laurie will also write a letter of appreciation to the UGA School of Music for their contribution of donated space, booklet costs, and student resources.
- There was a brain-storming session, based on ideas presented at last year's business meeting, about increasing the involvement/participation of Caribbean scholars and students in the Chapter.
  - Dale Olsen (not present), per earlier conversation, had suggested the possibility of utilizing Krebs funding from FSU for a Caribbean key-note speaker or plenary session.
  - Jo-Anne Richards (SIL International), an ethnomusicologist from Jamaica, expressed the need to identify other scholars and students residing in the Caribbean.
  - Rebecca Sager (Independent Scholar, Tallahassee) volunteered to search for SEM membership residing in the Caribbean no currently involved in the SEMSEC Chapter.
  - It was suggested that a Chapter position be created (Outreach Coordinator) to explore greater involvement from all areas within the Chapter. Rebecca was appointed Chapter Outreach Coordinator. (This position may also need to be added to the bi-laws.) She will look at grant-funding possibilities to promote Caribbean involvement in the Chapter, including travel and research grants.
  - James Cunningham suggested the possibility of the 2009 Chapter meeting being held in the Caribbean. Jo-Anne agreed to look into Jamaica as a potential site. Other suggested Caribbean sites were the Virgin Islands and the Bahamas (because of their proximity and ease of access).
  - There was a brief discussion about the allowance of non-English-speaking presentations at a conference held in the Caribbean. There was a general agreement that non-English papers may be too complicated at a small conference, but no formal consensus was reached.