

**Meeting Minutes: 2009 Annual Meeting**  
Midwest Women's Caucus Meeting  
Thursday, April 2, 2009

Minutes

**I. Call to Order**

President Brigid Harrison welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

- a. President Harrison proposed discussion on a motion to combine the offices of Secretary and Newsletter Editor, to facilitate the transfer of minutes to the Newsletter Editor for posting on the Caucus website.
- b. Emily Gill proposed motion for temporary secretary to substitute for the function of taking the evening's minutes. The motion was seconded, none opposing, motion passed.
- c. President Harrison presented the minutes.

The minutes were approved (without revision).

**III. Treasurer's Report**

- a. Financial Report  
Beginning Balance: \$1,680.76  
Current Balance: \$1924.21  
Expenditures slightly exceeded Revenues.

**b. Membership Report**

Drop in membership by 45 members in 2008-2009. Primarily grad students, or non dues-paying members.

**IV. Newsletter Editor** Candice Ortbals reported that content and minutes are updated on the Caucus website, hosted by Wordpress.

**V. Old Business**

- a. 2009 Program
    - Suggestions from last year's roundtables
    - Promoting Caucus membership, announce Caucus at all roundtables, email went out to all Grad Directors to promote Caucus, forms available at meeting to sign up for MPSA and APSA Caucuses.
- Several did not receive email communications, Tracy Osborn asked those concerned to email her, they will conduct audit of email lists.

- Reminders about paying dues would be helpful
- b. President Harrison announced the 2009 Member's Achievement Award, to recognize excellence in scholarship and mentorship of women in Political Science. The 2009 Member's Achievement Award winner was Kim Fridkin Kahn.

Brigid read a brief biography of Kim Fridkin Kahn's scholarship and mentorship, and comments from fellow scholars and mentees in the field. On behalf of the Caucus, Brigid offered her thanks, congratulations, and a Lifetime Membership to the Midwest Women's Caucus.

Professor Fridkin Kahn offered her thanks to caucus members and individuals who nominated her, as well as husband and co-author.

#### C. Meeting Format and Time

-Discussion of no refreshments at the meeting given the reception directly following the meeting. Instead idea proposed to fund graduate student travel to conferences.

-Caucus Meeting Time directly conflicts with Latino/Latina and Black Caucuses and we have a lack of diversity because of this. Discussion followed on whether to move back to breakfast time or a panel time. We moved to evening because Midwest is scheduling panels earlier. Discussion followed of whether to move to a panel time. No further action on panel time since every time presents scheduling conflicts.

#### D. Next year is the 30th Anniversary of the Women's Caucus.

-Proposed Member's Achievement Award intended to recognize women teachers and scholars in Political Science who were pathbreakers in the field of political science academe. Spread word to all types of institutions: schools, research, teaching, community colleges.

Georgia Duerst Lahti mentioned having a gala with oral history from these women. Need to form a Volunteer Committee to work on this 2009-2010.

### VI. Election of New Officers

Brigid Harrison submitted the following slate of officers.

President: Tracy Osborn, University of Iowa, *tracy-osborn@uiowa.edu*

President-elect: Candice Ortals, Pepperdine University,  
*candice.ortals@pepperdine.edu*

Newsletter Editor: Meg Rincker, Purdue University Calumet,  
*mrincker@calumet.purdue.edu*

#### *Continuing Officers*

Treasurer: Lori Poloni-Staudinger, Northern Arizona University, *Lori.Poloni-Staudinger@nau.edu*

Secretary: Valerie Hunt, Southern Methodist University,  
*vhunt@smu.edu*

The slate was approved.

- VII. President's Remarks: President Osborn thanked outgoing officers and said she was excited to begin her term. She mentioned the Caucus was near and dear to her heart as she joined as a graduate student.

VIII. New Business

- a. Solicit ideas for 2010 Midwest Roundtables:

- Promotion and Tenure
- Getting grants and funding
- Women and Career Paths- Vicki Hesli reporting on that
- Research Collaboration
- Grad Student Focused Roundtable
- Bridging into Retirement
- Political Leadership-Barbara Burrell study about women in political office.
- How to Mentor Student Research

- b. Proposed ideas for Women's Caucus awards:

- Grad Student Travel Grant
- Caucus award for Junior Scholar. Need to create committee to choose winner.