**Society for Disability Studies**

**Annual Board Meeting**

**June 10, 2015**

**In attendance:** Mike, Brenda, Sami, Mel, Helen, Ibby, Frank, Funmi, Chris, Mallory, Juliann, Phil

**Regrets:** Gregor, Joanne

**Missing:** Katheryne,

Meeting started at 9:20AM Eastern

**Introductions:** All members introduce themselves to the group.

**May Minutes:** Approved with two abstentions.

**Discussion of Bylaws:** Mike Rembis opened discussion of the bylaws and things which may need minor changing such as inconsistent use of the words President and Chairperson and differences in our official standing committees in the bylaws from what we actually have operating currently. Board members discussed these issues and reviewed the bylaws. The Board agreed that Chairperson should be used in the bylaws and that the committee list should be updated. These bylaw changes, which must be submitted in writing to all board members a month prior to voting, will be voted on during the August meeting.

**Fundraising Discussion:** The Board discussed how our current method of fundraising locally at conference sites and through members, particularly caucuses, it not sustainable, especially now that we will have a regular rotation of cities in which we hold our conference. Mike Rembis suggests we need a standing fundraising committee independent of the conference site committee. The Board agreed and discussed possible sources of revenue for SDS. The Board also discussed updating the website to make independent fundraising by caucuses easier so they don’t have to use crowdsourcing websites which take a percentage of the income. The Board discussed the organization’s social media presence more generally and how to improve it, including the live-tweeting and improving our Facebook page.

**2016 Conference Program Discussion:** Beth Haller and Matt Wangeman have agreed to co-chair the conference. The CFP theme will be presented to the board in August. The Board discussed the benefits of having more local connections in Phoenix as well as the importance of accessible public transit downtown. The Board discussed ensuring a board member also works with Beth and Matt.

**International Board and Organizational Members:** Helen Meekosha would like us to think about ensuring full participation of international board members and general members of SDS. The Board discussed various ways people can participate and how we might improve virtual and long distance participation options—this has been a long struggle for SDS to do accessibly, affordably and well.

**DSQ Editor Discussion:** Brenda Brueggemann leads the discussion and announces that Kin Nielsen and Ally Day at Toledo have agreed to be editors of DSQ. Mike Rembis updates the Board on how DSQ is currently fairing and the timeline for publishing the next issues before Nielsen and Day take over.

**Saturday Business Meeting Discussion:** Brenda talks to the board about wanting to introduce the outgoing members and the current board members at the Saturday business meeting. The Board discusses who will name award winners and give caucus reports.

**Board Committees:** The Board had a long conversation about roles on committees and came to the decisions below for the coming year:

* Executive Committee: Brenda (Chairperson), Helen (Vice Chairperson), Phil (Treasurer), Sami (Secretary)
* Conference Program (including site committee, silent auction): Beth Haller, Matt Wageman, Chris (shadowing), Mallory (silent auction), site committee will be developed by Beth and Matt
* Fundraising & Publicity (this committee will also make decisions about advertisers): Chris, Frank, Mel, Mallory,
* Membership: Funmi, Mallory,
* Nominations: Funmi
* Awards (Zola, Senior Scholar & Chris Bell, also including general scholarships): Juliann, Helen, Phil (general scholarship),
* Research, Publications and Disability Studies Quarterly: Ibby, Phil, Mel
* Caucus Liaison Committee: Ibby (Neurodiversity & Student), Sami (POCC & Queer), Juliann (International)

**Caucus and SIG Discussion:** The Board had a discussion about the caucuses and special interest groups (SIGs), including the status of the International Caucus and leadership in the other caucuses. The Board committed to strengthening the role of caucus liaisons.

**Looking forward/future planning:** The Board ended with a brainstorming, wish list conversation about the future of SDS including the speaker’s bureau, scholarships for caregivers, encouraging accessible language at the conference, and inviting local groups to the Phoenix conference, including an indigenous group,

Meeting adjourned at 3:55PM.

Minutes submitted by Sami Schalk, Board Secretary