**Society for Disability Studies**

**Mid-Year Board Meeting**

**January 13, 2016**

**In Attendance:** Funmi Akinpelu,Juliann Anesi,Brenda Brueggemann,Mel Chen,Ibby Grace,Helen Meekosha,Sami Schalk,Phil Smith,Joanne Woiak,Frank Wyman,Michael Rembis (executive officer, present until 5:30)

**Absent:** Mallory Kay Nelson

**Regrets:**

Brenda begins the meeting at 4:05PM Eastern Standard Time. Reviews protocol for speaking and meeting on this particular meeting platform.

**Minutes:**  Phil motions to approve the minutes. Frank seconds. Motion approve unanimously.

**Budget Discussion:** Mike updates the board on the budget and his conversations with both the Hyatt and the bank about lines of credit. Mike says CART and ASL bids are looking promising. Brenda asks for a timeline and Mike thinks he will have full information to share with the board soon, emphasizes our need for more fundraising.

Sami asks for an update on membership renewals and Mike says things are going well, details are in the profit and loss document he provided to the board. Mike discusses problems with the website and that he is looking into options for building a new one.

Brenda explains we asked Ted McCaffrey, an accountant who works with AHEAD, to do a preliminary look at our books. He says everything seems in order and given our finances, he does not recommend a full audit because it would be very expensive. Ted McCaffrey has offered to do our taxes for next year and he would also then be available to us throughout the year for financial advice. The Board discusses this option of hiring a new accountant rather than the one we used last year. Ibby motions to hire Ted McCaffrey and Phil seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

**Conference:** Mike has sent out proposals to peer reviewers who have been asked to respond by the end of the month. The conference committee will meet for several three hour meetings to make the program and notify by the end of February and the portal for registration will open March 1. Mike says we have a very active local site committee lead by Matt Waggeman and they are very excited about a potential pre-conference. The Board does not think we can vote on a pre-conference at this time and discusses other ways to integrate local organizations into the main conference. Mike is concerned we don’t really have additional space. Brenda asks if the 280 proposals are primarily full panels or not. Mike doesn’t know. Mike thinks one thing to do is make sure that each panel has four presenters on it. Mike has asked the ASL and CART providers to give proposals for both 6 and 7 breakout rooms. Mike says he will know more by the February board meeting.

Sami asks what our scholarship and awards timeline might be. Juliann says she and Helen have a March 31 deadline for awards, announcing the winner May 1.

**Fundraising:** Brenda opens the discussion for fundraising and sponsorship. Frank says he has been talking with Mike and Brenda about non-traditional sources of funding, such as companies like Google, AOL, or Microsoft. Brenda thinks that Frank is in the best position to call these companies because his foundation has given to us in the past. Brenda adds that our promotional package is almost ready to go out—she is willing to contact major communication companies herself.

Mike says some older members of SDS want to archive historical documents related to the organization. He says SDS could possibly do low-level scans of materials. We could also contact the Museum of Disability History or the University of Buffalo archives to house materials these. Brenda says OSU is working on finding funding to digitize old DSQ and make them open access.

Break from 5:30-5:40. Meeting resumes 5:45.

Sami asks if we are a non-profit. We are. Board discusses options for new website platform.

**DSQ:** The new editors are at work and their first issue is about to come out. They are taking down the statement about the Stubblefield pieces. We need to nominate a DSQ liaison and Brenda suggests Ibby. Frank moves to elect Ibby in this position. Phil seconds. Motion approved unanimously.

Phil provides us information on an article whose author had been in contact with him and Ibby.

**Leadership Discussion:** In June five board members roll off: Sami, Brenda, Funmi, Mel and Juliann. Currently we have five applications for new Board members, but Brenda has asked Joanne to tell them we will not be making decisions until February. Sami clarifies that the five open positions must be elected by the membership and the two positions left by Katheryne and Chris can be appointed by the board because they resigned. Brenda notes Katheryne only had a year left, so Sami says essentially her term is over in June and we can only appoint for Chris’s remaining two years.

**Committee Discussions:** Brenda reviews the duties of all committees and asks that committees without descriptions in the bylaws, send a description to her soon. Joanne says she thinks she is in the know about the conference committee, but she isn’t totally sure. Helen brings up the Global South group and asks that it be on the agenda for next meeting.

Phil moves we go into executive session. Joanne seconds. Approved unanimously.

**Executive Session:** Notes available to board members only, by request.

Meeting adjourned at 7:22PM.