

**Middle States Division of the Association of American Geographers (MSDAAG)**  
**Minutes of the Spring Executive Board Meeting (March 9, 2012)**  
**Approved Minutes**

Members Present: Paul Marr(President), Kelly Frothingham (Vice-President), David Fyfe(Secretary), Grant Saff (Regional Councilor), Jo Margaret Mano (Executive Director), Adam Kalkstein (Middle States Geographer)

Meeting called to order: 1:05 pm.

1. The minutes of the Nov 11, 2011 meeting were approved unanimously with minor changes to note the number of attendees was 63 not 69 for the meeting at Keane.

1a. 2012 Meeting

Paul Marr provided a summary for the upcoming fall meeting. The dates for the meeting are set for November 2-3 at the Ceddia Union Building in Shippensburg. Logistics for the meeting are in place and the incoming AAG president will provide a plenary session from 5-5:50 on Nov 2. The conference price was set at \$85 for full conference registration before Sep 26<sup>th</sup> and \$95 after Sep 26<sup>th</sup>. Student price for the conference will be \$30 before Sep 26<sup>th</sup> and \$40 after that date. A one-day registration will be \$50 prior to Sep 26<sup>th</sup> and \$60 after. Paul is working on getting a site ready for registrations, payments will still be made in cash or check.

2. Financial report

Executive Director Jo Margaret Mano highlighted the key items in the financial report. Jo explained some of the reasons for why the Keane meeting was not profitable. Three of the 2011 MSDAAG Geography Bowl winners were each given \$300 to support travel to the national AAG meeting in New York.

3. Regional Councilor report

Grant sent his report to the AAG via email in February. Some of the discussion at AAG regarding the size of the conference limits the venues that are able to support AAG for the annual meeting. There will be some changes to the journals and newsletter in the coming months. AAG is also concerned about the health of the various regions and have had conversations about this topic.

4. Stand Alone Geographers

David Fyfe reported that since he is taking the MSDAAG Secretary position, he will no longer be the SAGE representative, we will put a note in the upcoming newsletter to find another person to represent SAGE on the Board.

5. Middle States Geographer

Adam reported that there have been 16 submissions to the journal. Twelve of these submissions are currently being reviewed and should be finalized in the next month. Paul will then edit and format the articles. Paul asked if there could be some financial support from MSDAAG to hire a student to help with the editing and the board approved a \$400/yr stipend for this to happen. Paul is also encouraged to ask his dean or university for some additional help if possible. Adam and Paul will also work to make some changes to the guidelines for submissions for next year.

## 6. Elections

We will advertise in the upcoming newsletter to fill the Secretary position for next year (ideally it will be someone from NY or NJ to host the 2015 conference). There will also be an advertisement for the SAGE representative as well. The board is encouraged to talk to people who may have an interest in serving MSDAAG.

## 7. Newsletter

Paul has sent a draft of the newsletter to the board last month and is currently finalizing the details in the next couple of weeks and plans to send it out in early April this year. A few points to be added to the newsletter were that no refunds would be issued after the September 26<sup>th</sup> deadline and that credit cards are not accepted as payment for the meeting.

## 8. GeoBowl Buzzers

Paul looked into purchasing our own buzzer system for the geography bowl so that we do not have to deal with mailing the buzzers each year. The cost for a "MeFirst Wireless System" would be \$339 for a set of six. We would need four of these systems for our geography bowl. The board decided to continue to utilize the current system this year. Kelly will contact Jamison Conley to get the buzzers reserved for our meeting in November.

## 9. Strategic Vision

We brainstormed some ideas about creating a strategic vision for the MSDAAG. Some highlights of the discussion included conversations about three major themes:

### *Meetings:*

- We would like to look at the end of October for upcoming meetings instead of early November.
- Goals of our meetings – we'd like to get ~120 people to attend meetings and that we should focus on quality sessions, networking possibilities, and be student-centered
- We should take an initiative to reach out and call all department chairs in the region to make contacts with student groups and invite them to participate. Grant has volunteered to contact departments in New Jersey – we need other board members to contact our other states in the region.
- Joint Meetings – many details would need to be worked out to make it successful and there is some concern that the larger meetings would take away from the goals of our regional meetings. That said, AAG central would like to see regional meetings partnering with other organizations for meetings.
- Grant suggested some sessions at the regional meeting for open discussions – this idea will go into the newsletter to get a session for the fall meeting.

### *Financials:*

- Jo discussed financial issues relating to AAG central and Grant will look into how we can accept paypal for upcoming meetings

### *Website and social media:*

- We need to update our website. Grant has volunteered to administer the website and provide some history of the region as well as preserve some of the "institutional memory" in regard to past board members and meetings. We will also try to start posting some photos of our regional meetings.

- Look into field trip opportunities at the meeting
- We should look into starting a Facebook page for MSDAAG. This could be a way to encourage a student photo competition for each year. Paul will ask one of his colleagues if she would be interested in creating this page. If this can be organized before the meeting we will try to have a student photo competition where students can “like” the page and then upload their photos to the facebook site. We will look into possible funding for this award (\$25 was discussed as a possibility)

Meeting adjourned: 2:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Fyfe, Assistant Professor of Geography  
York College of Pennsylvania