

Convention Committee Minutes

Chair: Felicia Jean Steele

Board Members: AmiJo Comeford (2020 Chair), Lexey Bartlett, Shannin Schroeder, Deandra Miller, Louis Jameson, Britton Edwards, Affiliates: Brittany Barron, SKD Representative; Staff: Elfi Gabriel; Non-Board Volunteer Members: Rebeca Brackmann, Sarah Dangelantonio, Rebecca Lartigue, Andrew Maust, Jacqueline Walker, Lauren Shoemaker, Lizzie Tesch (Alumni), Jayless Diaz (Alumni), Morgan Hank (Alumni), Chiyana Powell (Alumni), Heather Eisele (Alumni), Rebecca Ferlotti (Alumni), Therese Holzapfel (Alumni), Charles Lobaito (Alumni), Mary Papham (Alumni), Stephanie Ramser (Alumni), Steve Savoie (Alumni), Sheyenna Shnepper (Alumni), Traci Thomas-Card (Alumni), Elena Zambori (Alumni); Non-Board Volunteer Members, Judging Only: Karolyn Steffens

Old Business:

Report on 2019 Convention Planning

Issues that presented particular challenges:

Roundtables

--more competitive than the papers (55% acceptance rate vs. 78% acceptance)

--what do we do with duplication of topics?

Committee agreed that we should attempt to minimize duplication of topics and continue to support the chair's discretion to offer chapters the opportunity to combine forces with roundtables that overlap in topic and score.

--should we have a limit on the number of roundtables proposed by one chapter?

--how should we handle repetition of topics/rosters from year to year?

Committee agreed that chair should double check that roundtables do not repeat substantively (the same people same topic – even with slightly different title) from year to year.

--lots of opportunity for error (proposal process, confirmation process, data collection)

Messaging related to schedule decisions

--participants do not seem to take registration deadlines seriously, particularly advisors

Committee agreed that we should change the language of "Early Registration" to Participant (Presenter/Moderator/Chair/Roundtable) Deadline

Program

--can we move forward with the abbreviated printed program? (see attached)

--Cost of printed program ~\$4000, but the app is also ~\$4000

Committee agreed that we should move forward with the app as the primary program for the convention and that a "skinny program" (features, at-a-glance schedule and session titles, advertising) for distribution at the convention.

Speaker's budget

--more expensive keynote address tapped out speakers' budget so less for career workshops

Accessibility

--how do we ensure accessibility for hearing impaired participants?

A/V – currently A/V only available to roundtables and only in one room at a time. The cost of this is increasing each year

New Business

Questions to address for the board:

--should we question the length of the conference? Many chapters seem to have a two night maximum, which limits our ability to schedule the convention. Many chapters either are not in attendance on W/Th or on Saturday.

--if the length of the convention were altered, how could we keep the student leadership and career workshop events? Could this be scaled back somehow?

Additional Recommendations for 2020:

--sessions/panels (and possibly virtual sessions) to address interests of key populations related to the following areas: service, alumni, diversity, English education, international, and virtual chapters at the Spring convention.

2020 Convention Materials

Rio All Suites Hotel, Las Vegas

Common Reader, Terry Tempest Williams, Red: Passion and Patience in the Desert

Theme: see attached

Motion to the Board: The committee moves that the roundtable expectations be revised to ensure equity of representation between regions, chapters, and types of chapters; to ensure quality and scholarly rigor of roundtables; to minimize repetition to within a three year cycle.