Illinois Geographical Society- 2015 Fall Work Session Meeting

Illinois State University, Normal, IL

07 November 2015- Felmley Hall of Science 10 AM- 3PM

Meeting commenced at 10:05 AM

Members present: Jill Thomas, Susan Holderread, Michael Cornebise, Amy Bloom, Mike Sublett, Joe Kubal, Chris Sutton, John Kostelnick, and Nick Goodwin

**Constitutional Changes**

Mike Sublett discussed the relationships between the IGS and the National Council Geographic Education (NCGE). He addressed the NCGE Representative over the past few years and what role they have played on the Illinois Geographical Society. He mentioned the NCGE breakfast that had occurred in the past. He recommended about possibly doing away with the NCGE representative and replacing the spot with a Retired Geographer. Mike S. also noted that the NCGE representative did not always make it to the NCGE Conference. Susan Holderread talked about the possibility of mailing out a ballot for possible election, though it was brought up that could be somewhat pricy. The term for the Retired Geographer would be for a period of 3 years. Mike S. proposed that the name of this person to possibly be called the Distinguished Retiree or Retired Geographer. He proposed to call this person the Retired Geographer.

Chris Sutton proposed the idea in having an ILGISA member on the board as well. There were also talks of adding a four year college member to the board as well. Joe Kubal liked the idea of adding a 4 year college member and an ILGISA member to the board. Joe mentioned that adding these two members to the board would be a good thing due to their exposure to conferences such as Association of American Geographers (AAG). Mike S. proposed coordinating with ILGISA about the possibility of having a member on our board before going too far with the idea. Sublett emphasized that it would be a good idea to see how ILGISA felt about the idea. The board agreed that adding a four year college member to the board was a good idea in response to President Cornebise’s question about the board’s general thoughts on the idea. Mike S. proposed the idea that the four year member could work on the awards given out at the annual meeting in the case that Norm Moline would need help or was away.

Mike S. addressed the importance of adding slots and making sure that if we add members, that they are willing to make it to the annual meeting at the least. Mike S motioned to make the change of replacing the NCGE with the Retired Geographer; Chris Sutton seconded the motion. Requirements were discussed in filling this position. Requirements were to be someone who worked as a geographer in some capacity at one point. (e.g.- teacher, FEMA,etc.) The board voted unanimously to accept this motion. Chris Sutton motioned to include a four year college member on the board; Holderread seconded the motion. Chris Sutton outlined duties of the four year college member to include dealing with awards at the annual meeting and to also helping disseminate the research grant information. The four year college member would be someone who is employed at a four year college. The board voted unanimously to adding a four year college member on the board. At the present time (the day of the Fall Work Session- 7 November 2015), 14 members were on the board. Susan was holding two of those spots (one being Post-Past President) as well as Kevin Suess (Immediate Past President). Discussions were had about who were to be voting members versus non-voting members. Amy Bloom noted that she liked that officers had a vote (e.g.- college year members) because they are representing the schools of the state of Illinois. The decision to drop the post- past president as a voting member (Holderread) was made. The wording under article 5 section one was changed to the immediate past president. Chris Sutton motioned that we create a spot for an ILGISA member on the board, President Cornebise seconded the motion. Joe Kubal noted to approach ILGISA before changing any of the language in the IGS Constitution. The new total membership of the council plus office members is now 15. The board voted unanimously to add an ILGISA member. **Summary: Added four Year College Member, replaced NCGE with Retired Geographer, dropped the Post Past President Member, and added ILGISA member.** Mike S talked about what to call the ILGISA Member. Illinois GIS Association Liaison (ILGISA) is how the member will be referred to. Amy Bloom brought up that the coordinator of the Illinois Geographic Alliance did not need to be included in article 4 under officers. That position was removed from the officers. The ILGISA member will be added to that article. General typo errors in the constitution were addressed at the time by the board.

**Central Office Updates**

**IGS Digest: A Reflection**

Susan Holderread discussed about her sending out the IGS digest and took opinion on whether the board enjoyed receiving it. She said the only negative feedback she had received was from a donor who was not included on the list of donors and the individual was very unhappy. She is looking into doing the digest more in the future and is open to ideas on what to do regarding content. Everyone was in agreement that they enjoyed receiving it and reading it in the mail. Potential ideas of what to include in there included information about new officers (profiling of certain members) and why they chose to get involved, more pictures of field trips, etc. Chris Sutton suggested profiling in certain areas (e.g.- two year, four year college members).

**Website Updates**

Susan talked about moving the website to a new area (Square Space), which will be a bit more expensive. She thinks it will be up by the next pay cycle (Jan/Feb 2016). Images may be more prevalent on the website. Photos are encouraged to be sent to Susan if members have any to put on the website.

**Social Media**

There is a Facebook page that was set up by Keith Yearman, but Chris Sutton maintains it and is an admin. There is also a site on Pinterest. Jill volunteered to run the Pinterest site. Chris is going to look further into who can associate and work with the Facebook page. Mike S. asked if Susan is trying to reach out to members of the IGS who have not responded in a while.

**IGS Research Grants**

There were seven entries for research grants this year. Five of them were accepted and four were funded. All of them involve students as investigators or will to benefit students. All of the grants were from across the Prairie State (NIU-Courtney Gallaher, SIUE- Stacy Brown, Augustana- Matthew Fockler, and ISU- Lisa Tranel). President Cornebise brought up the issue talking about the importance of this money and talking about was it money being well spent. Mike S. proposed after five years to do a survey and see if recipients have followed through on things that they were going to do. He also mentioned bringing up to see if they were still IGS members. Susan brought up that she thinks the central office can do a better job in reaching out to students with the IGS and for things such as potential research for grants and awards. Susan has been sending out notices about the research opportunities to chairpersons at universities across the state.

**2016 Meeting Plan**

The theme of the 2016 Annual Meeting is Seven Wonders of the North Shore (28-30 April 2016). Rooms have been booked, as well as accommodations for presentations (New Trier High School) and the Friday banquet. The meeting Thursday night for the Executive Council will be at Susan Holderread’s house. Field Trip activities are in the works as well and some speakers have agreed to speak at various sites for the field trip. Costs are being explored for the field trip regarding activities themselves as well as forms of transportation. Jill Thomas says that costs usually outweigh the convenience factor for the transportation aspect of the field trip. Susan says lots of people have volunteered in helping plan and participate in help with transportation for the field trip. Chris Sutton proposed the idea of inviting the chairs of the Geography Departments from across colleges in the state. Sutton’s idea involves having the chairs have a round table discussion at the meeting regarding geography across the state. He also mentioned having some graduate personnel as well involved in the discussions. Sutton thinks this will potentially lead to more connections for the IGS and potentially have some of these people return to future IGS meetings.

**5. 2017 Meeting Plans**

The 2017 IGS Annual Meeting is being proposed to be in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois at the Hilton Garden Inn in Champaign. Terry Harshbarger is going to assist President Cornebise in running the 2017 meeting. Field Trips/potential contacts are already in the works for that year, as well as speakers. Discussion were had over whether to have the presentations/posters at the hotel versus Parkland College. Discussions were had over alternatives to where we could visit on the field trip.

**Membership**

Membership is around 150???? Chris Sutton noted about how IGS meetings are becoming more appealing sites at which to make presentations. He said this in noting that traveling to other major conferences is costly if you are having to pay for it out of pocket. He really liked the grants that IGS approved and thought that it was a good idea and is putting an emphasis on the higher education end of this in the IGS. Mike Sublett noted that free memberships used to be given out to beginning professors a few years back, but he didn’t think that it went over too well. Student awards, research grants, and field days are a lot of what the donations go towards. Jill mentioned that Nick Goodwin would be a good resource to try and recruit the younger crowd and draw them to the IGS.

**Illinois Geographic Alliance Report**

John Kostelnick mentioned the status on the strategic plan for the Illinois Geographic Alliance (IGA) and stated that it is done. He thanked everyone for their participation who assisted in it. It was submitted to National Geographic and they had no complaints. National Geographic also had good things to say about it. The document is now public and available to view. Kostelnick said he would send out to copies to people who were interested. Bloom and Kostelnick were in on a teleconference with the CEO of National Geographic (currently laying off around 9 percent) and they were told that despite what is going on with National Geographic that their relationship with IGA should not be affected.

**7. Other Business**

Jill reported that NIU has the opportunity to host an open access journal reading via online. (for the *Illinois Geographer*). These are journals that are pdf’s and is not a database where you can search articles. The board is leaning in the direction of continuing to have a hard paper copy for reading as well. Chris mentioned that re-visiting some of the articles that were not scanned so well (at College of DuPage) and addressing that issue may be a good idea.

Michael Cornebise motioned to adjourn the meeting, Holderread seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 1:12 pm

The Executive Council will re-convene at Susan Holderread’s house on April 28, 2016 at 828 Dewey at the 2016 IGS Annual Meeting in Evanston, IL(NorthShore).

Respectfully submitted, Nick Goodwin