

## Spring 2019 Meeting of the Americas Council

February 23, 2019

Meeting Called to order at 2:41

Members Present: Amy Baldwin, Priscilla Dodds, Ernie Guyton, Luise Strange de Soria, Alvaro Torres Calderon, Heather Chiero, Jose da Cruz, Luise Strange de Soria, Lilia Soria (Luise's daughter) and George and Donna Danns.

### Welcome

Jose welcomed the committee to the end of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference. Jose thanked Heather again.

### Review & Approval of last year's minutes

Jose briefly read the 2018 minutes to the committee. Heather motion to approve, Alvaro second. Minutes were passed

### Intro of new and returning members

Amy Baldwin talked to Jose and wound up staying and joining us at the meeting.

### Recap of Vision:

The Americas Council provides an annual conference for the presenters and participants to explore critical socio-cultural, political, economic, global, regional, and national issues including the challenges and opportunities facing Latin America, the Caribbean, and Canada.

Jose asked the committee to consider if we need to expand the vision to include other disciplines.

### Conference Report

The participants were from all over. We had several from the University of Georgia and the plenary speaker was from South Dakota.

Jose encouraged everyone to bring a friend next year and hopefully two people the following year.

There were a total of 19 papers in 8 sessions. There was one plenary session. The papers were fantastic, the piano duo was amazing, the keynote speaker was awesome, the trivia at lunch was fun.

### Conference 2020 Location

The next conference will be in Gainesville, hosted by George and Donna Danns. Alvaro will talk to Christian Harris to see if he can also help.

### Speaker 2020

We discussed ideas for the keynote speaker. Paget Henry was suggested by George Danns.

### Best Graduate & Undergraduate Paper Committee?

Jose would like to see us get back to the best graduate & best undergraduate papers. Lilia and Luise will work on a template for the paper design for the award.

We have an existing rubric, so Luise volunteered to send the rubric to the group. Alvaro, Amy Baldwin, and Jose volunteered to be on the Student Paper Committee. Jose will get a frame and a gift card to Starbucks for the students.

### Comments for the good of the order/Announcements

Jose encouraged Donna and George to try to have an agency account for the upcoming 2020 conference. We considered the possibility of having publishers come to the next conference. We decided to have the following prices and deadlines for the 2020 conference: Early-bird registration \$85 (January), advanced registration \$95 (two weeks prior) and onsite registration \$100. The call for papers will be in October. The committee voted to have the following prices for students: \$25 undergraduate free, \$50 graduate students.

### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50.