

Summary

2011 Annual Conference Directors' Business Meeting Southern Consortium of University Public Service Organizations

Charlotte, NC
April 6, 2011

Participants:

- Bob Becker, Strom Thurmond Institute, Clemson University
- Jerome Lewis, Institute for Public Administration, Univ. of Delaware
- Linda Hoke, Southern Growth Policies Board
- Mary Jinks, Institute for Public Service, University of Tennessee
- Jeff Michael, The Urban Institute, UNC-Charlotte
- Robin Parker Cox, Institute for Governmental Service, Univ. of Maryland
- Roby Robertson, Institute of Government, University of Arkansas-Little Rock
- Ray Scheele, Bowen Center for Public Affairs, Ball State University
- Mike Smith, School of Government, UNC-Chapel Hill
- Christy Storey, Burruss Institute for Public Service, Kennesaw State University
- John Thomas, Weldon Cooper Center, University of Virginia
- Bill Tomes, Institute for Public Service & Policy Research, University of South Carolina
- Sally Jo Vasicko, Bowen Center for Public Affairs, Ball State University
- Mark Weinberg, Voinovich School, Ohio University

Financial Report

Mark Weinberg, SCUPSO President, welcomed members to the business meeting and called on Linda Hoke to make a financial report. He reminded members that, following the resignation of Andy Felts, SCUPSO's long-time treasurer, members had voted last year to have Southern Growth Policies Board take on the duties of treasurer.

Linda distributed and presented the Treasurer's Report, showing cash on hand of \$13,837. She noted that a portion of each member's SCUPSO dues went into this account to cover recognitions, conference overruns as approved by the membership, and/or other approved expenses.

Existing Business

Linda reported that the Kettering Foundation had recently awarded funds for SCUPSO and Southern Growth to undertake a project with the National Association of State Budget Officers that will engage citizens in discussions of state budget issues. Rather than getting

citizens' reactions to specific state budget proposals or input on what particular programs to cut, the project will focus on finding out what citizens most value in a broader sense – and where they might be willing to make trade-offs. The project will initially focus on two states: Tennessee and Virginia. The Institute for Public Service at the University of Tennessee and the Weldon Cooper Center at the University of Virginia have each designated staff people to the project team. Plans call for background research over the summer, development of discussion materials and event agendas in the fall, and convening of events next spring.

Election of Officers

Mark went on to present a nominated slate of officers for 2011-12. He then asked for additional nominations from the floor.

Hearing none, he asked for a motion to accept the slate of officers as presented. The motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the nominated slate of officers, as presented below:

Nominated Slate of Officers:

- President: Jeff Michael, Director, Urban Institute, UNC-Charlotte
- Vice President/President-Elect: Ann Cotten, Director, Schaefer Center for Public Policy, University of Baltimore

Jeff Michael, the incoming SCUPSO President, thanked Mark for his service to SCUPSO and presented him with a plaque of recognition.

Future Meetings

Jeff Michael called on Linda Hoke to present options for a fall SCUPSO directors' meeting. Noting the value of the Southern Growth-SCUPSO partnership, John Thomas asked whether there might be an opportunity to connect with a Southern Growth Policies Board event. Linda responded that Southern Growth was planning an event to celebrate its 40th anniversary, but that it likely wouldn't take place until December. That being the case, members expressed their preference for continuing the fall meeting in Washington, D.C. in October. Members present indicated that October 5-6 or October 12-13 might be good possibilities. Linda said she would check with the National Association of Counties on the availability of their meeting space and would then check on member's availability around those dates. Suggestions for program content and guests included: foundations and/or for-profit partners (Mark Weinberg); NCSL (Jerome Lewis suggested Michael Bird, Senior Federal Affairs Counsel) and NCSL's affiliated Foundation for State Legislatures (Mary Jinks); and John Kamensky, Senior Fellow with the IBM Center for the Business of Government.

Next, Jeff announced that the Stennis Institute at Mississippi State University had graciously agreed to host the 2012 SCUPSO conference in Mississippi – most likely in Biloxi. Members indicated that they looked forward to going back to the area.

New Business

The last part of the meeting was an open discussion of new ideas for SCUPSO collaborations and/or projects. Bob Becker began by noting his interest in joining with others to provide distance courses – not only for degree programs, but also for certification and other non-degree programs. He explained that this would enable centers/institutes to access expertise that they may not have on staff – something that is even more important in lean economic times when one can't just hire new staff to cover needed topics. **He asked members to email him if they were interested in either accessing expertise or in sharing expertise.** He said he would compile a list of available courses among those interested.

Jerome Lewis expressed a desire to focus on strengthening the SCUPSO membership base. Jeff Michael said he would work with Linda Hoke to compile a list of institutes/centers that we would like to connect with as well as inactive institutes that we may need to re-connect with. We will then see if currently active members have connections and may be able to make contacts.