

## Minutes

AAG Business Geography Specialty Group (BGSB)  
Inaugural Meeting Friday April 18th 8:15 pm  
Marriott Copley, Boston, MA

L. Peters, Thursday May 8 2008

The inaugural Business Meeting of the AAG BGSB was held on Friday April 18th at the 2008 Annual AAG conference. Lawrence Estaville, who led in the organization and establishment of the BGSB, chaired the meeting and called the meeting to order.

Congratulations to the Founding BGSB Board of Directors Officers and Members:

Board Officers:

- Chair, Grant Thrall, University of Florida
- Vice Chair, Tony Hernandez, Ryerson University
- Secretary-Treasurer, Linda Peters, ESRI
- Newsletter Editor, Angela Lee, ESRI

Board Members:

- Ed Butterworth, U.S. Army Research and Development Center
- Lawrence Estaville, Texas State University
- Eugene Tetty-Fio, Binghamton University
- Carlos Teixeira, University of British Columbia-Okanagan
- Shuguang Wang, Ryerson University
- Jason Castenada, student member, Binghamton University

Lawrence began the meeting by presenting the first order of business as a review and acceptance of the proposed BGSB Bylaws. The two other items on the agenda were nomination and election of officers and board members as well as a discussion on goals and strategy for the 2009 meeting in Las Vegas and overall for the BGSB.

Before proceeding, the group held a general discussion on the initial formation of the group. Lawrence shared that 104 signatures had been gathered to secure approval of the petition to form this new specialty group (50 were required). He further shared that the group had the support of Doug Richardson, AAG Executive Director, who recognized the significance and relevance of a Business Geography Specialty Group within AAG.

Lawrence indicated that two key individuals wanted to be present at this inaugural meeting but due to prior commitments were unable to attend. Grant Thrall of University of Florida and Tony Hernandez of Ryerson University were both in strong support of the BGSB. Grant further had indicated his willingness to take on a leadership position on the initial board. Linda Peters agreed that Grant had strong interest in this area and would make a good choice.

Lawrence then asked members present to review and approve the proposed bylaws: Articles I through IV were reviewed. There were no comments or questions on these and it was agreed unanimously that language was acceptable.

Article V elicited some discussion. Shuguang Wang inquired as to the total number of board members, excluding the officers. He questioned if the need was to immediately start out with a six-member board. Carlos, Lawrence and Ed discussed the issue, and it was suggested that we did not have a full complement of six board members at this time. A suggestion was made that we consider voting be allowed via email. A motion was made by Linda Peters that we allow voting for additional board members and committee memberships via email. Angela Lee seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously.

Articles VI and VII were reviewed. There were no comments or questions on these, and the group agreed unanimously the language was acceptable. Article VIII elicited discussion. Shuguang Wang inquired as to the frequency of the awards. Carlos indicated that in the Ethnic Geography Specialty Group two of the awards were presented only as merited. Those two awards are the Outstanding Service Award and the Distinguished Career Award. It was made clear by Lawrence that the Outstanding Business Geography Service Award and the Distinguished Business Geography Career Award were only to be given as deemed appropriate. The other two awards would be given annually. After discussion and clarification the language was accepted.

Articles IV, V and VI were reviewed. There were no comments or questions on these, and the group agreed unanimously the language was acceptable. A motion was made by Linda Peters that we accept and pass the by-laws. Eugene Tettey-Fio seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously.

With the first order of business completed, the group moved onto a discussion of synergies with other groups. Lawrence asked each of the founding members to share what other groups they were currently members of--each individual volunteered information on the other groups they are affiliated.

A discussion was then led by Lawrence in which we talked about how we could each try to promote the BGSF among the other groups of which we are members. It was generally agreed that this would help us get the word out on the formation of this new group. Next, the group moved to nominations of the officers of the board and board members. Lawrence Estaville made a motion to nominate Grant Thrall as the first Chair of the BGSF. Group engaged in a discussion on the merits of having Grant as the first chair. Everyone was in agreement that it would be good to have a strong advocate for Business Geography and someone who had been a leader in that area for many years was a logical choice. Eugene Tettey Fio seconded motion – motion was passed unanimously.

Next Tony Hernandez name was raised as a candidate for Vice Chair. Discussion began about Tony's overall contribution in this area and the program developed at Ryerson. It was agreed he was a strong choice. Eugene Tettey-Fio made a motion to nominate Tony Hernandez for Vice Chair. Linda Peters seconded – motion was passed unanimously Next, Linda Peters name was raised as a candidate for Secretary-Treasurer. Some discussion centered on having a business person join colleagues from academia as a board officer. Eugene Tettey Fio made a motion to nominate Linda Peters for Secretary-Treasurer. Lawrence Estaville seconded – motion was passed unanimously The next nomination discussed was that of Newsletter Editor. Angela Lee was raised as a candidate for this position. Lawrence Estaville made a motion to

nominate Angela Lee for Newsletter Editor. Linda Peters seconded – motion was passed unanimously

Following the nomination of the board officers, additional board members were nominated as follows: Motion by Linda Peters to nominate Lawrence Estaville as board member – second by Carlos Teixeira. Motion passed unanimously. Lawrence will also serve for an initial two years as BGSF liaison to the AAG's executive director to gain guidance for the specialty group from the AAG. Motion by Lawrence Estaville to nominate Shuguang Wang as board member – second by Linda Peters. Motion passed unanimously. Motion by Lawrence Estaville to nominate Carlos Teixeira as board member – second by Shuguang Wang. Motion passed unanimously. Motion by Eugene Tettey-Fio to nominate Ed Butterworth as board member – second by Lawrence Estaville. Motion passed unanimously. Motion by Linda Peters to nominate Eugene Tettey-Fio as board member – second by Ed Butterworth. Motion passed unanimously. Motion by Linda Peters to nominate Jason Casteneda, Binghamton University, as Student Board member – second by Carlos Teixeira. Motion passed unanimously.

With the election of initial board members completed, the group had open discussion. Eugene brought up issue of travel as one of the obstacles for a student board member. Linda suggested that we consider having the student travel sponsored. We could seek a \$500 sponsor each year to help support the travel expenses for a student. It was agreed this was a good idea and should be pursued.

Discussion was then also held on the need for a Webmaster. Lawrence and Shuguang both suggested that they might have some students that could assist. Lawrence agreed to follow up on this item with Ryerson. Suggestions were then taken for ideas for the Website including:

- Ø career opportunities
- Ø Student resumes
- Ø Business posting ( e.g., Walgreens as a sponsor?)
- Ø Articles on business geography
- Ø Idea – article on business geography talking about the growth of use of Geography/GIS in business and application areas.

Lawrence then asked about the next meeting in Las Vegas. He brought up the issue of recruiting participants. Ed suggested again that we all pursue collaborating with other groups to organize session in Las Vegas and to recruit new BGSF members as well. Lawrence will distribute the list of petition signatures to the group as well – we should try to get all of them to participate in the recruitment. We then discussed fees for joining the group.

We need know how the BGSF gets onto the AAG annual dues sheet. We also need to be sure we all join the BGSF next time we renew! Fee is \$1.00 for students, \$5.00 for all others. Discussion then turned to the Applied Geography Conference – the idea was raised of collaborating with AGC at its meeting next October in Wilmington, DE. Lawrence and Linda both agreed to reach out to others in that group. Final issue brought up for discussion centered again on Las Vegas. We talked about the need to try organize some sessions--paper, poster and panel. We also talked about a possible speaker. Lawrence promised to follow up with everyone via email on issues. The new BGSF Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary-Treasurer will conduct in a timely manner election of members of the BGSF Committees via e-mail votes by. These committees

are 1) The Distinguished Business Geography Scholar Award, 2) The Outstanding Business Geography Service Award, 3) The Distinguished Business Geography Career Award, and 4) The Outstanding Business Geography Student Research Award.

The group then adjourned the inaugural BGSB Business Meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Peters