Conference Steering Committee (CSC) Report

Committee Members
Chair: William Bridel (University of Calgary)
Members: Robert Case, Conference Locator (Old Dominion University); F. Michelle Richardson, Conference Locator (Coppin State University); Jeff Montez de Oca, Program Committee Chair (University of Colorado, Colorado Springs); Simon Barrick (University of Calgary); Melanie Dammel (Florida State University); Steve Marston (Franklin & Marshall College); Heather Van Mullem (Lewis-Clark State College)

The primary task of this year's Conference Steering Committee (CSC) was finalizing the location for the 2021 and 2022 conferences. Our two conference locators, guided by the Rotating Cities Model, researched the cities designated for the North-East and South-West quadrants. The CSC narrowed the list and site visits were completed. Recommendations were put forward to the Board of Directors and Montreal, Quebec was selected for the 2021 conference and Las Vegas, Nevada was selected for the 2022 conference. Hotel contracts have been signed in both cities, with excellent room rates secured for conference participants in both locations. It was noted through the process that some of the cities designated as preferred within the Rotating Cities Model will need to be re-visited in the future as pricing in those particular cities no longer align with NASSS conference budgets. My gratitude to our two conference locators, Bob Case and F. Michelle Richardson, Herschel Goldscher at HelmsBriscoe, and the entire CSC for their insights and commitment to the process.

Working with staff at the Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront, arrangements for the 2019 conference were finalized including food & beverage, AV requirements, and—working closely with Program Chair, Jeff Montez de Oca—rooms were allocated for the various functions including keynote addresses, concurrent sessions, graduate student luncheon, receptions, and the NASSS Members' Lunch. Thank you, Jeff! Arrangements were also made for a pre-conference workshop, Aboriginal Coaching Modules, led by Greg Henhawk; thanks to Vicky Paraschak for her work in securing this workshop opportunity and organizing participants. Thanks to Graduate Student Representatives Sophy Chan and Jesse Couture for arranging graduate student volunteers to assist on-site, to Faye Linda Wachs for her continued work on the silent auction, and to Melanie Dammel for her ongoing efforts on the book exhibit and raffle. At time of writing this report (October 17, 2019), a total of 323 registrations had been received for the conference.

Nearing the end of NASSS' one-year trial with CVent, discussions are underway to extend this relationship for both membership and conference registrations. The membership will be updated accordingly moving forward.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend special thanks to Brenda Riemer whose knowledge and support have been invaluable over the past three-years in my role as NASSS Conference Director. It has been my pleasure to serve NASSS in this capacity; thank you for the opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,

William Bridel, Ph.D.
University of Calgary
NASSS Conference Director & Acting Membership Administrator