

**SEM SIG for Disabilities and Deaf Studies meeting**  
**Thursday, October 26, 2017**  
**12:30-1:30**

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**Meeting Called by:** Co-Chair, Katelyn Best at 12:35 p.m.

**Meeting Type:** Third Annual Meeting

**Note Taker\*:** Junko Oba

\*The minutes were generated from the video recording of the meeting.

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**Agenda Item:** Welcome

**Discussion:** After welcoming everyone to the meeting, Katelyn invites the attendees to share their contact information in the sign-in sheet for future communication.

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**Agenda Item:** Introductions

**Discussion:** Each member on the board introduces themselves by name, affiliation, and position/ responsibility in the DDS SIG. Katelyn introduces Alexandria Carrico (Chair) and Felicia Youngblood introduces Michelle Jones (Access Coordinator) in absentia. Introductions of other attendees follow, while the sign-in sheet being circulated.

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**Agenda Item:** SIG Progress Report/ Announcements

**Discussion:**

Katelyn makes brief announcements about:

- 1) two DDS SIG sponsored panels:
  - “Different Diversities: Ethnomusicological Encounters across Neurodiverse Communities and Deaf Culture” (Friday, October 27, 1:45-3:45) and
  - “Decolonizing Disability and Deafness: Ethnographic Perspectives” (Sunday, October 29, 8:30-10:30).
- 2) implementation of Access Coordinator as a result of last year’s SIG meeting discussion; and the need of further discussion on the job description
- 3) 50% growth of the SIG membership (since our last meeting).

Katelyn then invites announcements from the audience. Andrew Tubbs shares the information of the performance of a local theatre company of people living with disabilities, Phamaly, that he worked with. Katelyn requests an information link to share with the SIG membership online. Andrew agrees.

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**Agenda Item:** DDS SIG Position on Accessibility and Inclusiveness and SEM Board’s Response to the Position Statement\*\*

**Discussion:**

Katelyn briefs the attendees on the ongoing discussion on the issues of accessibility and inclusiveness between DDS SIG and SEM Board, highlighting these key developments:

- August 30, 2017 -- DDS SIG submitted the Position Statement to the SEM Board for approval
- September 5, 2017 -- Resubmission of the Position Statement with additional information and clarifications

- October 3, 2017 -- Received a Memorandum from the SEM Board, which outlines how the Society can move forward on the recommendations made in the Position Statement.
- \*\* The Position Statement can be accessed at:  
<http://ddstudiessem.wixsite.com/music/archive>

### **Summary of the SEM Board's Response:**

#### **1) Creating Accessible Presentations**

- All conference rooms are equipped with microphones. SEM will emphasize to room monitors, session chairs, and presenters that microphones must be used.
- Guidelines for creating accessible presentations will be included in a list of recommendations to session chairs and presenters.
- SEM will recommend that presenters summarize foreign-language content in their videos.

#### **2) Captioning Archived Streams**

Archived video streams from the SEM Annual Meeting already have closed captioning.

#### **3) ADA Compliance**

- SEM currently works to ensure that each selected hotel is fully ADA compliant. The Board will ask the Local Arrangements Committee to provide additional advice on the surrounding area
- If the hotel has any ADA deficiencies, SEM currently lists them in the Program Book.
- SEM is exploring the possibility of expanding its conference website to enable the sharing of documents in advance. Whether the posting of papers on this public website constitutes publication, and, thus, a disqualification for submission to some journals is an issue that would need further investigation and discussion.
- Sign language interpreters would constitute a new service at the SEM Annual meeting. Add a request field in the conference registration form so the necessary arrangement is in order in advance.

#### **4) Dietary Concerns**

Registrants can request a special Banquet meal in reference to food allergies or dietary restrictions. It is unlikely that the hotels would provide detailed list of ingredients for their standard meals.

#### **5) Limit the Use of Perfume and Fragrances**

SEM asks the Disability and Deaf studies SIG to provide information in regard to how other scholarly societies are handling this issue at their conferences.

#### **6) Scheduling more Break Time**

Unfortunately, scheduling more break time would directly disadvantage members of the Society by lowering the number of papers that can be included on the Program and thus reducing attendance at the Annual Meeting. SEM advises all attendees to be selective in arranging their personal schedules and to allow time for relaxation.

7) **Providing a Private Room for Breast Feeding**

SEM is sympathetic to the needs of parents and affirms the use of public spaces for breastfeeding. However, a designated room is not feasible, since all meeting rooms allocated in hotel contracts are completely utilized for program sessions and other conference activities.

8) **Providing Options for a Designate Quiet Room**

All meeting rooms allocated in hotel contracts are completely utilized for program sessions and other conference activities. SEM encourages all attendees to return to their hotel guest rooms for relaxation or to schedule other stress-reducing activities.

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**Agenda Item: Access Coordinator and Access Coalition**

**Discussion:**

Katelyn explains what the Access Coalition is, and where we stand in regard to our agenda:

- Need to get a liaison/ representative in each SIG and section to advocate and ensure accessible presentations
- Continue working with Diversity Action Committee (DAC)
- For the DDS SIG sponsored panels, we contacted and communicated expectations to the presenters a week prior. We would like Access Coalition to deputize the position across the board.

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**Follow-up discussion on Accessibility and Access Coalition**

Felicia Youngblood responds to Katelyn's call for question and comments, with her concern about the Board's response concerning the need of a quiet space. Their suggestion that conference attendees return to their own hotel rooms disregards the reality that quite a few of the conference attendees (e.g., graduate students, independent scholars with no institutional support) choose budget-friendly accommodations, which are typically not in a short walking distance from the conference site. → We need to keep addressing this issue.

Ailsa Lipscombe asks a clarifying question about the request field for necessary arrangement in the conference registration form, and proposed to frame it in the way that presenters with disability could communicate their specific presentation needs not just the general accommodation request. → We will address this to the Board. Michael Bakan also points out the importance of directly communicating with the chair.

Andrew Tubbs suggests SEM more consciously investigate accessibility levels of future conference locations, not just the hotel but also citywide ADA compliance.

An audience member asks questions about outreach; how well people are aware of accessibility issues; how accessible the resource information is for those seeking support. → In addition to the SIG-based information sharing, the Board's involvement would ensure a broader outreach and more inclusive communication via SEM's official publication and communication channels.

Elyse Marrero asks a follow-up question on the Board's response to the Position Statement; whether the Board published the Memorandum as an official statement or just responded to SIG. → At this point, the latter.

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**Agenda Item: Diversity Action Committee Presentation**

Due to the delayed arrival of the DAC representative, this agenda item is moved back in the agenda.

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**Agenda Item: Open Forum on Accessibility**

**Discussion:** Katelyn invites ideas and suggestions from the audience on how to strengthen accessibility, e.g., through collaboration with other organizations beyond the community of ethnomusicology.

An audience member proposes to use the quiet space for multiple purposes, e.g. place for prayer. → We could involve other sections and SIGs in our advocacy.

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**More Introductions**

People who arrived late and missed the self-introduction at the beginning of the meeting are invited to introduce themselves.

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**Agenda Item: Diversity Action Committee Presentation**

**Discussion:** A presentation by DAC Chair, Denise Gill

- Brief history of DAC and two previous finance-based tasks (for research publication and conference travel grants), which are now streamlined with SEM's main budget
- Introduction of newly configured DAC as the "think tank" promoting inclusionary practices in the institution of ethnomusicology
- The new DAC addresses networking and dialog with various groups within SEM as a primary task to actualize diversity and inclusion; DAC will appoint seven members of DAC as liaisons to work with each individual groups.
- Denise encourages a further dialogue on key issues among SIG members to cultivate consensus; the ideas and suggestions from SIG are then communicated to DAC to generate proposals to actualize the agenda to the Board.
- Denise will send Katelyn a handout of the key points of her presentation.

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**Agenda Item: Elections**

**Discussion:**

Katelyn introduces SIG positions up for election with detailed job descriptions,\*\*\* and invites nominations and self-nominations for these positions:

- Co-chair
- Secretary
- Communications Coordinator
- Programs Coordinator
- Access Coordinator

\*\*\*Please refer to the SIG website for the job descriptions.

New board members:

Felicia Youngblood, Co-Chair

Junko Oba, Secretary

Monique McGrath, Communications Coordinator

Ailsa Lipscombe, Programs Coordinator

Andrew Tubbs, Access Coordinator

Katelyn thanks board members of last year's committee.

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**Agenda Item: Final Thoughts/ Closing Statements**

**Discussion:**

Katelyn outlines the procedure for sharing news and information on DDS SIG website. Contact [DDStudiesSEM@gmail.com](mailto:DDStudiesSEM@gmail.com) with the webpage heading in the subject of your email, under which the information should be included.

Another announcement of the SIG sponsored panels.

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**Adjournment** at 1:30PM