

# SEM

## Disability and Deaf Studies SIG

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December 4, 2015

7:00am

**Meeting Called By:** Elyse Marrero, 7:06am

**Attendees:** Michael Bakan, Katelyn Best, Alex Carrico, Michelle Jones, Elyse Marrero, Katherine Meizel, John Murphy, Heather Paudler, Louise Wrazen, Felicia Youngblood

**Meeting Type:** First Annual Meeting

**Note Taker:** Felicia Youngblood

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**Agenda Item:** Welcome from Elyse Marrero

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**Agenda Item:** Introductions

**Discussion:** Each member introduced themselves by name, affiliation, and interest in the SIG.

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**Agenda Item:** Purpose Statement, read by Elyse Marrero

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**Agenda Item:** Announcements

**Discussion:** Various attendees announced panels that are relevant to disability and Deaf studies. Michael encouraged everyone to attend the Applied Ethnomusicology SIG meeting, if possible, as he felt that it was related to the research interests of this SIG.

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**Agenda Item:** Open Forum, 7:20am

**Discussion:**

- Elyse opened the discussion by encouraging people to talk about what they want to gain out of the SIG and how they see the SIG as filling the needs of the Society and its members.

- Katelyn expressed her desire to meet other people interested in disability and Deaf studies and said that she viewed the group as a way to connect with other scholars. Michael suggested that we connect with disability and Deaf studies related organizations in other societies, such as AMS, SMT, and SDS. Alex, Elyse, and Felicia explained that the SIG has made connections with several outside societies and said that they'd like to build on those connections and let those in other societies know that the SIG offers a welcoming space for them as well.
- Alex explained that she would like the SIG to collaborate with interpreters and performers so that there would be more exposure in the society to disabled and Deaf studies and musicians and so that such activities could be accessible to a broader base of attendees.
- Michelle voiced an interest in widening the representation of disability within SEM to something beyond visual and orthopedic impairment.
- Alex considered a roundtable or workshop on disability knowledge and etiquette training so that people could have rich and informed conversations about the SIG's related research areas and its potential members and collaborators. Michelle later added that, if such a forum existed, we should make sure that people know that the appropriate lingo is constantly changing and that we should inform attendees that participating in the workshop would be a judgment free environment.
- John suggested that we offer a workshop or roundtable on how to deal better with students in classes that may be Deaf or disabled, pointing out that university diversity offices don't tend to extend training on neurodiversity to its faculty and staff. Elyse suggested that it might work well to co-sponsor such an event with the Education SIG and Louise mentioned that the roundtable format might work best.
- Michael clarified his thoughts in line with the purpose statement and explained that he would like the SIG to be an outlet for thinking about how to make SEM a more inclusive environment.
- Felicia suggested that, in future years, the SIG should have a meeting time that is later in the day, as to better accommodate those that may not be able to make an early morning meeting due to health needs.
- John suggested that the SIG should help to create a special location during the entire conference for those that might be overstimulated. This idea was echoed by several group members and models from SDS were discussed. Michael brought up his concern for expense, stating that fees are incredibly high for conferences with such accommodations, but was encouraging of finding a happy medium that could work with the SIG and Society's expenses. Louise mentioned that we could advertise such accommodations online and in the program.
- John explained that it would be nice to offer a general set of guidelines to SEM presenters, such as suggesting that presenters use a microphone for audience members that may be hard of hearing.

**Action Item:** Elections, 7:46am

**Discussion:** Elyse read the list of available positions and descriptions, which included co-chair, secretary, communications coordinator, and events coordinator. New officers

were nominated by themselves and voted upon by show of hands. Elected officials were as follows, in order of their elected office:

- Michelle Jones - Events Coordinator (unopposed)
  - Katelyn Best - Communications Coordinator (unopposed)
  - Felicia Youngblood - Secretary (unopposed)
  - Alex Carrico - Co-Chair (unopposed)
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**Action Item:** Final Comments and Announcements

**Discussion:**

- Michelle mentioned that next year's SEM conference is in Washington DC, which would allow us more access to performers from the Deaf and disabled communities.
  - Alex stressed that she would like the SIG to be a place that encourages destigmatization and noted the importance of letting everyone know that it is an inclusive space. Michael spoke to this point, saying that we should be encouraging a new way of thinking about mental illness.
  - John noted that there was a special issue of SMT with submissions about living with all types of disabilities/differences.
  - In relation to SIG communications, John stated that we should have a listserv and do things through both the listserv and the Facebook group.
  - Elyse expressed her desire for creating a bibliography of disability and Deaf studies related items.
  - Michelle asked if we had an idea of dates and times in which we would need to submit changes to the program, panels, performers, etc.
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**Closing Statement and Meeting Closed By:** Elyse Marrero 8:00am