Minutes of the Ethnography Division
Saturday, November 11 2000, 2 p.m.
Seattle, Washington

Nick Trujillo convened the meeting. As the first order of business, the minutes from last year’s division meeting in Chicago were approved.

Nick also thanked Carolyn Ellis for serving as the division’s first Chair and Past Chair.

He noted that the division membership count before the convention stood at 260 members and reminded those in attendance that we must reach and maintain 300 members to maintain our status as a division.

Nick also reported on the NCA Legislative Council meeting he attended in Seattle. He said that revision of the NCA Constitution would mean that representation to the Legislative Council would be based on the division’s membership numbers. Currently, divisions have two representatives and caucuses have one; under the new Constitution, divisions and caucuses will have one to five representatives based on the size of the unit. He also noted that the 10-member committee headed by Bill Bathrop and charged with implementing these proposed changes has allowed plenty of time for feedback. The proposed changes are designed to give NCA members more access to participate in legislative matters. Other changes include the transition of the NCA presidency from a four-year term to a two-year term. There will also be six vice president positions—convention planning, finance, publications, research, educational services, and professional services. Nick added that he has a list of NCA committees and asked those members interested in serving on a committee to contact him at nckt@csus.edu.

Nick announced that Ron Wendt was unable to attend the convention and had to resign Vice Chair. Nick proposed that he stay on as Chair for another year and that Carolyn stay on as Past Chair. Bud Goodall would serve his up-coming term as Vice Chair. The proposal was approved by unanimous vote.

Nick then made Ron’s report on paper and program submissions for the Seattle convention. There were 59 papers submitted with 45 accepted (a 76% acceptance rate, compared with an all-NCA paper acceptance rate of 67%). There were 18 program proposals submitted with 11 accepted (a 61% acceptance rate, compared with an all-NCA panel acceptance rate of 75%). The papers and programs were reviewed by 14 members of the division. Two reviewers read each paper. The top-ranked (first and second) papers of all reviewers were selected for an additional review. These twelve papers were reviewed by 5 reviewers and three top papers were selected. They were: “Their Story/My Story/Our Story: Including the Researcher’s Experience in Interview Research” by Carolyn Ellis and Leigh Berger, Both of the university of South Florida, “Green Organizing in Austin, Texas: Extraordinary Discourse, Place-Ballet, and the Time-Space Distanciation of a Rhetorical Community 1990-1999” by Curtis D. Hirsch of St. Edwards University and “Ethnography Analysis of Urban Environmental Design in Bangkok” by Timothy
A. Simpson of Ohio University. Congratulations to these authors of the division’s first “Top Papers” panel!

Next, Bud made his report on next year’s convention. He noted that the convention will be held at the Marriott Marquis and Atlantic Hilton November 1 through 4 in Atlanta, Georgia. Rooms in the Hilton are expected to range from $125 for a single to $150 for a double (and up). There are 1,600 rooms available in the convention hotels, so make your reservations early. The preconference will be held on Halloween. Bud asked those submitting papers and panel proposals to the division to indicate whether they would be traveling to the convention on November 1 because of Halloween. He said he wanted to allow parents who wanted to be at home for Halloween an opportunity to also participate in the convention. The theme for next year’s convention is “Radical(izing) Roots.” The division has been given 21 time slots during the convention. We can request additional time slots if we are willing to “double up” on times by programming two or more ethnography panels within a single time slot. There are a total of 1,250 time slots for the convention. Bud also reminded the membership that all panel proposals must be submitted with the cover page available on the NCA website at http://www.natcom.org.

Bud announced that NCA is purchasing the Rapid Review software, which will be used to administer conference paper submissions, as well as NCA journal submissions. Use of the system is voluntary for the 2001 convention and will be mandatory for the 2002 convention. The system will be implemented for journal submissions in 2002. Individuals wishing to submit a paper for convention (or a journal article) will submit their work on disk. The system can accommodate streaming audio and video as well as .jpg files. Once the submission has been received, the author will receive an email notification. The author can then track the progress of his or her submission and will receive email notification of his/her acceptance status. The system will be confidential for reviewers and submitters.

After some discussion of the system, it was decided that the division would use Rapid Review this year on a voluntary basis (CHECKING THIS). If you would like to submit your paper electronically, you will need to log on to the NCA web site and create a cover sheet. Detailed instructions for paper submissions are presented in the December Spectra and on the NCA website at www.natcom.org.

The deadlines for the 2001 convention are as follows: Paper and panel proposal submissions must be received on or before February 15. Please follow instructions for preparing program proposals completely (see the convention call or the NCA website for instructions on preparing program copy). Bud also stated that this year’s convention panels seemed to be drawing 9 or 10 attendees on average (with some panels drawing many more attendees) and he reminded those putting together program proposals to be realistic when estimating the number of attendees.

It is suggested that no individual submit more than one paper or one program proposal per unit. This does not include individuals who wish to serve as chairs, respondents, or second authors of
papers. Those submitting papers and program proposals will be notified of their acceptance status by mid-April.

Bud said that poster sessions would be given high priority in the 2001 convention. NCA leadership is encouraging members to create entertaining and appealing presentations (please, no papers stapled up at poster sessions!). Audio-visual presentations are highly encouraged, and NCA will work to make equipment available to those who wish to use it. Cash awards will be given to creative and compelling posters for each session. Please indicate when you submit your paper if you wish to be included in a poster session.

Bud thanked Melanie Mills, who along with Bud and Cristina Gonzalez for putting together the Spirituality in Fieldwork preconference. He also presented Nick and Carolyn with plaques to commemorate their service to the division.

Stacy Holman Jones reported that the most recent newsletter was created and distributed in June 2000. The membership discussed the possibility of distributing two newsletters per year.

Next, we moved on to the selection of new officers. Bill Rawlins, Myron Beasley, and Patricia Geist served on the nominating committee. Tim Simpson and Cristina Gonzalez were nominated for vice-chair elect. Cristina was elected. Melanie Mills and Linda Welker were nominated for secretary. Linda was elected, though she later decided she was unable to serve as secretary. Melanie Mills has agreed to fill the position.

Nick raised the question of whether the division should reserve one or two slots on next year’s program to spotlight the work of an individual and/or special editions of journals. It was decided that the division would try to do one “spotlight” panel each year on a trial basis and that the program planner (this year Bud Goodall) would create the spotlight panel.

It was decided that the division would create a committee to explore the possibility of creating a division dissertation and/or book award. Those interested in serving on the committee of three people should contact Nick. Nick also raised the idea of creating a student award.

The membership then turned to a discussion of ideas for the 2001 pre-conference. Ideas included “intimacy—sexuality, solitude,” “space—homespace, contested spaces,” “dis-ease control” (the Center for Disease Control is located in Atlanta), “making meaning together, making music together,” and “teaching ethnography.” As in years past, the division encourages unique ideas, configurations and forms of representation for the preconference. Submit pre-conference ideas to Cristina Gonzalez. Myron Beasley and David Shipley indicated that they could serve as resource persons in/about Atlanta.

Nick asked that any member interested in serving as webmaster for the division’s homepage please contact him. He then thanked those in attendance and adjourned the meeting.