



**Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice  
2024 General Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony**

Friday, October 4, 2024, 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM CDT

Location: Locklear Ballroom (16<sup>th</sup> Floor), AC Hotel Fort Worth Downtown

**Attendees**

**Present:** President, Dr. Gordon Crews; First Vice-President, Dr. Harrison Watts; Immediate Past President and Communications Liaison, Dr. Molly Smith; Treasurer, Dr. James Hurst; Secretary, Dr. Rocio Paez Ritter

**Not Present:** Journal Editor, Dr. Kevin Buckler; ACJS Regional Trustee, Dr. Errin Orrick.

• **Welcome**

Dr. Gordon Crews welcomes attendees and calls to order 10:03 am and takes a moment to appreciate all those in attendance. He discusses the fact that the hotel wants to meet with board to discuss program and other items for next year.

• **Approval of Minutes from the General Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony**

Dr. Gordon Crews moved for a motion to approve the minutes. Motion made by Dr. James Blair and seconded by Dr. David Scott. A vote was taken where all association members unanimously accepted the prior meeting minutes.

Little Rock, AR, October 13, 2023 [Salon D]

• **Officer Reports**

- **President:** Dr. Gordon Crews (University of Texas Rio Grande Valley)  
Dr. Crews spoke to members about the importance of transparency to membership and more information on financial matters. He mentioned that a membership list has been created to keep track and keep in contact with all as board gets ready for next year.  
He discussed that the conference had been successful and thank his friends for taking time to help.
- **First Vice-President:** Dr. Harrison Watts (Our Lady of the Lake University)  
Dr. Watts mentioned that an email will be sent to membership to gather perceptions about the conference to prepare for next year and to learn how to improve as board and committees get ready for next year.
- **Second Vice-President:** Vacant
- **Immediate Past President:** Dr. Molly Smith (University of Arkansas at Little Rock)



Dr. Smith discussed that one of her duties was to help with the awards committee, which is to be discussed later.

- **Communications Liaison:** Dr. Molly Smith (University of Arkansas at Little Rock)  
Dr. Smith mentioned that the website is running well, and the pictures will be uploaded to the website and Facebook.
- **Journal Editor:** Dr. Molly Smith (University of Arkansas at Little Rock) for Dr. Kevin Buckler (University of Houston – Downtown)  
Based on the report provided by Dr. Buckler, Dr. Smith discussed that the journal is doing well. The journal will publish two upcoming issues before the ACJS meeting 2025; one will be the December 2024 issue and the other the January 2025 issue.  
The Journal currently has 17 accepted papers awaiting publication in an issue. It has papers under review and 5 under "revise and resubmit" status.  
The Journal recently received news that PubPub will no longer host journals without charge. Beginning in summer 2024, the site will charge \$3,500 per year. However, it seems there will be a way to continue to use the PubPub program as long as the Journal is hosted on a different site.  
The organization has three options:
  1. Continue to use PubPub and pay the \$3,500 per year.
  2. Continue to use the PubPub program while hosting the Journal elsewhere.
  3. Establish some other alternative plan. Toward point 3, the Editor has been in contact with the Journal of Criminal Justice and Popular Culture editorial team to discuss their use of Squarespace to host that journal. The Journal's Editor hopes to have a recommendation or more concrete information for the organization in time for the ACJS meeting.
- **Treasurer:** Dr. James Hurst (Northeastern State University (OK))  
Dr. Hurst discussed since assuming the position of Treasurer, he has kept financial records. As of business day yesterday (October 3<sup>rd</sup>) there was an account balance of roughly \$23,700. There are pending charges of \$12,200 and an available balance of approximately \$11,400. Anticipated expenses of approximately \$1,600, which should leave the organization with a projected balance of \$7,000 to \$8,000.  
Dr. Hurst discussed that while the carried over balance is lower from the previous year, material possessions for the organization have increased. An inventory list has been created for possessions. It will all be updated post conference.  
Dr. Hurst discussed that there are still have a few outstanding items to address:
  - The organization's taxes 2022 and 2023 are in process of being filed.
  - Existing IRS penalties from approximately \$1,7000 (to be addressed post-conference)
  - Expecting new penalties to arise once, 2022 and 2023 are filed.In terms of projections for next year, the budget is lean, but our organization still appears viable.  
Dr. Hurst emphasize the importance of filling the room block and the importance of recruiting in the region for growth.



- **Audit Committee:** Dr. Paul Reynolds (University of North Texas at Dallas)  
Dr. James Blair provided the report. Dr. Blair discussed that the committee consisted of Dr. Reynolds, Dr. Blair, and Dr. Steve Romero.  
The committee was tasked with checking and reviewing all financial records.  
All financial records and transactions have been reviewed and accounted for.  
The committee will recommend to the board that financial accounting processes could be improved by using software like Quicken to track all transactions.  
The committee recommends that the PayPal account be linked to the organization in the future to prevent issues.  
Audits were not conducted over the past few years, but audits will begin this year to address any questions and provide clarity. The audit committee will work closely with the treasurer to ensure audits are conducted regularly moving forward.  
Overall, there were no missing financial records, and all accounts have been verified as complete.  
Dr. Reynolds will submit the written record of the findings.
  
- **Secretary:** Dr. Rocio Paez Ritter (University of Arkansas)  
Dr. Rocio Paez Ritter discussed the importance of promoting undergraduate participation. She mentioned that collaboration with university and student organizations should be sought to increase recruitment efforts.
  
- **ACJS Regional Trustee:** Dr. Errin Orrick (Sam Houston State University)  
Dr. Crews noted that Dr. Bitna Kim's address during the previous day's luncheon, regarding the ACJS meeting in Denver, served as the report from the organization.
  
- **Award Ceremony**
  - a. Undergraduate Student Paper Award (Dr. Molly Smith)  
There were 3 entries
    - 1<sup>st</sup> place  
**Zenden Antoine** (Texas State University) - "*Whatcha Gonna Do When They Come for You?*" - *Analyzing Procedural Justice in Police-Citizen Interactions Featured in COPS*
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> place  
**Brooklyn Crawley** (Texas State University) - "*We'll Put Our Hands Up, and They'll Still Shoot*": *A Qualitative Examination of Police Brutality, Retaliation, and Self-Defense in Political Rap*
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> place  
**Hayley Michele Jasper** (University of Texas at Tyler) - *Crime and Progeny: The Ethics of Utilizing Forensic Genealogy to Solve Crimes*
  
  - b. Graduate Student Paper Award (Dr. Molly Smith)



There were 11 entries.

- 1<sup>st</sup> place  
**Sunmin Hong, Robert Geibler, & Wenyi Wang** (The University of Texas at Dallas)  
*- Multilevel Analysis of Police Decision-Making: The Impact of Various Factors on Suspect Release in South Korea Across Different Periods of the COVID-19 Pandemic.*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place (tie)  
**Gemini Alexis Creason-Parker** (Texas A&M University) - *"Especially Heinous" and "Vicious Felonies": A Mixed Methods Exploration of Law & Order: SVU's Portrayal and Discussion of Rape Myths*  
**Samantha Manuel** (The University of Texas at Dallas) - *Adverse Childhood Experiences, Intergenerational Trauma, and Resilience: A Literature Review of Risk and Protective Factor Transmission*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place  
**Joseph L. Hopkins** (Texas Christian University) - *Artificial Intelligence and Crime Reduction: Literature Review*

c. Felix Fabian Award (Dr. Molly Smith)

**Dr. Michael Cavanaugh**, University of Arkansas at Little Rock

d. Undergraduate Student Quiz Bowl (Mr. Garrison Crews)

- 1<sup>st</sup> place  
TCU – Team Criminal Minds – Faculty sponsor: Dr. Katherine Polzer
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place (tie)  
Prairie View A&M University – Team Eminence - Faculty sponsor: Dr. Serita Whiting  
Lone Star College Montgomery – Team Lady Mavericks of Law – Dr. Sarah Chapman
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place  
Southwestern Oklahoma State University - Team Deviant Dogs – Faculty sponsor: Dr. Daniel Kavish

e. Undergraduate Student CSI Competition (Dr. Harrison Watts)

- 1<sup>st</sup> place  
University of Texas, Arlington – Team Maverick - Faculty sponsor: Patricia Eddings, MS
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place (tie)  
Prairie View A&M University – Team Innovation - Faculty sponsor: Dr. Serita Whiting  
University of North Texas – Team Green - Faculty sponsor: Dr. Alessa Juarez

- **New Business**

a. Election of New Officers (Dr. Gordon Crews)

b. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President



The meeting convened an election for the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President position. Dr. Rick Helfers nominated **Dr. Howard Kurtz** for the position. Dr. Molly Smith seconded the motion. Dr. Smith moved to vote by acclamation. Dr. Camille Gibson seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

c. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

The meeting convened an election for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President position. Dr. Brett Fitzgerald nominated **Dr. David Scott** for the position. Dr. Michael Cavanaugh seconded the motion. Dr. Smith moved to vote by acclamation. Mr. Garrison Crews seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

d. 2025 Conference Site Committee (3 Members) [Chair and Staggered Terms 1, 2, 3 to be determined by the committee]

- Dr. Fitzgerald acknowledge the help from students like Tessa Talon and Sara Sanchez.
- Members volunteered as Conference Site Committee: Beth Kurtz, Dr. Catherine Burton, and Dr. Brie Diamond

- **Old Business**

Dr. Crews acknowledge that some of the equipment was damaged from storage. Dr. Watts will be taking over and bringing it to his home.

- **“Passing of the Gavel”**

Dr. Crews passed down the gavel to Dr. Harrison Watts.

Dr. Watts thank Dr. Crews for his service as President of SWACJ and Mr. Garrison for his help. Dr. Watts took a moment to thank those who were involved during the conference.

- **Adjournment**

Dr. Crews adjourned the meeting at 10:56 am.

**Mid-Year Meeting:** Wednesday, March 12, 2025, Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel  
(1550 Court Place, Denver, Colorado)

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, October 7, 2025, AC Hotel by Marriott Fort Worth Downtown (101 West 5th Street, Fort Worth, Texas)