

**American Schools of Oriental Research**  
Renaissance Philadelphia Hotel  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**May 3, 2008**  
**DRAFT MINUTES**

PRESENT: P.E. MacAllister, Chairman; Tim Harrison, President; Jeff Blakely, Interim VP for Publications; Ann Killebrew, VP for CAP; Tammi Schneider, VP for Membership; Michael Homan, VP for CAMP; James F. Strange, Secretary; Sheldon Fox, Treasurer; Andy Vaughn, Executive Director; Lydia Shufro, Stuart Swiny, Jennie Ebeling, Gus Feissel for CAARI, Larry Geraty, Orly Nelson, K. Lawson Younger, Jeff Chadwick, Robert Mullins, Jennie Ebeling, Barry Gittlen, Gary Arbino, Joe Seger, Eric H. Cline, Susan Ackerman, Jimmy Hardin, Sy Gitin for AIAR, Alex Ratzlaff, Program Coordinator.

ABSENT: Beth Alpert Nakhai, Bill Arnold, Mark Chavalas, Elizabeth Bloch-Smith, Nili Fox, Carol Meyers, Eric Meyers, Austin Ritterspach, B.W. Ruffner, Susan Sheridan, Randall Younker,

VISITORS: Rachel Halotte

1. Call to order 8:07 AM
2. Approval of Minutes:
  - a. November 2007 Board minutes. "The NEH was contributing \$500,000" is to be corrected to "The NEH was contributing \$400,000".  
BE IT RESOLVED that the Board Minutes of November 2007 be approved as corrected. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
  - b. Ann Killebrew suggested a change in the Board minutes of the February 2008 EC meeting, as follows:  
**Correction to item 5.a.vii:**  
"Affirmed Boston University's "Rules of Conduct" (Section 401 in the Personnel Policy Manual) for all communication and interaction between ASOR members and ASOR staff who are Boston University employees." **Strike this struck through text:** ~~[http://www.bu.edu/hr/policies\\_procedures/manual/400\\_general.shtml](http://www.bu.edu/hr/policies_procedures/manual/400_general.shtml) for all communication and interaction between board members, officers, committee members, and ASOR staff.~~ The change was found to be in order.  
BE IT RESOLVED that the Board Minutes of February 2008 be approved as corrected. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
3. BE IT RESOLVED that the agenda be approved as distributed. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
4. Report of items approved by the Executive Committee.
  - c. BE IT RESOLVED that the recommendation of the EC that the Management Committee cease meeting until the By-Laws can be updated be approved. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
  - d. BE IT RESOLVED that the President convene an ad hoc Personnel Committee to review the annual performance of the Executive Director and to serve as an advisory committee for the executive director. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- e. The EC endorsed the new Oxford University Press initiative and empowered the vice president of COP, the executive director, Tim Harrison, and Eric Meyers to negotiate with OUP on a contract.
  - f. The VP for publications will continue to bring names forward for editorial boards, and meanwhile we will study the issue of whether editorial boards are committees of ASOR.
  - g. The EC confirmed extension of the executive director's contract for one year, decided to complete the review of the Executive Director with the Personnel Committee, and decided to discuss the expansion to 4/5 time retroactively to July 1 during the September EC in the light of the review, and granted the 4% raise that is reflected in the proposed 2009 Budget
5. Report of the Treasurer--Sheldon Fox.
- a. The Finance and Audit committee has been appointed and will meet quarterly: Sheldon Fox (chair), Susan Ackermann, Jeff Blakely, Michael Homan, Austin Ritterspach, B. W. Ruffner, Tim Harrison (ex officio), Andy Vaughn (ex-officio, nv), Selma Omerefendic (ex-officio, nv)
  - b. BE IT RESOLVED that this Board accepts the recommendation of the finance and audit committee, the EC, and the Treasurer that ASOR hire Romeo, Wiggins and Co. in Raleigh, NC as auditors for the next three years. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
  - c. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board Confirm the FY09 Budget. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
6. Report on CAP--Ann Killebrew.
- a. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board confirm the recommendation regarding ASOR-affiliation criteria, to wit:
    - i. The PI (principal investigator) is an American or Canadian citizen or resident who has an official affiliation with a North American university or official association with CAARI. Under exceptional circumstances where an American cannot appear on the license (e.g. Syria, Iraq) the matter would be discussed by the ASOR Baghdad or Damascus committees. All PIs or co-directors are required to be ASOR members in good standing.
    - ii. The PI must be an American or Canadian citizen or resident who has an official relation with a North American university or official association with CAARI.
    - iii. A PI must be a person defined as the one appearing on the license.
    - iv. The previous year's license needs to be submitted with the application. In the case of new projects, CAP could give provisional approval which will depend upon the new project's obtaining a license/permit from the host country.
    - v. ASOR institutional membership of one of the sponsoring or consortia is highly recommended/encouraged, but not required.
    - vi. All projects, both field and publication, will need to reapply for 2008/2009. After this projects will need to apply for renewal every two years.

- vii. Field projects will present their work either in a session (or poster session) a minimum of every two years.

THE RESOLUTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. BE IT RESOLVED that Eric Cline, Jerry Rose, and Greg Mumford continue on CAP and that Ed Maher be appointed to CAP as a new nominee. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
7. Report on Programs--M. Homan, report distributed.
- a. BE IT RESOLVED that Jacob Wright be appointed as chair of the Lecture Series Committee. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
  - b. BE IT RESOLVED that John Spencer be affirmed as an appointed member of the Honors and Awards Committee. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
8. Report on Publications--Jeff. Blakely reported that Vol. 71 (2008) of *NEA* on Cyprus is expected to appear in June, 2008, which will catch up *NEA*. The most recent issue of *BASOR* is now on better paper, which improves photographs and line art. Eric Meyers has been approached by Oxford University Press to publish a new online edition of the *Oxford Encyclopedia of the Ancient Near East*. He is now in conversation with OUP. The EC endorsed the new Oxford University Press initiative. Tim Harrison opined that this will be a very important initiative, and it will involve younger scholars. It was suggested that ASOR negotiate for a link to OUP on the ASOR web site.
- a. The EC decided to study the issue of confirmation of the committee status of ASOR's editorial boards and whether appointments require ASOR Board confirmation.
  - b. BE IT RESOLVED that the EC affirm Ann Killebrew, Jeff Blakely as interim co-editors of *NEA* starting with issue 70. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY
  - c. BE IT RESOLVED that the EC affirm Ann Killebrew and Jeff Blakely as interim co-editors of *NEA* starting with issue 71/1-2 (the Cyprus doubled issue). PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
  - d. BE IT RESOLVED that Thomas Levy, Benjamin Saidel, and Yorke Rowan be confirmed as members of the *BASOR* Editorial Board for a four-year term from 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2011. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY
  - e. BE IT RESOLVED that Joseph A. Greene be appointed Editor of the *ASOR Annual* for a term running from 1 January 2009 through 31 December 2011. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
  - f. BE IT RESOLVED that Kevin M. McGeough be appointed as the Editor of the *Archaeological Report Series* for a term running from 1 January 2009 through 31 December 2011. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
  - g. BE IT RESOLVED that Susan Ackerman and Bill Arnold be affirmed as COP members of the Class of 2010 and Charles E. (Chuck) Jones as COP member of the Class of 2011 with his term extending back to include the remaining seven months of a vacant position in the Class of 2008. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
  - h. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board accept the recommendation of the Search committee for *NEA* editor, namely, that Ann Killebrew be appointed July 1, 2008 for three and one-half years until Dec 31, 2011. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
  - i. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board confirm Joe Green as interim VP of COP until July 31. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- j. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board confirm Jeff Blakely as VP for COP beginning Jan 1, 2009; He will take up his interim role Sept 20, 2008. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
9. Report on Membership. (Distributed). Tammi Schneider reported that Institutional members now number 94, and the goal was 93. Our new goal is 98 Institutional memberships. Lawson Younger added that a sub committee met in November and discussed membership retention. The committee has developed a few questions to find out why ASOR members let their membership lapse. It was pointed out that many who lapse are students.
10. Discussion Items.
  - a. Update on the Archival Project—Rachel Hallote reported that ASOR is in possession of documents from the 1870s, 1900–1920, and later. We have a full set of photographs from 1875, a *firman* for the predecessor of ASOR, EC minutes from the 1920s, many letters from Albright and Wright and others. The goals are to conserve documents, reorganize and rehouse them, and to produce a Finding Aid to be put on line. The application to NEH last year failed, but we will reapply based on reviewers' comments. The plan is to turn all the documents in the Boston office into a real archive. The entire archive is stored (a) in the Boston office; (b) at the Harvard Semitic Museum, which has largely Nelson Glueck material, the bulkiest; and (c) the W.F. Albright Institute in Jerusalem. We hired an archivist last year to list the material at the Albright. There are plans to scan the material at the Albright to make it easily available to researchers in the USA. Our audience includes librarians, archivists, scholarly organizations, historians, Middle East historians, etc. The history of archaeology is a burgeoning discipline. We will also seek private funding for pieces of the overall project. Tim Harrison added that he sees this as a very important initiative.
  - b. Grants committee. Joe Seger reported that there were 144 applications for grants. About \$47,500 was available to give out. A total of about \$45,000 was awarded, including five Harris grants, 19 Heritage grants to individuals, and 11 Platt grants to individuals. Demography: Cyprus 7, Israel 10, Jordan 8, Syria 1, Turkey 9 for 35 grants. Support was given for logistics on projects, staff travel and support, and volunteer travel and support. The chair thanked the members of the Fellowship Committee and Alex Ratzlaff in the Boston office for her gracious and ready help. He mentioned that Heritage memberships at \$2,500 provide income for the Fellowship program. Heritage members can also designate their moneys to specific projects.
  - c. AIAR report—Sy Gitin reported that AIAR has 62 fellows in 83 program events. Highlights include: (1) The Dothan Endowed lecturers and (2) the ASOR exchange Lectureship Program. Sy Gitin exchanged with Barbara Porter in Amman. Another will be with Tom Davis in Cyprus. He announced a new fellowship program, namely, Getty Research Exchange fellowships. The AIAR recommended four fellows for Athens, Rome, and Cairo. Other institutes have recommended two Palestinians to do research at the Albright for two months each. The new Library Extension was equipped with shelving for 17,000 additional volumes. The AIAR is in a library network with other institutes that use the same software. CAORC sponsors an archives and libraries index in Palestine

and Israel. The Albright as surveyed 45 libraries, and all if it is being indexed and put online. The State Dept may fund a video-conferencing program for lectures disseminated to Al-Quds University. AIAR is planning “60 years of archaeology in Israel” with other institutions for observance in June of 2009. AIAR has almost matched an NEH grant which would provide an endowed professorship and renovations for the Albright.

- d. CAARI report. Gus Feissel reported that the drop of the dollar has affected CAARI financially. The work to extend the library underground has been approved by Cyprus. This is to be finished in 2009. Funds for expansion of the library have been coming in. CAARI is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and hopes to garner local support. There is hope to make CAARI more visible. Stuart Swiny reported three decently funded fellowships. The death of Danielle Parks generated sympathy and support for CAARI which has resulted in a funded lectureship in her name.
- e. ACOR report—no report.
- f. Update on Development—Tim Harrison reported that this year we have had 72 giving who did not give last year, but 69 who gave last year have not. We have 154 donors so far this year, which is above last year. Total given last year was \$155,000. We have already nearly that amount. Our Annual Fund was \$108,000 now. Total last year’s endowments was \$144,000 in all categories. We have received \$173,000 so far this year. If all monies are received, we will exceed \$200,000 this year. In Endowments we received over \$50,000 including the Ross bequest. This is the first year that we have put an unexpected gift into endowment rather than operations. Andy Vaughn added that we have twenty Contributing Members at \$125 each. Five Board members have recruited contributing members. He encouraged the Board to continue recruiting Contributing Members. Tim Harrison pointed out that P.E. MacAllister and Artemis Joukowsky have issued a challenge to the Board to match \$25,000 *increased* giving from the Board. So far we are just short of \$19,000 of that \$25,000. If we include Dick Scheuer’s contribution we have exceeded it, but we want the Board to do it. We still seek Heritage members. We need more monies for junior scholars; we need \$15,000 for archaeological reports. We will try to build up the production of *NEA*. The lecture committee needs funds to support that initiative. The Archives project requires support. At the moment 85% of the Board is supporting ASOR. We need to bring that up to 100% to communicate our efforts to granting agencies and foundations. We do not have a Development Committee, since the head of the Development Committee resigned. Tim Harrison will identify a task force to develop goals for Development.
- g. ASOR’s mission statement and strategic planning. Tim Harrison read the Mission Statement:

“Founded in 1900, ASOR is a non-profit organization dedicated to the archaeology of the Near East. ASOR’s mission is to initiate, encourage and support research into, and public understanding of, the peoples and cultures of the Near East from the earliest times

  - By fostering original research, archaeological excavations, and explorations.

- By encouraging scholarship in the basic languages, cultural histories and traditions of the Near Eastern world.
- By promoting the educational goals of Near Eastern studies disciplines and advocating high academic standards in teaching and interdisciplinary research.
- By maintaining an active program of timely dissemination of research results and conclusions.
- And by offering educational opportunities in Near Eastern history and archaeology to undergraduates and graduates in North American colleges and universities, and through outreach activities to the general public.”

BE IT RESOLVED that we reaffirm the Mission Statement. Moved by Larry Geraty; seconded by Barry Gittlen. PASSED INANIMOUSLY.

Tim Harrison commented that this document identifies our priorities as we develop strategic plans.

11. Executive Director’s report. Andy Vaughn reported that he hopes to meet with all the provosts and deans of our 94 membership universities. He lectured several times and used the honorarium to pay his costs. He personally thanked the Dean of Notre Dame University for the university’s \$25,000 donation two years ago. The Provost of Andrews University reported that this was the first time ASOR had sent the executive director to speak with him. He met with Provost of Calvin College and also met with a department chair and other faculty. She wanted to hear from ASOR why specifically she should renew ASOR affiliation. Andy Vaughn said that it is useful to them as they internationalize their curriculum. Another professor requested a response to his Provost, who was thinking of not renewing their institutional membership. They institution subsequently paid full institutional membership. At the EC in February Andy Vaughn visited the University North Carolina at Charlotte and spoke to the chairs of Religion and Anthropology. He thinks they will take out institutional membership together. In Atlanta, while negotiating for a hotel in 2010, he met with the Provost of Emory U. who is on the Board of the ACLS. He had lunch with several professors and spoke of how they could be involved more, which resulted in Jacob Wright become chair of the lecture series. Andy also visited with donors of \$500 or \$1000 and garnered a promise to help fund the opening reception in 2010. Eric Meyers and Andy Vaughn met with Reformed Theo Seminary and Union Theo Seminary in Charlotte. They and UNC at Charlotte felt they could cooperate around the ASOR focus. At Davidson College he met with a prospective Heritage Member (who since joined at that level). At Emmanuel School of Theology in Johnson City, TN he met with the Dean, who was supportive.
12. Chair’s report—P.E. MacAllister delivered an essay on how George Washington used what he had at hand and won the war through absolute purpose and dogged determination to keep his eye on the war and not on individual battles. He learned from his mistakes. He accommodated himself to the limitations of his troops and generals and taught us that more can be learned from mistakes than from victory.
13. President’s report—Tim Harrison pointed out that the financial situation of ASOR is healthy. The resolution of the CAP policy is also a sign of institutional health. Now that all the editors are in place, we are in a more stable situation in Publications. He suggested that we move forward more confidently in areas such as publication, electronic

publications, in cultural property, and so forth. He emphasized again the need to support the organization. SBL still wants to work with us.

14. Old Business--none

15. New Business--none.

16. Announcements—Alex Ratzlaff pointed out there is nothing from the 1980s on the web site. She seeks feedback on what is on the web sites. Andy Vaughn pointed out Alex Ratzloff's contribution in negotiating site contracts for future years: Atlanta Sheraton downtown for 2010 at \$159/night with free wireless internet. Weston St. Francis in San Francisco at \$165/night with free wireless internet and other perks. The executive director publicly thanked Alex for her efforts. It was added that we have received one proposal for childcare for the fall.

17. Secretary's note: We recognize and applaud P.E. MacAllister's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, which was observed Thursday, May 1, 2008. Chair MacAllister's birthday will be on August 30<sup>th</sup>.

18. Adjourn 11:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,

James F. Strange, Secretary