

Fall ASOR Executive Committee Meeting
ASOR Offices at Boston University
656 Beacon St., 5th Floor, Boston
September 8, 2012

PRESENT: Tim Harrison, President, P.E. MacAllister, Chairman, Theodore Burgh for Membership, Joe Seger, Past President, Sharon Herbert, Vice-President and Chair of the Chairs Coordinating Council, Ann-Marie Knoblauch, Richard Coffman, Asst. Treasurer, Andy Vaughn, Executive Director, Sheldon Fox, Treasurer, B.W. Ruffner, Jim Strange, Secretary.

ABSENT: Eric M. Meyers, Jennie Ebeling

VISITORS: Robert Oden for Development.

1. Call to Order, 9:00 am by P.E. MacAllister, Chairman.
2. Approval of Minutes from the Spring Meeting (April 20, 2012).
BE IT RESOLVED that the Minutes be approved as corrected, to wit: Jennie Ebeling was present. Certain numbers in the Treasurer's report must be revised. Moved by Sheldon Fox; seconded by B.W. Ruffner. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
3. Approval of Agenda. Approved by consent.
4. Finance Committee Report (Sheldon Fox). Audit has been completed positively. At the point of audit, we are \$41,000 in the black in unrestricted revenue and expenses. ASOR also added to the endowment last year. Members are at a record level, as is cash flow from paid memberships. ASOR awarded more fellowship grants (42) than ever before. Cash flow is good. Investments yielded moderately positive returns. There was discussion of endowment increases with the hope of increasing the endowment to \$1,000,000 for in the next 5 years.
 - a. Action Item: Funding the increase of the BASOR page count and possible use of Opportunity Fund (distributed memo).
BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee approves the expansion of *BASOR* to 512 pages per year (from approx. 392 pages per year) and to use the opportunity fund to pay for the additional cost up to \$10,000 dollars per year for up to 24 months, subject to the approval of the academic plan of the Chairs Coordinating Council. There was positive discussion about the wisdom of the move. There is concern that the move to two issues per year should reduce the workload of the editor because longer manuscripts can be accepted. There was discussion that a book editor and an assistant book editor be brought in to help manage the job of editing 512 pages, but it did not become part of the motion. Moved and Seconded by the Committee on Publication. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
 - b. Discussion Item: Investment and Spending Policy (see distributed report). Sheldon Fox presented the Investment objectives for feedback from the Executive Committee. The objective is "to invest funds to achieve growth in principal value over time sufficient to preserve or increase the purchasing power of the funds, thus protecting the funds against inflation." The new part of the document is the establishment of "Fees for Administrative Oversight of Endowed Scholarships and Fellowships" and "Fees for Administrative Oversight of Endowed Scholarships and Fellowships and Administrative Oversight of Current Gifts of

Scholarships and Fellowships”. Members were asked to send feedback to Andy or Sheldon.

5. Development Committee Report (Robert Oden).

a. Foundational Campaign Update: Rob Oden reports that ASOR is building a firm foundation for the future. We hope for a more ambitious campaign in the next decade or so. We can see that it is reasonable to announce in November that we are half-way to our \$1.3 million goal. If our overall membership is 1500+ then almost one out of five are donating. That is far beyond the record of most learned societies in annual giving. The campaign will open publically in Chicago at the Oriental Institute Reception. We had 282 donors last year. The represents an increase 2.4 times over fours years ago. Rob points out that the Campaign Council is paying for the dinner at the Oriental Institute over and above their own contributions. Sheldon points out that many of the large contributions to the Campaign came from lay members of our own Board of Trustees, which was one of ASOR’s strategic objectives. Tim Harrison pointed out that the Campaign Council is a highly functioning body.

6. **Chairs Coordinating** Council Report (Sharon Herbert). The plan is to have one conference call per month and meet in person at the Annual Meeting. The idea is to coordinate all the activities of all the ASOR committees. The first conference call for the fall took place near the end of summer, an awkward time for academics. The schedule of the Committee’s reports to the Executive Committee needs attention. By tradition the committee chairs send in their reports for the September meeting. The CCC decided that they instead should send them in for the November meeting, though that does not preclude earlier reports on important moves to the September Executive Committee. The description of the CCC in the new By-Laws states that it is comprised of the Chairs of the Standing committees. There are also six very active ad hoc committees. The CCC invites these to attend: Honors and Awards, Lectures, Media Relations, Outreach, Regional Meetings, and the Status of Women. A suggested small change in the by-laws is to define the CCC as chairs of standing committees “and other active committees”. In general there was a positive reception of the discussion within the CCC of its formal organization. The CCC developed its own Chair’s nominating committee. Sharon Herbert proposed a three-member committee with the Vice President as Chair of the Committee. Sharon Herbert therefore chairs this nominating committee, while Chuck Jones and Jennie Ebeling are members. All were duly appointed by the President. There was discussion about the presence of the Committees on the ASOR web page, and those most concerned to post materials on the web page are meeting with Cynthia Rufo, Archivist.

7. Membership Committee Report. Theodore Burgh reports that Kevin Cooney declared that we had 1356 members at the last meeting, but 180 have been added since then for a total of 1536. There was discussion of pushing the ASOR blog and the Facebook page. Institutional membership has dropped to the eighties.

8. Webinar and e-Newsletter. Action Item: Authorization for ASOR office to carry out a Webinar plan with approval of academic content by the CCC.

There is an anonymous trustee who has given money so that ASOR can develop a Webinar service for itself and perhaps for other organizations. Someone suggested that there be a group called “Friends of ASOR”, who have access to resources on our website, some for free and some for a fee. We envision a monthly E-Newsletter. Friends of ASOR would be our house list of those interested in what we are doing. One possible

product is Webinars, so we might purchase several thousand names from standard outlets to send out an ad for one (or three or six initially) Webinars for online lectures and debates. If we realized enough return at 1%, then it would give us some revenue to initiate other programs online. We would also announce an opportunity to receive a free E-Newsletter with ads, commentary on what is going on in the field, etc. We might start Jan 1 of 2013.

BE IT RESOLVED that the ASOR office is authorized to carry out the Webinar plan with the approval of the academic content by the CCC. Moved by Sheldon Fox and seconded by B.W. Ruffner. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. Executive Director's Report. Andy Vaughn stressed that the Campaign is transformative for ASOR for four reasons. First, ASOR needs a win in terms of fund raising, and now is the time. Second, if this campaign is successful, it will allow ASOR to send 100 students on digs in two years. Third, This investment promises to transform our outreach and online presence. Fourth, if we move the endowment to \$1,000,000, that will itself stabilize and transform ASOR.

10. President's Report. Tim Harrison explained some of his activities as President. He has been approached by U.S. government agencies on issues in cultural properties. He has also been approached by the Cultural Property Advisory Committee on cultural property questions in Cyprus. How can the US Government build more proactive plans in cultural property? On a more general plane there is a concern about how things are playing out in Syria in terms of its sites, museums, and public policy questions. The President has been trying to make ASOR's vision known. ASOR has been helping CAORC in its fund-raising in at atmosphere in which cultural programs are being cut. Tim Harrison was charged with the search committee for a new Chairman, and the goal is to bring a new name for consideration this November. Andy Vaughn adds that there are about 600 papers accepted for the November meeting. Last year 822 attended, and our goal for 2013 is 900, which is nearly a 10% increase.

11. Chair's Report—none.

12. Old Business—none.

13. New Business—none.

14. Announcements—none

15. Adjourn at 12:53 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
James F. Strange, Secretary.