

ASOR Chairs Coordinating Council
Conference Call
December 6, 2012

Present: Sharon Herbert, Neal Bierling, Elise Friedland, Tim Harrison, Chuck Jones, Sten LaBianca, Laura Mazow, Suzanne Richard, Andrew Smith II, Andy Vaughn

Absent: Bob Cargill, Erin Darby, Robert Darby, Jacob Wright, Teddy Burgh

1. Approval of minutes of Oct 25 call

Sten seconded passing minutes with the corrections Sharon sent to Andy.

Passed unanimously.

2. Approval of November meeting minutes

Sharon asked if anyone had any changes. Neal responded that under section C there were 32 people registered. Passed unanimous with the one amendment.

3. Discussion of proposal to change production of program book

Elise stated that with increasing size of the meeting that we might want to look at a new method of producing, designing, and distributing the program book. We want it professionally edited, and it would be helpful to have the abstract officially published with an ISBN. Reference was made to the process used by the AIA and other learned societies.

Andy commented that we have come a long way from the thin, saddle-stitched program of 6 or 7 years ago, and that each year we invested second thousand dollars to make the program book better. He felt that we should continue to invest a reasonable sum each year and set priorities. He cautioned against outsourcing the program book to a publisher because this would dramatically increase the cost.

In the interest of time it was agreed that Andy would talk with the chairs of the program committee and publications committee and work on a way for the program book to be professional copyedited and proofed and for an ISBN to be assigned to the book and made available through our book distributor.

There was general consensus that this was the way to move forward. No formal vote was taken.

4. Discussion of timing of Members Meeting at Annual Meeting

The chair observed that there was universal unhappiness about the members meeting taking place at 7am. Discussion ensued about the problems created by using a time slot normally devoted for academic papers. There was also discussion about the pros and cons of the time slots used in previous years. There was general agreement that we needed to find a better time so that we could have more participation. It was agreed that Andy and Kelley should talk with the chairs of the program committee and come back with a proposal for another time. They were encouraged to explore a time slot over the lunch period

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and the possibility of having the hotel provide box lunches that people could purchase.

It was noted that this year, doing it at any other time meant we would have had to move eight sessions elsewhere. For the future, we can either move eight sessions, or we could do it over the lunch break on Friday. We could have the hotel offer box lunches to buy, or people could bring their own lunch. We'd still have to move some other lunch meetings. Kelley and Andy will look at the possibilities.

5. Discussion of SmartPhone App for program

Elise brought up that a handful of people suggested it would be great to have the schedule in a spreadsheet so they could see each paper across. Chuck suggested an app. The PC was wondering if a computer science student could take on designing this and if people think that's a good idea. It was the general consensus that if an app could be designed without a lot of expense, that it would be great idea. Elise and Andrew said that they would explore if a student could develop something for a course project. Nothing was promised, but they said that they would check with a computer science contact.

6. Webinar

Andy gave an update on the webinars: We had two donors contribute to support an e-newsletter – a monthly e-newsletter would summarize material already on the blog and the ASOR website, and we might invite people to write more articles. We wrote a proposal about how we might start doing webinars and I think we're at a point where we could start launching those. In January or February, if we hit our funding goals, the newsletter and webinars will start. The office has been charged with doing the newsletter (either print or electronic), the Facebook and the blog, but the staff wants and needs involvement beyond the office staff so that we can expand.

7. Action plans

Sharon reminded everyone that each committee is supposed to develop an action plan about lengths of service etc, due by April 1st. It was agreed that the ASOR staff could develop a system for sharing plans after they were received and reviewed by Sharon.

8. Possible "retreat" after submission of action plans

Sharon suggested the possibility of a retreat to discuss how the committees interact and combine their action plans. There was general consensus that this was a good idea and that ASOR should make some funding available for those chairs that needed travel help. Andy commented that it was not in the budget,

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but that we should try to find a way to make this happen. There was discussion about combining this retreat with the spring board meeting, and it was agreed that there was not time with the AIAR and CAARI board meeting and the MacAllister gala event. It was agreed that Andy would talk with Tim and Sharon about possible venues and dates and that we would circulate a doodle survey to find the best date.

9. An outreach possibility

Sten presented an outreach idea. He explained that at the Members' meeting Peter Feinman proposed that ASOR be involved with developing a common core curriculum for secondary education. This would be a big initiative with national influence. Sten said that he was interested in pursuing this idea with Neal (outreach and education committee) and then coming to the CCC with a report. While some people expressed reservations that this might be too large of a project, there was general interest in hearing more. Sten noted that he appreciated the affirmation, and that he and Neal will pursue this further and report back.

10. Other business

There was a question if someone from the Baghdad committee should be involved on the calls. There was general agreement we should invite the chair of the committee, Marian Feldman, to join the CCC calls if she wished.

It was reported that Britta would distribute a doodle survey about our next calls. Andy would be in touch about a retreat date after consulting with Tim and Sharon.

It was reported that Jim Weinstein would be stepping down in 2014 after many years as editor of BASOR and that ASOR and the CCC should find an appropriate way to recognize him for his years of service.

11. Meeting adjourned.