

Spring ASOR Board of Trustees Meeting  
675 Commonwealth Avenue, Room 132  
(College of Arts and Sciences Building, Boston University)  
May 3, 2014

PRESENT: Susan Ackerman, President; B.W. Ruffner, Chair; Richard Coffman, Treasurer; Timothy Harrison, Past President; Sharon Herbert, Vice President; Lynn Dodd, Secretary; Andrew Vaughn, Executive Director, Ann-Marie Knoblauch; Raymond C. Ewing, CAARI Representative; Catherine Duff, Hanan Charaf Mullins; Joe Seger; Lawrence T. Geraty; Beth Alpert Nakhai; Carol Meyers; Laura Mazow; Rachel Hallote; Steven Ortiz; Eric Meyers; Sidnie W. Crawford, AIAR Representative; Orlyn Nelson.

ABSENT: P. E. MacAllister; Gary Arbino; Stevan Dana; Robert Massie; W. Mark Lanier; Barry Gittlen; J. Edward Wright; Sheldon Fox; James F. Strange; Michael Hasel; Sheila Bishop; Vivian Bull; Robert A. Oden, Jr.; Øystein LaBianca, ACOR Representative

GUESTS: Selma Omerefendic (Assistant Director); Matthew Adams (incoming Dorot Director of the Albright Institute for Archaeological Research).

1. Called to Order at 9:03am.
2. Approval of Agenda. Motion made, seconded and unanimously approved.
3. Approval of the Minutes from the November Meeting (November 23, 2013).  
**Delayed.**
4. *By Consent* Agenda.
  - a. Approval of Committee Appointments
    - a. Danielle Fatkin as Co-Chair of the Program Committee (effective January 1, 2014; term runs through December 31, 2016)
    - b. Jennie Ebeling as a member of the Committee on Publications (effective January 1, 2014; term runs through December 31, 2016)
    - c. William Caraher as a member of the Committee on Publications (effective January 1, 2014; term runs through December 31, 2016)
    - d. Stevan Dana as a member of the Membership and Outreach Committee (effective January 1, 2014)
    - e. Stefanie Elkins as a member of the Membership and Outreach Committee (effective January 1, 2014)
  - Approval of Editorial Board Appointments
    - a. Eric H. Cline and Christopher Rollston as associate editors of *BASOR*, in anticipation of their taking up the reins as co-editors (effective January 1, 2014, through June 30, 2014)
    - b. Assaf Yasur-Landau as a member of the *BASOR* editorial board, to replace Christopher Rollston (effective January 1, 2014; term runs until December 31, 2016)
    - c. Amanda Podany as a member of the *BASOR* editorial board (effective January 1, 2014; term runs until December 31, 2017)
    - d. Mark Chavalas as a member of the *BASOR* editorial board (effective January 1, 2014; term runs until December 31, 2017)

- e. Michael Hoff as a member of the *BASOR* editorial board (effective January 1, 2014; term runs until December 31, 2017)

**BE IT RESOLVED, that the consent agenda in its entirety be approved. Seconded, and unanimously approved.**

5. Announcements

a. Grant Application: Planning for Safeguarding Heritage Sites in Syria (**delayed to later in meeting**)

b. ASOR Newsletter (Sharon Herbert, for the CCC) See EC minutes. We are continuing to produce our newsletter as NEWS@ASOR, as a freely available publication that is available in digital form. ~~Legacy Members~~ Some members will be able to get a printed newsletter still (10-15 persons) and the cost of subscriptions to the newsletter paid by various institutions will be refunded. Eventually, we will dispense with the hard copy. ASOR will realize a ~~\$12,000~~ savings in future years, but we may incur up to \$12,000 as a one-time loss this fiscal year because we have to refund subscriptions.

6. Treasurer's Report (Richard Coffman)

The Treasurer presented the Finance Committee report including the 2015 budget. Additionally, he reported that ASOR is track with its budget for this fiscal year with the likelihood that ASOR will either break or end the fiscal year with a slight, possible gain. He expressed his appreciation to Andy Vaughn and his staff for a great and prudent job of managing ASOR's finances. He highlighted the section on investment performance in the context of diversification of ASOR's assets. The diversified portfolio lags slightly behind S&P currently. He presented a letter from Tennyson/Wells Fargo that evaluated ASOR's investment policies and practices, which were endorsed roundly. Richard expressed kudos to Sheldon Fox for his role in establishing ASOR's investment practices and policies; and to Steve Dana who made Wells Fargo Wealth Advisors available to ASOR. They reviewed ASOR policies and results and replied that they do not have any recommendation other than ASOR keep doing what it is doing.

a. Action Item: Adoption of the 2015 Budget

Discussion ensued about the 2015 proposed budget. The Chair made a comment that this budget represents a significant positive change to the financial situation of ASOR as compared to a decade ago.

**BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the 2015 budget as proposed by the Finance Committee. Unanimous approval is recorded.**

7. Grant Application: Planning for Safeguarding Heritage Sites in Syria (Andrew Vaughn).

An opportunity to respond to a State Department RFP appeared in Spring, 2014, to be awarded May 15th, 2014. ASOR decided to respond and mobilized quickly. If successful, or even partially successful, an award would allow ASOR to move forward on its Strategic Plan at an accelerated rate. Kudos to LeeAnn Gordon and Michael Danti especially for their work on ASOR's submission in response to this RFP. ASOR proposed an international coalition in a strong proposal, and we await news of the outcome of the award competition. A discussion of the grant proposal ensued.

#### 8. Foundation Campaign Update (Andrew Vaughn)

The Executive Director reported that the eventual Foundational Campaign results may be higher than noted because Legacy gifts by individuals under a certain age are not counted yet and because some Legacy Gifts were made without specific amounts attached to them (and thus gifts were not included in the total). We have a 400 discrete donor goal by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014; 396 donations have been received to date. We will reach that goal. The increased numbers of donors is equally as important as the dollar amount. 1 in 4 members made a gift on top of their regular dues. He expressed his appreciation to Susan Ackerman and Tim Harrison for their leadership roles. ASOR's Foundational Campaign was a success, and we met our goal. Additionally, ASOR has established new endowed scholarships. \$1.8 million was received including in kind donations. All Trustees and members are urged "don't put away your checkbook!"

A note was made that tax deductible donations can be made to CASOR. Also, monthly contributions ~~now~~ are possible to ASOR. Airline mileage programs allow members to contribute in other ways. Please sign up for it. Delta United and American. A request was made that Andy Vaughn resend the link.

#### 8. Discussion: Draft Report of the Ethics Task Force (Lynn Dodd)

This draft policy was informed by a range of inputs over the past three years. This includes contents of standing ASOR policy that was approved by the Board in the past, consultation with leadership, committee members and chairs, and many individual members. The working group allows for confidential input so that members can feel free to speak their mind, or express their competing opinions. There will additional opportunities for Trustees (and others) to give input into the policy in the coming months, including direct contact with working group members, writing to working group members, posting on the ASOR public online comment forum, during an event for consultation about the policy at the annual meeting.

The Chair pointed out that in medical ethics, general principles guide activities: autonomy, munificence, non-maleficence, justice, and honesty. All medical practitioners agree on these principles; issues arise when where two are in conflict. Hospital has an ethics committee, usually to reinforce a decision or to clarify issues.

A substantial time for comment and discussion was allotted for this topic in order to inform the working group's drafting work for the draft version that will be posted for public comment. Of particular note were discussions about (1) the provisions in the Hague Convention of 1954 Second protocol (1999); and (2) guidelines relating to unprovenanced artifacts and other categories of artifacts, such as looted or illicitly obtained, or unscientifically-discovered artifacts; (3) role of the committee that is proposed in section 4 to engage ethical/professional practice issues.

#### 9. Discussion: Strategic Initiatives, 2015 and Beyond (Susan Ackerman)

A substantial time for comment and discussion was allotted for this topic in order inform the President's planning. **These notes are collated in a separate document. How much should be included here?**

A brief discussion was held relating to Open Access. It will require an investment in a study to determine what its impacts might be for ASOR.

#### 10. Overseas Research Center Reports

- a. CAARI (Ray Ewing). The comment in the last Board Meeting minutes about the demise of his Presidency have been greatly exaggerated; he will stay on at least for a year. The CAARI Board will meet this year in Cyprus in Spring with President Susan Ackerman in attendance. There are 8 Cypriote resident trustees. NEH supported effort to update the library includes Phase II – expand and extend the library partly underground with protection to the historic building. Hopefully, the project will be done by Spring, 2014.
- b. ACOR - -no report.
- c. AIAR – Sidnie Crawford on behalf of Sy Gitin. AIAR will welcome Matt Adams (and his family) as he begins his directorship on June 1, 2014. Ian Morris lectured in Israeli and Palestinian venues for the Trude Dothan Lecture with 400 total in attendance. A library consultant came to library to think about AIAR as an historic library in Jerusalem; there is a report now to consider at AIAR Board Meeting. Center directors all came to Istanbul together. Mary Ellen Lane – a longtime CAORC director will retire in June. The celebration by CAORC board is at the end of May in Wash, DC. She has done much for ASOR.

#### 12. Old Business.

None.

#### 13. New Business.

Andy Vaughn announced that the EC meeting will be Sunday morning Sept 14<sup>th</sup> in Durham, NC at an early hour. He showed a newly developed business card sized advertisement for the Friends of ASOR program.

The Board expressed its appreciation to Susan Ackerman for restructuring the meeting and the way it was held today.

President Susan Ackerman adjourned the meeting at 12:50PM in lieu of Chairman B.W. Ruffner.