

ASOR Board of Trustees Meeting
Lanier Theological Library, Houston, TX
April 18, 2015

Present: Ray Ewing, Joe Greene, Larry Geraty, Vivian Bull, Richard Coffman (Treasurer), Sheldon Fox, Catherine Duff, Rachel Hallote, Matt Adams (Guest), Hanan Charaf, Peggy Duly, Sheila Bishop, Ed Wright, Eric Meyers, Rami Arav, Joe Seger, Carol Meyers, Ann-Marie Knoblauch, Tim Harrison, Teddy Burgh, Lynn Swartz Dodd (Secretary), Sharon Herbert (Vice President), Susan Ackerman (President), Andy Vaughn (Executive Director), Steve Ortiz (10:35am).

Absent: B. W. Ruffner, P. E. MacAllister, Barry Gittlen, Jim Strange, Michael Hasel, Rob Oden, Sue Laden, Mark Lanier, Sidnie White Crawford, Sten LaBianca.

1. Call to Order by Susan Ackerman 9:10am.
 - a. Because Board Chair B. W. Ruffner was not present because of an accident, President Susan Ackerman will chair the meeting.
2. Welcome to the New Trustees: Joe Greene, Teddy Burgh, Rami Arav, and Peggy Duly.
3. Approval of Agenda. The Agenda was approved by acclamation.

Business Items:

4. Approval of the Minutes from the November Board Meeting (November 23, 2014)
Add Carol Meyers's name to those present.

BE IT RESOLVED: to accept the Minutes of the November Board Meeting (November 23, 2014) as amended to include the point that Carol and Eric Meyers both were present. Carol Meyers seconded. Passed unanimously.

5. Officers Nominating Committee: Joe Seger (chair), Vivian Bull, Hanan Charaf, Carol Meyers, Ann-Marie Knoblauch

BE IT RESOLVED: the Board elects Sharon Herbert for Vice-President for a second three-year term that shall run from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2018. Passed unanimously.

BE IT RESOLVED: the Board elects Richard Coffman for Treasurer for a second three-year term that shall run from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2018. Passed unanimously.

BE IT RESOLVED: the Board elects Lynn Dodd for Secretary for a second three-year term that shall run from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2018. Passed unanimously.

6. Proposed By-Laws Emendation (Susan Ackerman)

Electronic voting for ASOR Institutional and Individual Trustees, administered through INFORMZ, our system that we use for the *News@ASOR*, etc., shall be enabled by an emendation to the By-Laws.

Larry Gerarty: Chair of Trustee Nominations Committee. Supports a move to make this change as it facilitates a more democratic process and greater participation. It will necessitate a slightly earlier window for the nominations, earlier in the Fall.

Carol Meyers wonders whether attendance at the Annual Meeting might signal a greater involvement in ASOR and thus closer engagement with the issues facing ASOR. Joe Greene says that disenfranchisement may be slightly redressed by giving people a greater chance for engagement and involvement, which might yield an ASOR that is more in line with their interests.

Ann Marie Knoblauch mentions the need to prompt people to ensure that they vote prior to the deadline.

Andy Vaughn: module is confidential regarding one's vote, but ASOR will be able to track who votes. Other societies have seen a change from 5% to 40-60% voting rate. All felt that the increase in participation is a positive move.

Susan Ackerman: we will provide paper ballots for anyone who requests this; however, we will not put this in the Bylaws, so that we can provide this service for the dozen people for whom a special arrangement is being made, an accommodation that will be phased out eventually when no longer needed.

The Trustee Nominations Committee will propose a schedule for the voting going forward.

BE IT RESOLVED: the ASOR Bylaws shall be emended to allow for electronic voting for the Institutional and Individual Members of the ASOR Board of Trustees. Passed unanimously.

7. Committee Appointments

- a. Yorke Rowan for a second three-year term on the Honors and Awards Committee (January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2017)

BE IT RESOLVED: the Board endorses the election by the Honors and Awards committee of Yorke Rowan for a second three-year term on the Honors and Awards Committee (January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2017). Passed unanimously.

- b. Gabrielle Borenstein for a three-year term on the Junior Scholars Committee (January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2017). Passed unanimously.

BE IT RESOLVED: the Board endorses the election by the Honors and Awards committee Gabrielle Borenstein for a three-year term on the Honors and Awards Committee (January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2017). Passed unanimously.

In the future, a short bio will be presented to the Board prior to voting, at the request of Sharon Herbert, Vice President.

8. Committee Proposals (from the Honors and Awards Committee)
 - a. Naming the new (inaugurated 2014) “Best Poster” award and the new (inaugurated 2014) “Best Popular Book” award

President Susan Ackerman presented a summary of the proposal for Committee Chair Laura Mazow. She explained that the Committee has desired to attach names to the awards, and the committee has been engaged in conversations about possible names for more than a year. The committee concluded that it would be good to name the awards for women because all ASOR awards to date have been named after men. The CCC endorsed the concept of naming the awards after women, and the CCC suggested that the Honors and Awards Committee considers women who were active ASOR members.

Ed Wright asked if the families of the person being honored or the person herself had been contacted. Susan replied that we were waiting to contact families until the board has voted.

BE IT RESOLVED: the Board establishes a new name for the Popular Book Award, which shall henceforth be called “The Nancy Lapp Popular Book Award.” Passed unanimously.

She was the first American woman allowed on a dig by G Ernest Wright (McCormick Dig) as long as she shared a tent with her husband.

BE IT RESOLVED: the Board establishes a new name for the previously created Poster Award, which shall henceforth be called “The Joy Ungerleider(-Meyerson) Annual Meeting Poster Award.” Passed unanimously.

The ASOR President shall contact the honoree or the family of the honoree to seek approval and to confirm the specific designation. The President shall be empowered to change the name of the award if the family so desires. There is no cash award associated with these awards.

Rami Arav: might this change in future? Presently there is no cash attached to these awards, but we could make new awards, and we could name existing awards.

9. Update on ASOR’s SHI Initiative for FY 2016 and 2017 (Susan Ackerman)

Susan Ackerman gave the update on the SHI Initiative, which originally was to run for 12 months. The cooperative agreement was originally \$600,000 and started on August 4,

2014. ASOR was authorized to include pre-grant expenses starting July 1, 2014. The cooperative agreement was expanded to include areas of Iraq on September 22, 2014. At that time, the agreement was expanded to \$756,000. Susan explained that the Department of State is very pleased with our work to date. Further, based on the likelihood that the conflict will continue beyond the original 12 month period of the contract with the State Department, ASOR has been asked to make a proposal for a two-year continuation of the cooperative agreement, including the northern Iraq component, through FY16 and 17. Proposal is to base the proposal on the existing amount of funding with 3% annual increases, which nets a \$2 million dollar ASOR budget. Susan distributed a confidential draft document that contains a proposed scope of work for year two of the project.

Susan Ackerman made special note of the major augmentation of the ASOR Budget because of the SHI effort. Susan also observed that by approving this budget, the Board implicitly will be approving ASOR to move forward with this project for another two years.

Vivian Bull observed that ASOR is not getting the coverage for this that it might get in public. Suggests that people who know journalists, e.g. Kristoff, might be recruited.

Susan responded that among the eighteen items we have proposed in the Scope of Work is a proposal that we hire a journalist, possibly from BU (which has a school of journalism), who could help us and develop a public messaging component.

A point was made to include not only the institutional relationships of SHI team members, but also the ASOR relationship.

Rami Arav is concerned that attention to the destruction in Syria and northern Iraq encourages future destruction.

Tim Harrison: this is an important issue. The actors in this conflict are sophisticated, and we should be sophisticated as well, so that we are not reporting the destruction but the historical/archaeological significance and value is of what is destroyed. Andy agrees with Tim: will our ignoring these events enable ASOR to positively impact the situation? One question that has come up is whether groups like ASOR SHI should release satellite imagery that contradicts claims by ISIS. However, major reporters have access to this imagery and know some of the same things we know, and they will do their work and report what they have learned. We as an international scholarly community can help them better understand the cultural significance. Indeed, who are we as a predominantly western society to determine who can and cannot put out information?

In short, there are many ethical issues facing ASOR in this project, more than we had thought at the outset. The news media are driving the story, and this story may not be what is best for people to understand the cultural heritage significance.

Rachel Hallote: How has the media found us so far? State Dept gives referrals to us. Various reporters (NYT, WP, London paper, etc.) have found us helpful and these reporters talk. So we have an enhanced profile. We also put out a weekly report of 40-150pp, so serious reporters read that and then contact ASOR. 5-6 key reporters have found out about us, and the word has spread.

Joe Greene: Sees two issues: 1 – the calamity itself; 2 – how ASOR participates in this. This requires that we build a profile as a reputable source of information, and we are learning as babes in the woods.

Eric Meyers: ASOR should have a professional journalist who could be our spokesperson or writer who could put our case forward in the best light. Our current staff is doing as well as possible, but a targeted staff acquisition to write would facilitate this, and a budget item might be warranted.

Catherine Duff: she is a former journalist; says that releases could get noticed now in view of the context.

Rami Arav: vandalism is not new, Khirbet Shema, Bethsaida (replica); but the press does do not report it. Temple of Artemis in Ephesus was burned so someone could become famous. How do we respond to this, to prevent the next vandalism?

Vivian Bull: work with the communications depart of BU, rather than the journalism. (CHECK WITH DIANE WINSTON ABOUT THIS).

Andy: there are many things we could do, but we are stretched. ASOR has spoken with professors about intern, but we really need some real funding to manage this. The funding sounds like it is a lot, but we have 7-12 employees. We are not allowed to spend money on messaging until it is in the scope of work, and we are arguing forward that the crisis needs more moderate and informed voices. We are trying to show peoples of Syria and Iraq that we care about them as people, about their culture, about their identity. It is both the right and the smart thing to do.

Hanan Charaf: each year there are many Dept of State applications for interns, would they divert an intern to ASOR?

Susan/Andy: we can talk to Susan Pittman about this?

Joe: what we are doing? And what we are finding out in doing this initiative? We should be getting press for the results. Also concerned about the issue Rami is raising: how much of what we are finding out in this initiative should go out?

This is a cooperative agreement, in which we are in constant conversation with State about this.

Ray Ewing: change of circumstances in Iraq, has there been any US opposition/support for this effort?

Susan Ackerman: AAAS and UPenn (NSF) funding is also supporting research looking at cultural heritage degradation. People have asked whether this is duplication of efforts. Have discussed this with State and those other parties. State believes these are not duplicative projects.

10. Treasurer's Report (Richard Coffman)

There are four action items from the Finance Committee, and a report by the

Treasurer.

- a. ASOR is projected to generate a modest FY 2015 increase in unrestricted assets available for operations (i.e., unrestricted net income) of \$1289 on an \$1.8 million budget. See Exhibit C. This speaks to careful stewardship of the resources of ASOR and its budgets by Andy, Selma, Inda, and the staff. That said, the Treasurer noted that this number probably will be higher based on certain Syrian Heritage Initiative (SHI) developments during the fourth quarter.

The Treasurer further reported that ASOR's FY 2015 investment results for the nine-month period ending March 31, 2015, are solid and on track. The Fellowship Accounts generated a collective gain of \$38,415 (+5.7%), while the Endowment Accounts generated a collective gain of \$33,703 (+5.2%). By comparison, the S&P 500 index was +7.1% for the same period.

As noted in prior Finance Committee reports, the S&P 500 index is one of the best representations of the U.S. stock market, and a bellwether for the U.S. economy. Although ASOR's investment returns for the first three quarters of FY 2015 are less than the overall increase in the S&P 500 index, ASOR continues to be on track for the long term under the current Fellowship and Endowment Account investment allocation models.

Susan Ackerman mentioned in Investment Report: list 5, 6: Strange/Mitkiff Family and Meyers Fellowships were added this year. Both have more than \$50K, in large part because members of this Board wanted to honor these long-term servants of the Board. We will be awarding fellowships from these funds starting Summer, 2016.

Now we begin work to add a third fellowship in honor of Joe Seger. Raised \$11K of the \$50K needed to fully fund this account

Tim Harrison: Annual Fund line? Susan Ackerman: line 14 under Income, exhibit C FY 2015 budget and forecast. We budgeted that we would raise \$100K this year, and we are curtailing this forecast to \$65K. Donors have been incredibly generous. We raised \$1.7 million in our foundational campaign. Andy is a tremendous fundraiser and his attention is redirected toward SHI, which impacts his ability to fundraise. Going forward we hope to bring his contribution to SHI down from 40-50% to 33%.

Indirect income from SHI helps offset some of the costs because Andy cannot give as much time to fundraising.

Richard comments that it's an allocation of resources issue. Over time, the investment ROI to SHI will be higher than straight fundraising.

Andy: 65K forecast. \$39,500 reached for Annual Fund thus far. We will reach the \$65K if Trustees allocate money toward the Annual Fund, if Trustees give at last year's level. Think about making part of our gift to ASOR to an Unrestricted category.

BE IT RESOLVED: the Board adopts the FY 2016 Budget. Passed unanimously.

- b. Creation of permanently restricted funds for the P.E. MacAllister Fellowships, the Carol and Eric Meyers Fellowships, and the Strange/Midkiff Families Fellowships.

The Board endorses the establishment of the MacAllister Fund, in consideration of the following:

Whereas ASOR instituted a campaign in 2013 to raise funds to establish a permanently restricted endowment account known as the P. E. MacAllister Endowed Scholarship Fund for Archaeological Volunteers; and

Whereas multiple donors contributed amounts, ranging from \$10 to \$25,000, to establish the account; and

Whereas the aggregate contributions to the P. E. MacAllister Endowed Scholarship Fund for Archaeological Volunteers now exceed \$50,000; and

Whereas the funds contributed to date have been invested according to the ASOR “Investment and Spending Policy” (posted on the ASOR website), the policy that governs the investment and disbursement of funds in permanently restricted accounts;

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED: the ASOR Board of Trustees formally designates all funds contributed by multiple donors to the P. E. MacAllister Endowed Scholarship Fund for Archaeological Volunteers (both prior to and after this resolution) as the permanently designated corpus amount (or historic dollar amount) of the P. E. MacAllister Fund. The P. E. MacAllister Endowed Scholarship Fund for Archaeological Volunteers will be invested and disbursed according to ASOR’s “Investment and Spending Policy,” which the Board of Trustees may modify from time to time in the future; passed unanimously.

The Board endorses the establishment of the Strange/Midkiff Fund, in consideration of the following:

Whereas ASOR instituted a campaign in 2014 to raise funds to establish a permanently restricted endowment account known as the Strange/Midkiff Families Endowed Scholarship Fund for Archaeological Volunteers; and

Whereas multiple donors contributed amounts, ranging from \$10 to \$25,000, to establish the account; and

Whereas the aggregate contributions to the Strange/Midkiff Families Endowed Scholarship Fund for Archaeological Volunteers now exceed \$50,000; and

Whereas the funds contributed to date have been invested according to the ASOR “Investment and Spending Policy” (posted on the ASOR website), the policy that governs the investment and disbursement of funds in permanently restricted accounts;

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED: the ASOR Board of Trustees formally designates

all funds contributed by multiple donors to the Strange/Midkiff Families Endowed Scholarship Fund for Archaeological Volunteers (both prior to and after this resolution) as the permanently designated corpus amount (or historic dollar amount) of the Strange/Midkiff Fund. The Strange/Midkiff Families Endowed Scholarship Fund for Archaeological Volunteers will be invested and disbursed according to ASOR's "Investment and Spending Policy," which the Board of Trustees may modify from time to time in the future. Moved by Joe Seger; seconded by Tim Harrison; passed unanimously.

The Board endorses the establishment of the Eric and Carol Meyers Fund, in consideration of the following:

Whereas ASOR instituted a campaign in 2014 to raise funds to establish a permanently restricted endowment account known as the Eric and Carol Meyers Endowed Scholarship Fund for Archaeological Volunteers; and

Whereas multiple donors contributed amounts, ranging from \$10 to \$25,000, to establish the account; and

Whereas the aggregate contributions to the Eric and Carol Meyers Endowed Scholarship Fund for Archaeological Volunteers now exceed \$50,000; and

Whereas the funds contributed to date have been invested according to the ASOR "Investment and Spending Policy" (posted on the ASOR website), the policy that governs the investment and disbursement of funds in permanently restricted accounts;

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED: the ASOR Board of Trustees formally designates all funds contributed by multiple donors to the Eric and Carol Meyers Endowed Scholarship Fund for Archaeological Volunteers (both prior to and after this resolution) as the permanently designated corpus amount (or historic dollar amount) of the Eric and Carol Meyers Fund. The Eric and Carol Meyers Endowed Scholarship Fund for Archaeological Volunteers will be invested and disbursed according to ASOR's "Investment and Spending Policy," which the Board of Trustees may modify from time to time in the future; passed unanimously.

Funds will be permanently restricted henceforth.

c. Request for permission for the Treasurer and Finance Committee to take a decision about the FY 2015 auditors

ASOR's policy is to review contracts with vendors every three years to make sure the organization is paying current market prices for goods and services. This is the year ASOR is scheduled to review the contract with Romeo, Wiggins & Co., LLP, ASOR's outside auditors, as part of the competitive bidding process.

At the November 23, 2014 Board meeting, the Finance Committee was granted

the authority to vet and select the CPA firm for the FY 2015, 2016, and 2017 audits and tax returns. Pending further negotiations with the State Department, we have not commenced the competitive bidding process. The Executive Director, Treasurer, and the Finance Committee recommend that the process be postponed an additional four to six weeks until a signed renewal of the SHI cooperative agreement is in hand. At that point, we will have a better idea of our audit needs for the next three years, and be in a better position to draft a more precise request for proposal.

BE IT RESOLVED: the Treasurer and Finance Committee be authorized to take a decision about the FY 2015 auditors

d. Emendation of the Conflict-of-Interest Form

BE IT RESOLVED: the EC endorses the emendation of the Conflict-of-Interest Form for Question 9 as follows:

“9. Are you aware of any other events, transactions, arrangements, or other situations that you believe should be examined by ASOR’s board or the executive committee in accordance with the terms and intent of ASOR’s conflict-of-interest policy? **If you are a board member, trustee, or officer of a competing or affinity organization, please describe any potential conflicts.** Yes () No ()

In closing, ASOR is financially healthy, on track to meet (or exceed) the FY 2015 budget.

11. ASOR Policy on Professional Conduct

Susan Ackerman provided an Introduction: The process of developing a comprehensive professional conduct policy for ASOR was begun in 2010, when then-President Tim Harrison convened an ad hoc Ethics Working Group, with members Lynn Swartz Dodd (chair), Thomas Davis, Jane Evans, Larry Herr, and Marian Feldman. The Working Group then engaged in a multi-faceted process in order to develop a proposal for an ASOR Policy on Professional Conduct. For example, they researched the policies of peer organizations, as well as consulting broadly with ASOR leaders past and present (trustees, officers, committee chairs, and other committee members). The Working Group also reached out to individual ASOR members: in private conversations, through our *News@ASOR* e-newsletter, and at various sessions organized at the ASOR Annual Meeting (e.g., the “speed ethics” session hosted by the Working Group at the 2013 meeting and the discussion forum held during the Friday lunch hour of the 2014 meeting). The Board has also regularly reviewed the work of the Ethics Working Group as it has gone forward, at each Board meeting since November 2012. In addition, the proposed ASOR Policy on Professional Conduct has been discussed several times by the Executive Committee and by the Chairs Coordinating Council, as well as by various of ASOR’s standing committees (especially CAP, COP, and the Program Committee). During the past year, moreover (during Fall 2014 and again during Winter 2015), a draft of the proposed policy was

posted on ASOR's website in order to solicit comments from the entire membership.

The Ethics Working Group has, in short, been exceptionally diligent in soliciting feedback as it has worked its way through multiple iterations of the proposed ASOR Policy on Professional Conduct; furthermore, the Working Group has been extremely conscientious about incorporating that feedback as it has endeavored to develop a policy that takes all of ASOR's multiple constituencies, and the multiplicity of views that can be found among those multiple constituencies, into account. Thus, and by necessity, the resulting policy reflects compromise. But it is not, in Susan's view, compromised. Rather, what the Ethics Working Group has given us, again in Susan's view, is a document that puts forward consensus positions on which we can all broadly agree. In particular, regarding what Susan identified as the most contentious issues the policy addresses – the presentation and publication of artifacts lacking an archaeological findspot and the presentation and publication of materials that come from occupied territories – the policy strives to put forth provisions that honor principles held by many ASOR members yet that allow for some flexibility based on, especially, the current political turmoil in the Near East.

(Lynn Dodd): Expressed her thanks to Tim Harrison for his vision and for starting us on this process toward a holistic Policy on Professional Conduct that will apply to all activities and domains of ASOR. It was a profound gamble, because of policies we had already in place, but he was willing to open up all the topics to negotiation. Lynn also thanked the Working Group members: Marian Feldman, Jane DeRose Evans, Tom Davis and Larry Herr for their diligence in this process and for their willingness to be consulted with short deadlines and through many iterations as this policy has formed these past several years. An important part of this process has been to hear from the wide spectrum of ASOR members, and especially as the policy began to take shape, to give ample opportunity for dissenting voices to express themselves fully, particularly so that we could be sure that we weren't missing something critical. Amid all the feedback and critique, the vision that kept us moving forward was ASOR as a diverse, ecumenical organization that brings a diversity of professional approaches to bear on ASOR's Mission, as stated at the outset of the Policy.

EC has considered the final version of the Policy on Professional Conduct and enthusiastically endorses it.

Sharon Herbert says that CCC has discussed at length during three meetings/call. The group agreed that this is a policy that should be accepted. Some members remain uncomfortable with certain things. Compromises have been made. The policy received CCC's unanimous support and endorsement, and the CCC gives its thanks to Lynn Dodd and her committee.

Topics discussed include the desire to continue to foreground a requirement for scholars to make public details about where their records and data can be found and to emphasize curation of data in responsible ways.

BE IT RESOLVED: the Board adopts ASOR's Policy on Professional Conduct and directs that any future amendments to the mission be incorporated into it automatically.

Moved by Tim Harrison and seconded by Hanan Charaf. Passed unanimously.

Susan Ackerman expressed her thanks to Lynn Dodd and the committee for their work on this policy over the past years.

New Business

12. Wendell Weir Legacy Gift (Susan Ackerman)

Wendell Weir was a Congregationalist Minister and son of a notable Congregationalist minister in Los Angeles. 11% of assets of the estate are being donated to ASOR, roughly \$80-90K. Susan Ackerman presented the options discussed by the EC, which is that we either put the money into the endowment or into the Harris Fund. Sharon Herbert put it succinctly by saying that “it isn’t sexy, but that is the best move we can make, putting it to the endowment.” She says: “even though I am an excavator, as someone who has done development work, I know how hard it is to develop operating funds.”

Joe Seger: there could be a naming opportunity, but there is a precedent for this: when James Ross (\$34K) gave us funds in the past, we put it into the Endowment for General Operations.

Andy Vaughn: this will be the second legacy gift, unplanned, that ASOR will receive. Shows donors that we manage the money prudently to build up ASOR broadly for the future.

Sheldon: technically, when a gift comes from the estate, it is not restricted, so if the board takes this action, then we create a board designated endowment that can be changed and that will be accounted for separately, as the Board always has the right to change their mind. When Ross gift came, we didn’t think through it quite like this.

Teddy: was there ever a goal for the Harris Fund? Is there a way to put some of the Weir legacy in one fund and some in another fund? No enthusiasm for this in EC. Was felt that this would dilute the impact of the gift to split it.

Eric: Sheldon’s comments encourage us to think of honoring the donors for what they have done...as a Legacy Donor.

Vivian: important to support the endowment in the long term, and a concept of a Legacy Donor contribution is a good idea too.

Peggy: go with the unsexy endowment.

BE IT RESOLVED: the Board of Trustees places the Wendell Weir legacy gift into the Endowment for general operations. Unanimously approved. Joe made the motion and Vivian Bull seconded. Unanimously approved.

13. ASOR Strategic Plan, 2016-2020 (Susan Ackerman)

Small group breakouts were organized to consider and report back on the topics assigned.

Group #1: Tim (Teddy, Lynn, Carol) – Topics II, III, VI

II: By developing robust programs for the general public.

Cultural heritage issue captured by “by maintaining the highest ethical standards of scholarship and public discourse” so discourages a separate cultural heritage bullet: we don’t want historically contingent events to be driving the mission and so favors a more general wording.

Geography: SW Asia and Mediterranean Basin rather than Near East.

By offering educational opportunities in history and archaeology to students in institutions of higher education.

III: Annual Meeting: time and location. Suggestion: not to act to change, but to see how San Antonio meeting goes, with the more explicit separation that will be in play there; to see its impact prior to making a more decisive decision; also to see how ASOR/SBL connection works in San Antonio and whether the separation enables us to reach out beyond traditional audience by saying we are distinct from SBL.

Keep AM program at same size; focus on quality, grow registrants...dealing with marketing efforts to draw a broader public.

VI: membership support: need to be worried about defining membership benefits and shifting away from core reliance on subscriptions; focus instead on student scholarships and research scholarships will give a longer-term attraction.

Group #2: Sharon (Joe, Ray, Larry) – Topics II, IV, VII

II: ASOR is our brand; name not going to go away; “American” is our name, our orientation; get over it. But what do we offer our non-American institutional members (big issue for CCC)? Likes Near East as geographical designation.

IV: agreed that most important issue facing publications is getting materials into accessible electronic format – both ongoing and previous publications, including books and annual reports. OI is a model (required donors): there, printed sales have gone up, even as downloads have gone through the roof: a real service. Outreach: oversight...how the content is controlled for *ANE Today* and Blog: should editor of *ANE Today* be reviewed every three years? Alex Joffe is editor. Agreed there should be oversight.

VII: Next generation/fostering the field. Thought all great ideas. Red flag: NSA – suggestions: publications, journalism, NGOs, government agencies

Group #3: Ed Wright (Matt, Sheila, Hanan) – Topics II, V, VIII

II: geographical designation: ancient Near East and Mediterranean worlds. Makes sure all beyond N America are franchised in ASOR regardless of name.

IV: need to support people regarding publications and publication subventions; support interactions between fieldwork projects and local communities, in addition to interactions with local schools (i.e., ASOR overseas centers), including support for non-Americans in those communities. Outreach to Middle East scholars and grad students in the regions of interest for ASOR. Develop fellowship funding for non-tenured and independent scholars.

VIII: where and when do we engage? Be prepared in advance by engaging with on the ground people, possibly through the agency of the *ad hoc* heritage preservation committee? Or session to explore policy, procedures and potential warning signs.

Group #4: Eric Meyers (Catherine, Sheldon, Andy) – Topics II, III, IV

II: geographical designation = Ancient Mediterranean and Near Eastern worlds (opens up

possibilities to the future and is authentic to ASOR's history which is focused to Levant and Mesopotamia.

"ASOR is an international organization whose mission is to initiate...."

5th bullet, p.2: higher educational institutions "around the world"

III: AM: varied viewpoints, suggests a task force. 20% of membership is involved in SBL actively. Requires some study.

IV: concurred with the committee recommendations that oversight of outreach publications' editors go to Membership and Outreach.

Group #5: Ann Marie Knoblauch (Richard, Rami, Vivian) – Topics II, V, VI

II: re the name ASOR: is there another "O" word? Geographic designation: Mediterranean basin, wants to be driven by what we are doing, rather than what we want to do.

To be inclusive: define archaeology in a way that applies to related disciplines (e.g. digital technology; scientific disciplines).

North American: CAARI moved in a direction of international; voted toward fellowships and international support.

Other forms of membership support: did not discuss. Richard points out the Oriental and Near East are not easily understandable to non-academic folks with money. (they think China)

Group #6: Joe Seger (Susan, Peggy, Steve) – Topics II, VII, VIII

II: we are in the Near East and no modern term equally categorizes. North American v international: we are charted in N America, includes international, but we should hold tight to that origin and identity. New points: questioned addition of K-12. Re: preserving cultural heritage: considers incorporation a reflection of what we are doing already.

VII: fostering field, next generation: Younger scholars involved in formation of strategic plan; fellowships largely to grad students: has been a success in drawing people in.

Cultivating recipients more: alumni activities, receptions, to feel part of the franchise...to continue to grow in their connection to ASOR. Bring them back, keep them in the fold.

Liaison with SBL: used to be more connections inter-organizationally -- ASOR used to have slots for AOS, SBL, AAR on Board, and this has gone away in favor of informal contacts and general overlapping interests. Might be a good idea to hold an Annual Meeting session about career tracks: other possibilities for grad students beyond the academy and within the academy. Felt this is a good document and raised important issues.

Susan Ackerman will take this feedback from Board and CCC to Strategic Planning Task Force so that they can continue working toward a revised document. EC will see it in Fall meeting, and if possible, the Board can ratify the new Strategic Plan in November, 2015.

Reports:

14. Chairs Coordinating Council (Sharon Herbert)

The CCC has been meeting and discussing many issues of shared concern and interest including the Professional Conduct Policy and Internationalization in ASOR.

15. CAARI (Raymond Ewing):

This is Ray's last meeting as CAARI President, after 5 years. See the latest issue of CAARI news. Big hole for the library expansion project, for the underground extension; the rehab of the current library is already done. Hope to be done will full project by Summer, 2016 and will enable the CAARI Board to meet in Cyprus for the dedication (which means that potentially, there will be nobody from CAARI at the ASOR Spring Board meeting in 2016). Ray asked for early establishment of the date of the Spring Board Meeting. Going forward: Focus on maintenance, upkeep on hostel rooms; building façade. Received a grant from CAORC to restore the building façade. Ray's successor to be elected today: Bryan Wilkins likely.

Susan Ackerman spoke for the Board in saying that the Board will miss Ray Ewing; it has been a delight having him on the ASOR Board of Trustees these past years.

16. Written report by ACOR submitted. No representative is present.

17. AIAR

(Sharon Herbert): Albright is doing well with its new director. Tiny operating endowment. Seeking NEH Challenge Grant. Need to grow our Board to get more involved and in donating money. Great deal of delayed maintenance. Programs are strong and healthy, including particularly the scholarship program.

(Matt Adams): all going well at Albright. Great class of normal people as fellows. Haven't had many challenges with personalities and fellows. Continues with programs, lectures, workshops, field trips. Fellows took trip to Greece. Next year hopes to be a trip to Egypt coordinated with ARCE. May 8th Annual Shwarma Fest (end of academic year at Albright). July 4th First Annual BBQ for all the people in the country. Fellows have been enjoyed facilities renovation; transition of digital infrastructure, wireless, faster, etc. Cleaning up grounds; hoping to inaugurate the archaeology compound: move shipping containers so people can lay out artifacts on tables, have wireless, shade in which to work, etc.

18. Announcements:

Vivian Bull spoke for the family in appreciation of the support that they have received from 500 people, who took the time to send emails, notes, make comments, etc., about Bob Bull. The Shechem material is at Harvard. Drew realized that they are responsible for making Tell er-Ras materials accessible, and these will be added to storage area where Caesarea materials are kept. Jack Bennett has taken over from Bob Bull. Jane Evans is taking on other material. Now all data and artifacts will be made available by Drew.

Meeting adjourned by the President at 12:02 PM.