Present: Richard Coffman (Chairman), Susan Ackerman (President), Sharon Herbert (Vice President), Lynn Dodd (Secretary), Timothy Harrison (Past President), Joseph Seger, Vivian Bull, Eric Meyers, Carol Meyers, Jeff Blakely, Jane DeRose Evans, Sheila Bishop, Peyton Randolph Helm, Michael Hasel, Joe Greene, Linde Crewe, Brian Wilkins, Jack Green, Deborah Foran, Ann Marie Knoblauch, G. Edward Wright, Jim Strange, J.P. Dessel, Hanan Sharaf, Elizabeth Lewis Macaulay, Susan Laden, Peggy Duly, Rami Arav.

Guests: Heather McKee, Thomas Schneider, Linde Crewe, Jack Green.

1. Call to Order by Richard Coffman at 8:35AM.

2. Introduction of guests: Heather McKee is a nominee for Treasurer; newly elected Board member Thomas Schneider, Linde Crewe from CAARI and Jack Green, new associate Director of ASOR, who comes in place of Barbara Porter.

3. Approval of Agenda

BE IT RESOLVED: the agenda is adopted by unanimous consent.

4. Approval of the Minutes from the April Board Meeting (April 29, 2017)

BE IT RESOLVED: the April 29, 2017 Minutes of the Board Meeting are adopted by unanimous consent.

Business Items

4. Committee Chair Appointments (Sharon Herbert)

**BE IT RESOLVED:** the appointment of Steve Falconer for an initial three-year term as Chair of the Committee on Archaeological Research and Policy (January 1, 2018-December 31, 2020) is approved by unanimous consent.

Chuck Jones, for a one-year extension as Chair of the Publications Committee (January 1, 2018-December 31, 2018): [http://cams.la.psu.edu/directory/cej14](http://cams.la.psu.edu/directory/cej14) and [http://personal-psu.academia.edu/CharlesJones](http://personal-psu.academia.edu/CharlesJones).

**BE IT RESOLVED:** the appointment of Chuck Jones for a one-year extension as Chair of the Publications Committee (January 1, 2018-December 31, 2018) is approved by unanimous consent.

5. Committee Appointments (Sharon Herbert)

5a. Honors and Awards Committee
   - John Kampen, for a second three-year term (January 1, 2018-December 31, 2020); [https://www.mtso.edu/about-mtso/faculty-directory/john-kampen/](https://www.mtso.edu/about-mtso/faculty-directory/john-kampen/).
   - Lynn Welton, for a second three-year term (January 1, 2018-December 31, 2020); [http://ubc.academia.edu/LynnWelton](http://ubc.academia.edu/LynnWelton).

5b. Programs Committee

5c. Committee on Archaeological Research and Policy
Kent Bramlett, for an initial three-year term (January 1, 2018-December 31, 2020); c. v. posted at http://www.asor.org/about-asor/hidden-trustees/.

Patricia Fall, for an initial three-year term (January 1, 2018-December 31, 2020); c. v. posted at http://www.asor.org/about-asor/hidden-trustees/.

Jimmy Hardin, for an initial three-year term (January 1, 2018-December 31, 2020); c. v. posted at http://www.asor.org/about-asor/hidden-trustees/.

Sturt Manning, for an initial three-year term (January 1, 2018-December 31, 2020); c. v. posted at http://www.asor.org/about-asor/hidden-trustees/.

**BE IT RESOLVED:** the appointment of the foregoing individuals as members of the Committees listed above, with the terms as noted in the entries above, is approved by unanimous consent.

6. Editor Appointment (Sharon Herbert)

Thomas Schneider, for a third three-year term as the editor of *Near Eastern Archaeology* (January 1, 2018, through December 31, 2020); c. v. posted at http://www.asor.org/about-asor/hidden-trustees/.

There was discussion in COP that an editor serving “around ten years” is a fine term for an editor and that beyond that may be too long.

**BE IT RESOLVED:** the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Committee on Publications to re-appointment of Thomas Schneider for a third three-year term as the editor of *Near Eastern Archaeology* (January 1, 2018, through December 31, 2020) is approved by unanimous consent.

7. Proposal to locate oversight of *ANEToday* within the Publications Committee (Sharon Herbert)

As ASOR navigates the new terrain of online publications, we have discussed ways to oversee the *ANEToday* publications. The Committee on Publications proposes that it offer oversight.

**BE IT RESOLVED:** the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Committee on Publications to shift the oversight of *ANEToday* to the Committee on Publications by unanimous consent.

8. Proposed Committee Name Change (Sharon Herbert)
Junior Scholars Committee to Early Career Scholars Committee

Through a process of discussions about this committee’s focus, the committee voted to change their name to Early Career Scholars. This will require a By-Laws change, which will require 20 days advance notice.

**BE IT RESOLVED:** the Board expresses its support for the name change of Junior Scholars Committee to Early Career Committee. Passed unanimously.


a. We welcome our continuing Board Members. Joe Greene and Carol Meyers are rejoining the Board as Institutional Members.

b. Ann-Marie Knoblauch notes the challenges that the committee is having in recruiting people to the Board of Trustees. She received useful feedback from members, and she seeks the input of the Board of Trustees. How might we better inspire our membership to become part of this body? There is a misperception that this is an elite pool. Various ideas are under consideration including a workshop at the Annual Meeting, perhaps officers visiting the Early Career Scholars and Initiative on the Status of Women, to describe the nature of serving in the leadership of ASOR.

Harrison: If Board Members are more visible, that could help.

Deborah Foran: use *ANEToday* to profile individual board members with their new photographs.

Sten LaBianca: there is a career ladder of sorts at ASOR, in that people with experience in serving ASOR on committees would be good candidates for nomination. He suggests that ASOR work through CCC to educate the committees about the Board.

Jim Strange: suggests that we issue a statement after each Board Meeting to help our members know what happened in the meeting.

Joe Seger: there are people elected from two classes of our organization: individuals and institutions. We have the harder time reaching individuals.

Ann-marie Knoblauch: there is no reference to the Board Nominations Committee in the ByLaws, so we could change how this committee operates. Also, members express a desire not to run in contested elections.

Sharon Herbert: bringing people up through the committee structure is good, however that is a select group, so we are hoping to broaden the pool through
announcements in ANEToday, in the hope of encouraging people to volunteer themselves.

11. Board Trustee Appointments (Susan Ackerman)

Peggy Duly, for an additional three-year term (January 1, 2018- December 31, 2020): biographical sketch appended.

Sue Laden, for an additional three-year term (January 1, 2018- December 31, 2020): biographical sketch appended.

Mark Lanier, for an additional three-year term (January 1, 2018- December 31, 2020): biographical sketch appended.

Joe Seger, for an additional three-year term (January 1, 2018- December 31, 2020): biographical sketch appended.

Lisa Ackerman is nominated by Susan Ackerman to serve the last two years of Jeanne Marie Tuetonico’s term.

BE IT RESOLVED: the Board of Trustees appoints Lisa Ackerman for an initial term to serve the last two years of Jeanne Marie Tuetonico’s term. Approved by unanimous consent.

BE IT RESOLVED: the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Nominations Committee and reappoints Peggy Duly for an additional three-year term (January 1, 2018- December 31, 2020). Approved by unanimous consent.

BE IT RESOLVED: the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Nominations Committee and re-appoints Sue Laden for a second three-year term (January 1, 2018- December 31, 2020). Approved by unanimous consent.

BE IT RESOLVED: the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Nominations Committee and re-appoints Mark Lanier for a third three-year term (January 1, 2018- December 31, 2020). Approved by unanimous consent.

BE IT RESOLVED: the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Nominations Committee and re-appoints Joe Seger for another three-year term (January 1, 2018- December 31, 2020). Approved by unanimous consent.

Joe Greene: Asks how other schools are represented on this board.

Susan Ackerman: Originally ASOR was the Albright, and then as ACOR and CAARI developed, they were affiliated research centers with ASOR. We do not have the same relationship with other centers, such as ARIT. It is part of the strategic plan to enhance our relationship with the other centers. We will meet at the same place and time as ARCE in Arizona for the next Board meeting.
Tim Harrison: Baghdad is the remnant of the former research center in Iraq, which has closed, while Damascus Committee is a remnant of a hope to establish a center.

12. Treasurer’s Report (Richard Coffman for Chris White)

The Treasurer refers the Board members to the Fast Facts at a Glance presentation of our financial status.

The Chair recognizes Andy Vaughn and Selma Omerefendic for managing ASOR in a financially-sound and forthright manner.

Richard Coffman: The Audit Letter has not arrived yet, and we understand that it will be a straightforward, clean audit letter. There was a staffing issue, a death and a departure, in the accounting firm, but we expect it to arrive.

Andrew Vaughn: points out that this letter is reviewed by the Finance Committee solely. If the Finance Committee sees any problem, then it would be brought forward.

Peggy Duly: how many years have we been in the black?


Sten La Bianca: what is our reliance on our endowment, and how market-downturn-proof are we?

Andrew Vaughn: our budget is not effected very much, because our endowment is small, however our endowment for operations has doubled to about $750,000, which does not cover a large portion. We aim to grow the endowment. We base our withdraw rate on the last 3.5% of the last 12-quarter average.

**BE IT RESOLVED:** the Board of Trustees adopts the Journals and Escrow recommendation, Exhibit F to the Finance Committee report, by unanimous consent.

**BE IT RESOLVED:** the Board of Trustees accepts the FY 2017 Audit Report as recommended by the Finance Committee, subject to receipt of a clean audit letter. By unanimous consent.

13. Officers Nominations Committee Report (Joe Seger)

Chris White’s family situation does not allow his full involvement going forward. The committee vetted Heather McKee and proposes her for ASOR Treasurer. She was interviewed by phone and by the Board chair and former Treasurer. All agreed that she would make an admirable addition to our staff. Vivian Bull, Ann
Marie Knoblauch, Carol Meyers and Joe Seger, with assistance from President and Board Chair undertook this vetting. Heather McKee is recently retired, highly gifted and looking for a service responsibility.

Richard Coffman thanks the committee for taking the lead on this.

**BE IT RESOLVED:** the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Officers’ Nominations Committee and appoints Heather McKee for an initial three-year term (January 1, 2018-December 31, 2021) by unanimous consent.

Susan Ackerman points out that as of January 1, 2018, ASOR’s President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer all will be women. Applause.

14. Chairs Coordinating Council Report (Sharon Herbert)

The CCC met. The following items were discussed.

a. The Chair of our Junior Scholars committee was not able to attend.

b. Congratulations to the Program Chairs for the largest meeting ever. Question: what is the right size meeting? Consensus: this size is large, exciting and, while there are competing sessions, the expansion of our areas of scholarship enables overlap while not frustrating people with competing sessions.

c. A possible reported violation of the policy on Professional Conduct was brought to the attention of the CCC. Apparently, a presenter may not have had permission to present material shown in their contribution. Violations can be reported to the Committee on Ethics.

d. The Plenary talk was thought to be wonderful and well-presented. There were comments that this was one of the best in several years. The Program Committee will present a slate of possible plenary speakers to the CCC for its February call.

e. Membership and Outreach: considerable energy has been going into internationalization. Initially, there was discussion of the need to make sure that there is value added to our Annual Meeting, so that other events do not compete. A means of doing this is investing in jointly sponsored symposia. There will be one on violence in the Ancient Near East in Paris, in partnership with the École Practice des Hautes Études (Vanessa Jouloux). A preliminary outline for this symposium was presented. The CCC approves it and feels that it will further ASOR’s reputation and mission. CCC gave them a provisional approval to move forward. Other symposia are planned for Palermo, Sicily and Helsinki. A goal is to encourage membership by attendees.
f. The Committee on Publications notes that we have had to turn back papers, as we have an 18-month pipeline already filled.

g. We are exploring the possibility and wisdom of moving the production and distribution of our journals out of our house. This effort merely is in the exploratory stage. It would allow the release of space in the office. Also, an outside vendor could provide broader and more efficient distribution. This effort falls under the purview of COP, and the committee is looking favorably on this, pending more facts.

   Andrew Vaughn: ASOR is contracting with a publishing consultant in order to enable us all to understand and effectively evaluate the proposals that we have received.

h. Honors and Awards: kudos to Laura Mazow and her committee. They have many good books being submitted and many potential awards. They have decided that they will move the selection of the service awardees to the Spring. The call for nominations will be earlier, and it will still be awarded in November at the Annual Meeting. Our poster presentations have grown enormously. This year there were 75 poster presentations accepted. There needs to be some form of acceptance. The Honors and Awards committee had only one day to evaluate. The Program Committee offered to help. The judging was done with help from the PC. CCC members believe that there is a high value to the people presenting and to those of us who see the posters. There was a possibility of establishing a tier award: perhaps the top 10 posters. The chairs of Programs and of Honors and Awards will discuss and propose a new process. Also, we note that there is a staff time overhead issue, because of the need to have easels, space, etc. Staff and CCC are thinking about this.

i. Committee on Archaeological Research and Policy. Tom Levy completed his term as Chair. He supported internationalization efforts. For the first time, non-North American field projects can seek CAP affiliation. CAP was charged to get an online digital system up and running. Now the system is easier. Tom Levy advises that there be some computer support paid by ASOR. The other charge was to continue the transformation from a perceived policing committee to a support committee that serves an educational role, developing information resources around best practices in archaeological fieldwork. Finally, for some years, there has been discussion on the need for clearer guidelines to ensure safety in field situations. Bullying, sexual harassment, and discrimination has come to the fore. CAP voted to adopt a sub-committee to study this issue and to produce a draft of guidelines. It will come from CAP and the sub-committee will consult outside resources such as legal advice from Richard Coffman and information and/or input from Beth Alpert Nakhai and Lynn Dodd. We are seeking to have multiple gender representation on this sub-committee.
La Bianca: your report underlines the wisdom of the Strategic Planning Committee in creating the CCC, where synergies and cooperation among committees are emerging.

Schneider: is there a concerted strategy for reaching out to European scholars and institutions?

Herbert: says that a concerted and individual effort to reach out to European institutions is welcome and invites Board Members to make suggestions or to volunteer to be on that committee.

Ackerman: would like to see proposals for symposia for colleagues who are financially challenged to come, including in eastern Europe and the Middle East.

Duly: agrees that outreach is important. Ethical oversight of excavations: will issues come to the board?

Herbert: No, CAP is encouraging best practice. If someone is destroying a site, that site will not have CAP affiliation.

Harrison: in the spirit of how CAP has evolved, basically, it is shifting from vetting/policing to affirming the policy and adopting the policy on Professional Conduct. It has moved to a point now where the committee can discuss other issues.

Herbert: when a project applies for CAP affiliation.

La Bianca: this also reflects the professionalization of ASOR and rising standards generally.

Ackerman: we are working to offer more reasons to encourage CAP affiliation. We are raising funds for CAP Dig Directors: Joe D Seger Excavation Fund and Denise Gold Fund will go to dig directors.

Wright: this move and this leadership is in accord with our strategic plan.

14. Initiative on the Status of Women (Susan Ackerman)
   This was established by Tim Harrison during his term as ASOR President, and its charge was to enhance opportunities for women and recommend policies that may improve professional life and opportunities for ASOR members. Their report does not go to the CCC, therefore, but rather comes to the Board. The recommendation in the report submitted by Beth Alpert Nakhai was that ASOR make a code of conduct around field safety. This recommendation was accepted, both for sexual harassment and gender-based violence as suggested in the report and for general discrimination, harassment and bullying. The
President has determined that ASOR will initially deal with the issue of field safety and that this will be addressed through CAP, as a response to the report from the Initiative on the Status of Women.

Rami Arav: raises the issue of what should we do in foreign countries?

Susan Ackerman: does not believe that CAP’s charge is easy. Based on conversation that CAP had, they aim for a policy whose tenor is proactive and whose focus is on prevention. “Here is what a field project should aim for, etc. in terms of practices that do not encourage these behaviors.” CAP will promote best practices rather than policing.

Sten LaBianca: in the NGO community there are a lot of best practice workshops for safety overseas, so we may be able to access the resources of this community.

Susan Ackerman invites members to send her specific references and resources.

Joe Seger: these issues often are addressed at our universities by having workshops, which could be offered at annual meeting.

Tim Harrison: the subcommittee will report to the committee and their recommendation will come back to the board. The CAP subcommittee will do background research.

Susan Ackerman: as is the case with the Ethics Working Group, they made a start on a proposed policy and then participated in many conversations with the board and membership prior to adopting the policy as it stands now.

15. Memorial Moments (Susan Ackerman)

Trude Dothan – past member
Mordechai Gichon – past member
John S. Holladay – past member
George Landes – past member
Zecharia Kallai – past member
George E. Mendenhall – past member
Kevin O’Connell – past member

Edgar Peltenburg – past member
Catherine Stewart Vaughn – past member
Amnon Altman
Christian Augé
Rémy Audouin
Martin Bachmann
Frank L. Benz
Paul Bernard
Jorge Silva Castillo
Marc Cooper
Herbert Donner
Peter Flint
16. Other Business:

Andrew Vaughn noted that CAORC water bottles and ASOR pens are useful for raising awareness and were available at the meeting.

17. ASOR's New Home (Richard Coffman, Susan Ackerman, Andy Vaughn)

June 30, 2018 is the date by which time we need to be moved out and in our next home.

The Committee to Find ASOR a New Home worked hard to determine what the needs were for ASOR’s new home. Andy Vaughn and Susan Ackerman got to work on finding ASOR a home in concert with the recommendations made by this committee. Additionally, the By-Laws state that ASOR must have an office in the 48 contiguous states. Staying in Boston gives us the potential to retain our staff. Susan Ackerman indicated that she wished to look only at places where our current Executive Director would be willing to move.

We had to move in 10 weeks, on May 31, 2017, when Boston University gave us notice. ASOR is now in space near our old office. We went from 656 to 650 Beacon for core operations, while ACOR and CAARI are at 655 Beacon. These spaces were available for reasonable rent because these are spaces due for rehab, which are sub-par spaces that will be developed, so that a short term lease was created. We now have a June 30, 2018 lease and December 1, 2018 (???). We need to make decisions quickly. These three options are now on the table for discussion.

a. Stay in Boston: we would need to purchase an office or expect to pay $40+ per square foot per year in rent (meaning at least between $60,000 and $80,000 per year, depending on how much space we required).

b. Move to UNH: $35,000 to $43,000 per year with possibility of rent to own

c. Move to GWU: rent free, but supported by grant income, at least in part. GWU has an indirect rate of 59% for on-campus programs and a rate of 26% for off-campus programs. We would need to negotiate what percentage (if any) ASOR would retain for grants, and we would need to negotiate whether we could use the on-campus or off-campus rate.

A full discussion of the options ensued.
Jack Green: thanked ASOR for supporting the staff of ACOR at 665 Beacon. ACOR staff remains flexible as to options going forward.

A number of Trustees said that they would participate in giving or getting funds for the acquisition of a building that ASOR would purchase.

**BE IT RESOLVED:** The Board of Trustees directs ASOR’s leadership to pursue short-term rental opportunities in Boston area; and also to pursue academic relationships with institutions including Harvard Semitic Museum; and in addition the Board authorizes the leadership team to pursue options to buy a permanent home in the Boston area or elsewhere with an appropriate academic affiliation. 15 in favor. 8 opposed. Susan Ackerman and Joe Seger abstained.

The Board thanked all the people on the committee and the ASOR staff for the substantial work they have done around this issue.

18. ASOR Gift Acceptance Policy (Susan Ackerman)

This agenda item was tabled and will be addressed at the Spring Board meeting.

19. ASOR Trustee Commitment Form (Susan Ackerman)

This agenda item was tabled and will be addressed at the Spring Board meeting.

**Reports**

20. ACOR (Jack Green on behalf of Barbara Porter)

It has been a busy year for ACOR, and we continue to forge ahead in many ways.

a. Staff changes: ACOR has added to its staff most recently through the hiring of Jack Green, as Associate Director. His major focus is on the SCHEP (Sustainable Cultural Heritage Through Engagement of Local Communities Project), as well as the Temple of the Winged Lions Cultural Resource Management Project. Glenn Corbett, who is the former Associate Director, is now Grants Officer for ACOR – a newly created part-time position created in response to our strategic grant writing needs. Glenn is living in the Washington DC area, which means we are adding to our US based staff – and hope that this will lead to future opportunities and greater visibility for ACOR within the US. We are also very grateful for Glenn’s contributions to ACOR, and we look forward to the possibilities that may arise from this new situation. Rabab Samawi is now our administrator in Amman.
b. USAID-SCHEP Project implemented by ACOR: the project is now entering its fourth year. In the past 12 months we’ve seen a significant range of high impact activities, including the addition of a new SCHEP site at Bayt Ras near Irbid following the discovery a year ago of a painted Roman tomb – this has provided new opportunities for in country training and knowledge sharing, including workshops held at ACOR. We have also supported projects including the Madaba Regional Museum Project. More news of this will be apparent in early December. SCHEP includes the work conducted by site stewards in raising educational awareness through provision of visits from schools surrounding the sites and further afield. So far, they have facilitated nearly 2000 school children. SCHEP also provides employment and skills improvements – Nearly 250 jobs have been created, with a significant inclusion of women and youth as part of the SCHEP program so far. One of the major success stories has been the Wadi Rumm community based Rock Art Rangers Program, led by Kaelin Groom and George Bevan. This has involved training of local community members in Wadi Rumm to collect data using smart phones that feeds into a GIS database, as well as training in interpretation of rock art and epigraphy – resulting in a high level of appreciation and understanding of the value of cultural heritage in Wadi Rumm, also enhancing the experience for tourists. We are now in the last few months of our program activities, and are preparing to extend our grant in the future.


d. ACOR newsletter: The latest ACOR newsletter has a focus on the Madaba Plains Project, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year and is still going strong. We’re very grateful to all the contributors and look forward to the next 50 years.

e. Fellowships: this Fall ACOR hosted a number of Fellows, including NEH and CAORC, as well as several other named fellowships: Our eight current fellows in residence, a total of 8 currently include: NEH Fellow Gary Rollefson of Whitman College who is researching the Neolithic, CAORC fellow Ian Jones of UCSD who is researching Ayyubid copper production in the Fainan, and CAORC Lilli Frost of GWU who is researching citizenship, nationalism and refugees in Jordan. Please check out the Grant and Fellowship opportunities on our website and encourage applications. Also, check out our blogs pages, which include some great recorded lectures by current and past ACOR fellows. Also, worth noting that we have had two Jordanian ASOR Travel fellows this year – Arwa Massadeh and Sahar Khasawneh
21. CAARI

a. Bryan Wilkins: We have completed the new addition to the library. The new CAARI director is Linde Crewe. She assumed directorship on July 1, 2017. We have worked hard toward a June 14, 2018 celebration—a gala dinner at the Cypriote Presidential Palace. Trustees are pursuing publication of a commemorative volume. We are open for visitors for the birthday party next year.

b. Linde Crewe: She has been coming to CAARI since her undergrad years. CAARI has now reached the end of a rehabilitation process of the listed building. The library is available and the rooms have air conditioning. CAARI is working on collaborations with the Department of Antiquities. CAARI will have the only petrographic laboratory on Cyprus

c. Everyone is welcome to attend the CAARI celebrations next year.

22. AIAR (Sharon Herbert for Matthew Adams)

This report summarizes the chief accomplishments and issues arising since the April 2017 report as well as looks forward to upcoming challenges. The Albright Institute for Archaeological Research Director’s Report is incorporated in these Minutes by reference and is attached as Appendix 1.

23. The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:21PM