1. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:04PM

2. Approval of the Agenda

BE IT RESOLVED: the Agenda is approved by unanimous consent.

3. Approval of the November 2017 Board Meeting Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED: the Minutes from the November 2017 Board Meeting (November 19, 2017) are approved by unanimous consent, the typo of “a a” corrected, as noted by Peggy Duly.

4. Remembering Jim Strange (Eric Meyers)

   Eric Meyers offered a remembrance and appreciation of Jim Strange. He related that Jim was a strong supporter of integration. He was a talented surveyor. He excavated Tell er-Ras; Khirbet el Qom under William Dever; and was a Gezer area supervisor, where Jim and Eric Meyers met. Eric and Carol Meyers invited
Jim to join their dig and become Associate Director. They shared a productive 11 years of work in the upper Galilee, publishing a great deal. They published a book jointly on the Archaeology of Rabbis in Early Christianity. Jim was able to help identify some of the beauty and magic that had illuminated the early centuries. Eric remembers digging alongside him at Sepphoris for roughly 30 years. Jim was active in ASOR, and the Meyers and Strange families interacted at meetings, and influenced each other, their students, and colleagues. Eric was friends with Jim through his half century of being “Galileans”...people who fell in love and who worked in this region and sought to understand its uniqueness. We miss him. His memorial service will be held in Tampa on April 27, 2018. We remember him with love and affection for his humanity.

Carol Meyers: When we learned of his death as we completed the Sepphoris volume, we decided to dedicate it to him.

A moment of silence was kept in honor of Jim, and applause for his contributions to our field ensued.

Business Items

5. Board-Elected Trustee Appointment (Susan Ackerman)
   Carolyn Midkiff Strange is nominated to serve the remainder of Jim Strange’s term on the ASOR Board of Trustees. Carolyn was an important partner in Jim’s fieldwork. She is the mother of several professional archaeologists. She has been a 50 year long member and a generous donor. We are proud to award a fellowship named for Jim and Carolyn.

   Susan Ackerman moved. Carol Meyers seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED: Carolyn Midkiff Strange is appointed the ASOR Board of Trustees, for James Strange’s remaining term of service, which ends December 31, 2018.

6. Committee Appointments (Sharon Herbert)

6a. Committee on Membership and Outreach
   • Cynthia Schafer Elliot, for an initial three-year term (January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2020) - http://www.jessup.edu/about/directory/faculty/cynthia-shaferelliott/.
   • Kyle Keimer, for an initial three-year term (January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2020) --
BE IT RESOLVED: Cynthia Schafer Elliot is appointed to an initial three-year term (January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2020) on the Committee on Membership and Outreach.

BE IT RESOLVED: Kyle Keimer is appointed for an initial three-year term (January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2020) on the Committee on Membership and Outreach.

6b. Junior Scholars Committee

• Petra Creamer, for an initial three-year term as a Graduate Student Member (January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2020) -- https://www.sas.upenn.edu/aamw/students/Creamer.

BE IT RESOLVED: Petra Creamer is appointed for an initial three-year term as a Graduate Student Member (January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2020).

7. Editorial Board Appointments (Sharon Herbert)

7a. NEA Class of 2018 (retroactive appointments)

• Emily Hammer, for an initial three-year term on the Editorial Board of NEA (January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2018) -- https://www.sas.upenn.edu/mec/people/EmilyHammer.

• Richard S. Hess, for a second three-year term on the Editorial Board of NEA (January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2018) -- https://denverseminary.edu/about/faculty/member/13474/.


• Tasha Vorderstrasse, for an initial three-year term on the Editorial Board of NEA (January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2018) -- https://nelc.uchicago.edu/faculty/vorderstrasse.

BE IT RESOLVED: Emily Hammer is appointed for an initial three-year term on the Editorial Board of NEA (January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2018)

BE IT RESOLVED: Richard S. Hess is appointed for a second three-year term on the Editorial Board of NEA (January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2018)
BE IT RESOLVED: Jason Ur is appointed for a second three-year term on the Editorial Board of *NEA* (January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2018)

BE IT RESOLVED: Tasha Vorderstrasse is appointed for an initial three-year term on the Editorial Board of *NEA* (January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2018)

7b. *NEA* Class of 2019 (retroactive appointments)
   • K. Lawson Younger, for a third three-year term on the Editorial Board of *NEA* (January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2019) -- [https://divinity.tiu.edu/academics/faculty/k-lawson-younger-jrphd/](https://divinity.tiu.edu/academics/faculty/k-lawson-younger-jrphd/).

BE IT RESOLVED: Ömür Harmanşah is appointed for a third three-year term on the Editorial Board of *NEA* (January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2019)

BE IT RESOLVED: Ann-Marie Knoblauch is appointed for a third three-year term on the Editorial Board of *NEA* (January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2019)

BE IT RESOLVED: Miriam Müller is appointed for an initial three-year term on the Editorial Board of *NEA* (January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2019), following on an initial one-year term (January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2016)

BE IT RESOLVED: K. Lawson Younger is appointed for a third three-year term on the Editorial Board of *NEA* (January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2019)

7c. *NEA* Class of 2020
   • Alison Gruseke, for an initial three-year term on the Editorial Board of *NEA* (January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2020) --
BE IT RESOLVED: Alison Gruseke is appointed for an initial three-year term on the Editorial Board of NEA (January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2020)

BE IT RESOLVED: Lesley Gregoricka is appointed for an initial three-year term on the Editorial Board of NEA (January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2020)

BE IT RESOLVED: Lorenzo d'Alfonso is appointed for an initial three-year term on the Editorial Board of NEA (January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2020)

BE IT RESOLVED: Michael Langlois is appointed for an initial three-year term on the Editorial Board of NEA (January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2020)

Thomas Schneider mentions that while he and Susan Ackerman had email conversations about the candidates, they had not moved forward to formal assent.

8. Officers Nominations Committee (Joe Seger)

This committee is charged with doing searches for the offices of Secretary and the Vice President, whose current occupants' terms end December 31, 2018, and in pursuit of this they made public requests for candidates. From this pool, they identified five candidates for each office. They received two responses of "interested" for Secretary and four responses for Vice President. Based on the responses received, they convened a conference call on April 5th in order to make a recommendation for nominees.

BE IT RESOLVED: the term of Vice President Sharon Herbert shall be extended one year
in order to synchronize the terms of the Vice President and President. Approved by unanimous consent.

**BE IT RESOLVED:** Sharon Herbert is appointed to an additional one year term as Vice President, to serve through December 31, 2019. Passed unanimously.

**BE IT RESOLVED:** Ann Marie Knoblauch is elected to the position of Secretary for an initial term to extend from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2021. Passed unanimously.

9. **Treasurer’s Report (Heather McKee)**

9a. **Adoption of the FY 2019 budget**

The Finance Committee met and instructed Andy Vaughn and Heather McKee to sign and submit the 990 letter to the IRS.

For FY 2018, there was strong oversight exerted on our expenses, and we experienced better than expected performance on annual meeting, savings because of staff transitions, and generous donations to our Annual Fund by Trustees. All this means that ASOR can achieve a break-even budget.

Andy concurs that the budgeted annual fund is $80K, and we are at nearly $100K. Our forecast is $115K, so that we can balance our budget. This is consistent with past years. He thanks the Trustees for what has been given and done thus far and he asks the Trustees to continue giving.

**Cash and investment accounts.** There has been positive performance, and we are on an upward trend. Heather underscored that ASOR has defined investment policies. This is important. Despite ups and downs in the market, ASOR is handling its investments prudently, and we can hope to see continuing positive returns. The distributions that are made are based on explicit percentages and averages of quarters to determine % distribution. This is a good due diligence practice in maintaining the funds and managing them.

Heather McKee and Andy believe that the higher fee accounts in Sequoia should be closed in order to bring the funds into management through Schwab and to streamline financial oversight. The Finance Committee approved this action.

**Budget to Forecast:** Andy Vaughn forecasted a balanced budget by the end of the year due to wonderfully generous donors, savings, and oversight of
expenses. Unknowns that may come into play include: moving expenses (forecast $50,000 for the move, which includes incentive and relocation costs). We need to look into this more closely, and we are doing our very best to project these expenses.

**Fiscal Year 2019 Proposed Budget:**

A balanced budget is proposed. We have funds set aside for moving. This presupposes an agreement will be established to begin a publishing relationship with the University of Chicago, which promises savings and benefits.

**Moving:** There is $20K in the FY2018 budget. We are going to allocate up to $100K of prior year profit, if we can either make it cheaper or find new income.

Susan Ackerman made comments about the fact that the budget reflects prudence, in view of the uncertainty around funding for additional cultural heritage work from the Department of State.

Peggy Duly mentions some typos in the Treasurer’s Report.

The Trustees discussed the budget.

**BE IT RESOLVED:** the Board of Trustees approves the 2019 Fiscal Year budget.

10. ASOR Policy Documents (Richard Coffman, Susan Ackerman)

   a. **ASOR Gift Acceptance Policy:** there are three version of the statements.

   A full discussion of the policy options occurred.

**BE IT RESOLVED:** The Gift Policy is approved with the emendation of the 4.11 version #3 to read: “Antiquities. ASOR will not accept gifts of antiquities. ASOR, however, may help facilitate a donation of antiquities to a museum or other appropriate curation facility provided (a) documentation acceptable to ASOR is provided to demonstrate that such antiquities were not acquired by an individual or institution, including the prospective donor, through purchase or donation after April 24, 1972, the effective date of the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, (b) the facilitated donation would not otherwise be disqualified by Section 2.11 of this Policy if ASOR were to accept, rather than help facilitate, the gift, (c) the facilitation is approved by the Board of Trustees or the Executive Committee acting on behalf of the Board, (d) under no
circumstances will ASOR take physical possession of such antiquities or otherwise derive any benefit from them or their facilitated donation, and (e) under no circumstances will ASOR provide appraisals or estimates of the value of any antiquity. For purposes of this Policy, the term “antiquities” means, inter alia, coins, texts, pottery, statues, artworks, textiles, and other portable objects pertaining to the history and cultures of the Near East and wider Mediterranean.” Passed unanimously.

b. **ASOR Trustee Pledge:** Susan outlined the extended consultation and amendment process that this policy has undergone.

Ed Wright moved. Peyton (Randy) Helm seconded.

**BE IT RESOLVED:** the ASOR Trustee pledge is adopted by ASOR.

11. Chairs Coordinating Council Report (Sharon Herbert)

CCC meets year round. There have been five calls.

a. **CAP:** Steve Falconer is settling in his new role in CAP. A Sexual Harrassment and Safety Issues Committee has been appointed and expanded.

b. **COP:** Publications: A decision about the UC Press partnership has taken up much of their time. The committee approved the recommendation that comes before Board, not unanimously, but substantively. Chuck Jones is in year 7 of his 7th year. Chairs nominating committee of the CCC includes Sharon Herbert, Lauren Mazow, and Steve Falconer. There are three nominations. Send any nominations to Sharon so that we can have a nominee to send prior to the summer, for voting in November.

c. **Programs:** the meeting is going to be smaller but the PC is busy and the program will be rich and full.

d. **Plenary speaker:** we are seeking a speaker who is resident and working in a foreign area. A rich candidate list as presented, and Hélène Sader will be the speaker. She has accepted. She is a loyal ASOR member. We may return to some names in future years.

e. **Outreach and Membership:** the Chair brought forward materials to approve as ASOR Paris Symposium for next Fall. The second symposium is in Palermo. The Chair will present materials in May to CCC. Next year we will need to appoint a new chair for Outreach and Membership, term to begin January 1, 2020.

f. **Honor and Awards:** Laura Mazow and her committee continue to work with Programs on sharing the judging of poster contest. There was a change in
schedule for awards that was proposed in November (for service awards to May), but this has been postponed.

g. Junior Scholars name will be changed to Early Career Scholars, in November, once the by-laws changes are voted upon.

12. Committee on the Policy on Professional Conduct report (Tim Harrison)
Carol Meyers, Joe Greene, Tim Harrison are members of this committee, which is relatively new. Since our last meeting, the committee considered one reported issue. Tim Harrison shared his appreciation for Carol Meyers and Joe Greene for their work on the committee. Susan Ackerman commented that the committee members are appointed for three years.

13. Other Business

No items of other business.

14. ASOR's New Office (Susan Ackerman, Andy Vaughn)
Susan describes the Board motion and concerns relating to its direction that the rental and move occur only in Boston. One of our major reasons to stay in Boston was to keep our staff. However, a key staff person has accepted a position outside ASOR, which blunts that benefit. Additionally, the areas in which we can afford to rent or buy in Boston mean that other staff likely cannot be retained.

The Executive Committee met for a weekend long retreat in New Orleans to discuss this issue. The Executive Committee decided to open for consideration other locations in addition to Boston, because of the costs that constrained ASOR’s choices. The locations proposed were as first choice Washington DC, with a second choice of the Research Triangle (Raleigh Durham). The Executive Committee adjourned to research what was feasible for fundraising capacity and market conditions in the DC area. Executive Committee members visited eight properties and were enthusiastic about options. Initial success in fundraising ($315,000 committed already, including two extraordinary six-figure gifts for which we are profoundly grateful) serve as an endorsement and support for a move in this direction. The Executive Committee had a conference call on March 2 and determined Alexandria, VA, as the place where targeted efforts to find a location for ASOR would be made. Susan Ackerman and Andy Vaughn have investigated the area and have found there are many non-profits there whose interests intersect profoundly with ASOR’s. ASOR will vacate 650 Beacon St. on June 30th 2018 and transition to Alexandria to rent in the short term and to buy in the long term.
We will build up our operation in the Washington, DC area and wind down the operation in Boston. Extra space is available to December 31 2018 at 665 Beacon St. We will move any remaining staff to that office from 650 Beacon Street. We will say goodbye to our long-serving, competent, wise staff, and we have offered all the opportunity to move with us, but we think that they will not choose to do so.

The Trustees discussed a number of issues related to the move.

15. Development Committee Report (J. Edward Wright)

ASOR has been fortunate in gaining commitments of $320,000 in under 5 months, with some major gifts still under consideration and other people considering augmenting their gifts. For Dig Scholarships, our goal was $4,000 and our generous supporters gave $6,800, so that we are able to increase the awards from 18 in 2017 to 21 likely in 2018.

ASOR’s New Home
Susan Ackerman commented on issues related to renting space from Virginia Theological Seminary (Episcopalian seminary) which is an ASOR institutional member. There are good friends there, including Steve Cook (Bible faculty), and Melody Knowles (former ASOR board member and VTS VP and Dean for Academic Affairs). They have offered ASOR assistance with office space to ease the transition from August, 2018 to March 31 2019. Additional discussion ensued about recent decisions made by VTS to divest itself of an ancient Assyrian relief.

The Executive Committee took a straw vote, that was not unanimous, to go forward with this business relationship.

**BE IT RESOLVED:** The ASOR Board of Trustees adopts the recommendation of the Executive Committee to accept the space offer by Virginia Theological Seminary. Passed with twelve in favor. Seven opposed. One abstention.

16. ASOR Publishing Partner (Andy Vaughn)

A contract is being negotiated with the University of Chicago Press. Our journals will continue with the same copy editor and typesetter for NEA and JCS and BASOR. We will pay for some additional items. The publisher will maintain the quality and page count and design for all three journals. Board members were able to read the circulated agreement for details. Andy feels that this is a very
advantageous move for us, and a necessary one, in terms of accomplishing our mission.

The journal exchange program will not continue in the long term, starting January 1st. We have heard varying reports from the research centers about the consequence of this. Moving at this speed is a result of losing free rental space at Boston University. COP reached a consensus view that this is the way to proceed. Andy expressed his view that this is a good proposal. He thought ASOR got more than originally anticipated.

Ann-Marie Knoblauch expressed her hope that CAARI’s JSTOR access will remain unchanged. The CAARI librarian identified the journals that CAARI believes that it will need to purchase out of pocket if the journal exchange ends: BASOR/NEA/JCS; AJA, Opuscula (Swedish School Athens and Rome) and the Annual of the British School at Athens.

Andy Vaughn assured her that three ASOR journals will continue. Andy Vaughn committed to working with the UC Press in an attempt to preserve the journal exchange for the ASOR affiliated centers.

Eric Meyers prompted a discussion about the income projections. Sharon Herbert mentioned that the financial hit is bigger to the Albright Institute. She agrees on a personal basis that it is a good move, and she asserted her confidence in ASOR’s good will to work things out and mitigate the financial hit that Albright is taking for the journals.

Susan Ackerman explained that for ACOR, this will mean an annual expenditure of $1666 dollars. Andy Vaughn indicated that he is optimistic that an arrangement for ACOR can be worked out.

Jeff Blakely asked about the status of any institutional journal exchange contracts. Andy Vaughn indicated that he has looked for such contracts and has not found any. He conceded that there may be items in the archives outside the ASOR office that he has not seen.

Richard Coffman asked Andy Vaughn to summarize the publishing relationship from a business perspective.

Positive:
1 – ASOR has not been able to accomplish our mission in disseminating knowledge by expanding institutional inscriptions; this will allow us to do it.
2 – staff and space capacity is stretched, and this will address those issues
3 – this is beneficial financially (with positive impacts on staff and revenue)

Negatives:
(1) there is the possibility of losing some control in the future about how we print or way that we can expand what we print, and while he expects we will get more, the reverse also is a possibility
(2) journal exchange program
(3) no third negative, it is simply that change is tough.

This agreement is only for journals not for books. ARS and AASOR and JSC supplement will be published by ASOR or its co-publisher, Lockwood Press.

The Trustees discussed the publication contract proposal.

Susan Ackerman summarized that this would commit ASOR to an initial five year contract, and then the contract would be up for renegotiation. She commented that once learned societies make this move, none go back to publishing in-house because the benefits so outweigh the costs.

Carol Meyers made a motion. Teddy Burgh seconded the motion.

**BE IT RESOLVED:** The Board authorizes the Executive Director to sign the contract to publish ASOR’s journals with the University of Chicago Press, with the terms as reported in the discussion.

17. **ASOR Archives and Nelson Glueck Materials (Susan Ackerman, Joe Greene)**

   a. Material from Nelson Glueck’s excavations ended up in G. Ernest Wright’s hands. They are property of ASOR, but have long been located at the Harvard Semitic Museum. In order to secure the future of these materials, and to ensure that Harvard is able to give them the curatorial care required, the ASOR Executive Committee recommends giving ownership of these materials to the Harvard Semitic Museum. Following discussion, Susan Ackerman indicated that ASOR would consult with Harvard about terms for an ownership transfer including what might transpire were Harvard to consider deaccessioning these materials in the future. The topic will be revisited in November. Joe Green said that Harvard Semitic Museum will continue to be a faithful steward until then.

   a. **ASOR Archives**
The Board of Trustees discussed the disposition of the ASOR Archives during the move to new offices.

Eric Meyers made the motion. Ann-Marie Knoblauch seconded it.

**BE IT RESOLVED:** ASOR shall transfer ownership to the Harvard Semitic Museum the Glueck collection subject to execution of an acceptable legal agreement.

All in favor, one abstention (Joe Greene).

Eric Meyers made the motion. Joe Seger seconded.

**BE IT RESOLVED:** ASOR shall transfer temporary custody of portions of the ASOR archive to the Harvard Semitic Museum subject to execution of an acceptable MOU. Passed with one abstention (Joe Greene).

18. ASOR Bylaws (Susan Ackerman, Richard Coffman)

They presented emendations that are not designed to change governance, but rather are intended to remove contradictions and ambiguities. The second goal is to address some omissions. Additionally, there are suggestions for minor policy changes that bring existing practice into the By-Laws. The By-laws will be vetted by *pro bono* counsel, and then the Board will vote on them in a future meeting.

19. CAORC (Richard Spees)

Rick Spees is the new CAORC Executive Director. He gave a summary of his view of the current situation in the government and as relates to the concerns of CAORC and its funding. In sum, CAORC is funded through January, 2020.

20. CAARI (Ann-Marie Knoblauch)

CAARI has been busy preparing for its 40th birthday celebration in Nicosia in June, to include a gala dinner at the Presidential palace on June 14. CAARI's annual workshop will take place on Saturday, June 16 when field work on the island will be presented and reviewed. On Monday June 18, CAARI's board will convene for its Spring meeting. Cyprus-based trustees as well as staff and the director have been extremely busy in these preparations. Meanwhile, the agenda at the CAARI library has been equally busy with a full hostel and numerous lectures and events on the schedule.
CAARI is finishing the library expansion/renovation, which is in its final stages. Soon it should be possible to present the completed project to the municipal authorities for final approval.

Of note, CAARI has been the recipient of a bequest to fund a permanent fellowship in memory of Eddie Peltenberg by his spouse Diana. We are pursuing further funding to make this a prominent fellowship opportunity.

All are invited to visit Nicosia in June.

21. AIAR (Matt Adams)

We are gearing up for 2019 fieldtrip abroad, which will be linked to the trip by fellows at the School in Athens. Matt extended an invitation to ASOR Trustees to come to Egypt with them. This trip will be made in coordination with ARCE.

The “Destination Albright” program is underway and succeeding. This program brings outside groups to the AIAR, thereby increasing its base of friendship and giving a bit of funding. Susan Ackerman brought her group from Dartmouth. Please consider stopping by the Albright. AIAR is moving forward to provide archaeological services, storage for archaeological materials, tools for rental for excavations, such as a suite of geo-archaeological equipment, flotation machines, RTK GPS and drone services, possibly.

Sharon Herbert shared with Andy Vaughn the report that she wrote for the AIAR website.

22. ACOR (Øystein LaBianca) No report was given at the meeting.

The Board of Trustees extends its heartfelt thanks to Ed Wright for his thoughtful preparation, a wonderful welcome and excellent hospitality accorded us during the Tucson meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30PM.