

ASOR Committee on Publications Meeting  
Hyatt Penn's Landing, Philadelphia, PA, November 17, 2005  
Approved 16 November 2007

Present: Larry Herr, Douglas Clark, Andy Vaughn, Joe Greene, Jim Weinstein, Piotr Michalowski, Jo Ann Hackett, Liz Friedman, Ann Killebrew, Sandra Scham, Jonathan Tubb, Brian Schmidt, Jeff Blakely, Selma Omerefendic, Susanne Wilhelm.

Larry Herr called the meeting to order, declared a quorum, and welcomed the committee. The evening's agenda and last year's minutes were moved to approve, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Larry explained that he would not stand for re-election as Chair of the committee and introduced Andy Vaughn as candidate to take over the chair. Of the committee's at-large members, Stuart Swiny resigned to join another committee; as his replacement, Jeff Blakely was proposed (Jeff left the room). Moved, Seconded, Passed (MSP) unanimously (Jeff re-entered the room). Jo Ann Hackett did not wish to stand for renewal for a second term on the committee. A note of appreciation for her work was approved unanimously; in the light of the current transitional period within COP, due to the move of the Publications Office from Atlanta to Boston, no replacement was proposed.

Journal and Book Reports:

BASOR: Jim reported on the status of current and future issues (Nos. 339 through 345), referring to the handout for details. Leaving the editorial board at the end of 2006 are Martha Joukowsky, Carol Meyers, and Wally Aufrecht. New nominated boardmembers to serve for 4 years are Jodi Magness, Andrea Berlin, and Jo Ann Hackett. MSP unanimously.

Jo Ann raised the question whether a move in production from Eisenbrauns to Brill was still under consideration. It is not, owing to Brill's steep production prices.

NEA: Sandra reported that Billie Jean will stay with NEA as Managing Editor on a contract basis. NEA Issue 67/3 (Sept. 2004) was published in September, 67/4 (Dec. 2004) is being typeset, 68/1 (March 2005) is in the final editing stage. Articles for issues 68/2-4 are in the process of review, and for 69/1 an Outreach issue on archaeology in popular culture is planned. Sandra stated that NEA's main current problem is monetary, and that an influx of additional funds would help in quickly publishing outstanding issues and get the journal up to date. New nominated editorial board member is Denise Schmandt-Besserat. MSP unanimously.

JCS: Piotr reported that the 2005 issue is in press and should be mailed by February/March 2006. He also informed the committee that the Baghdad Committee had voted on a motion to try to remove JCS from ASOR. While the Baghdad Committee would still oversee the publication, the rest of the work would be outsourced to Eisenbrauns. A motion to open discussion on this topic was seconded and passed. After a short but lively exchange of opinions, further discussion was postponed until the end of the session (see below).

Annual: Nancy was nominated to serve as editor for the Annual for another three years. MSP unanimously. Her report stated that Annual 59 was at the printer's, and that Annual 60-61 (Festschrift Eric Meyers) was expected to be submitted by the volume editors soon.

ASOR Books: No recent activities.

ARS: Joe reported that two volumes were nearing the end of production (Tel Tanninim; Caesarea Coins), and that he had proposals for four further volumes.

Larry suggested that, as per circulated hand-out, ARS should merge with the Annual, which will assume all books published by ASOR. Reason is the transition of officers within and move of the Publications office to Boston. Nancy and Joe will work as Co-Editors for all future publications. MSP.

COP Development: Ann reported that the major and priority activity within development during the last year was to try to raise money for individual issues of NEA. She motioned to have Larry bring to the attention the EC/Board the fact that COP wishes to seek approval to raise money to have particular issues of NEA subsidized. MSP unanimously.

Financial Report: Selma reported the projected income/expenses for 2006, referring to the spreadsheet that had been prepared by Billie Jean. The committee issued a note of appreciation to Billie Jean for making the spreadsheet. Expenses for the reprints of NEA's Qumran issue (to be sold in connection with the major exhibit currently touring the US) are to be taken out of the opportunity fund. There is a very good chance that this issue will sell big, between 17,000–20,000 copies.

Academic Services: Larry reported that the matter of embezzlement had been settled out of court under the condition that the name of Academic Services and the embezzler (Jim Henderson) not be mentioned in public. The check refunding the embezzled amount has cleared. Since the settlement was made possible by Chris Madell pursuing the issue, the committee issued a formal thanks to him for recovering the money.

Opportunity Fund: Jim reported on the fund's status referring to the detailed hand-out. For the Qumran issue of NEA, \$15,000 have been taken out to order 20,000 reprints. Sales in Mobile, AL, amounted to 5,000, while Charlotte, NC, has ordered 2,500 and asked to reserve more. Larry will pursue the marketing of the issue at least until the exhibition reaches Charlotte, maybe longer, and the task will then be taken up by whoever will run the Boston Publications Office. Jim asked for a motion that all revenue generated from the Qumran sales go directly back into the opportunity fund. After a short, controversial discussion the motion was carried, but with opposition.

ASHP: Larry reported that the ASHP project has been dropped.

Textbook Series: The textbook series is at a stand-still, since Bill Dever, who was to be editor-in-chief, is too sick to continue. Billie Jean has expressed interest in doing the series in cooperation with SBL. Andy motioned that details needed to be worked out with SBL and Billie Jean before any further action could be taken. MSP (1 no).

Newsletter and AM Program Book: To be produced in the future by the Boston Office.

Move of the Publications office to Boston (condensed account):

Larry and Doug laid out the reasons behind the move of the Publications Office to Boston as administrative, saving money in the long term, and in the spirit of re-establishing connection and unity between Publications and Administration. Several COP members recounted that this was not the impression that Billie Jean and Chris got, who thought they were being forced out for personal reasons with the result that the Publications Office is now in a state of disaster. Very lively discussion ensued, both sides stuck with their analysis.

Retaken Motion to remove JCS from ASOR:

Renewed discussion on the Baghdad Committee's vote to terminate JCS's affiliation with ASOR, and their wish for a second of the motion from COP, so that the issue can move to the next hierarchical step. Finally reached motion to “reluctantly agree to allow the Baghdad Committee to terminate JCS's affiliation with ASOR.” MSP (8 yes, 1 no, 2 abstain).

Ad-hoc Committee Motion to ratify the job description of Manager of Publications (hand-out) to move to the board. MSP (1 abstain).

Outsourcing Fulfillment: In order to be able to outsource fulfillment, ASOR's membership categories would have to be changed. Discussion/decision postponed until next year's COP meeting.

Motion to adjourn. MSP unanimously.

Submitted by  
Susanne Wilhelm