

ASOR Committee on Publications Meeting
Capital Hilton, Washington, DC, November 2006
Approved 16 November 2007

Present: Andy Vaughn, Jim Weinstein, Sandra Scham, Piotr Michalowski, Chris Rollston, Elizabeth Carter, Liz Friedman, Ann Killebrew, Nancy Serwint, Trina Arpin, Jeff Blakely, Susanne Wilhelm.

Andy Vaughn called the meeting to order, declared a quorum, welcomed the committee and read the agenda, which was MSP.

The 2005 minutes could not be approved, since Susanne did not bring them with her. The approval was postponed until the 2007 meeting in San Diego.

Vote on Nominations for new COP Members:

Chris Rollston for reappointment for another term (3 years); Vacancies for one 2-year term and one 3-year term: nominated are Sandra Scham (2-years) and Mitch Allen (3-years). Motion to elect the nominees (Jim), seconded (Nancy), passed unanimously under the condition that Mitch Allen will step down in case publications work is outsourced to his publishing house (conflict of interest).

Dues and Subscription Rates:

Andy asked for the input from COP on the Board's consideration to separate membership dues from subscriptions to journals and to offer subscriptions to journals at a much lower rate to members. He argued that this process would simplify subscription and fulfillments in eliminating the need to keep track of different journal subscription combinations. He also cautioned that in case this recommendation would not be approved, membership rates rates were likely to increase in order to cover ASOR expenses.

Comments from COP members:

Sandra argued that while the recommendation may be favorable and money-saving for ASOR as an organization, it would be unfavorable for ASOR Publications because of the inherent danger of a dramatical drop in subscriptions.

Piotr noted that the subscription combination of journals acted in favor of all ASOR journals. With BASOR as their main journal subscription, many members also get/read JCS and NEA as part of their "package," even though they would not necessarily subscribe to the journals if they were offered separately.

Liz (Friedman) cautioned that subscription journals are not necessarily read, but often just kept as reference. If offered a definite choice, subscriptions might drop dramatically.

Ann proposed the postponement of a decision on this subject, since ASOR is still in a period of transition and reorganization, and in view of all three journal editors' resistance to the proposition.

Jeff noted that the real issue was where Publications was going to go in the future, e.g., digital, and that COP should set the agenda and act accordingly, especially regarding the journals.

Motion (Jim) that ASOR at this time not separate subscriptions and memberships and that COP would review the issue again at next year's meeting, seconded (Nancy), passed without votes against.

Editor of NEA:

Sandra announced that she would like to step down as editor of NEA, but has agreed to continue until a replacement is found. In order to allow enough time for a successor to be found, Andy proposed that Ann Killebrew and himself should serve as interim editors to NEA in the meantime. Motion to accept (Piotr), seconded (Jim), carried unanimously with the addition that Andy as Executive Director would be a member of COP but not vote on it.

Outsourcing of Publications:

Journals and book series editors will be consulted on this issue until the next meeting.

Journal and Book Reports:

BASOR: Jim reported on the status of current and future issues, referring to the handout giving details about issues 343 through 349. Since two members of the editorial board, Nancy Serwint and Jo Ann Hackett, were leaving, Jim proposed as their replacement until October 2007 Derek Counts, Alan Walmsley, and Glenn Schwartz. Motion seconded (Jeff), carried unanimously.

NEA: Sandra reported that issue 68.4 was expected to ship in December. For 69.1, the first issue of 2006, all manuscripts have been received and copyedited, except for one main article and the book reviews. 69.2/3 will be a double issue on Prehistory/Ottoman Period Levant. All articles have been reviewed and are in the process of copyediting. All articles for 69.4 have been received; this issue will deal with popular reception of archaeology (movies, TV, games, etc.). All articles for 70.1 have been received but not yet reviewed.

JCS: Piotr reported that the 2006 issue was expected to ship in February, and that the 2007 issue may be out in summer 2007. The 2008 issue was hoped to be completed in February 2008. Additionally, he is thinking about issuing a "Beihefte" series, and possibly a Festschrift.

Annual Series: With reference to the hand-out, Nancy reported that, in addition to the Meyers Festschrift, another Annual was hoped to be published in 2007. Two further volumes are being sent out for review, while three more are in different stages of compilation. Nancy also announced that she has been made Chair of her Department at university, and in the future will need help or will have to resign.

After this, Andy moved to adjourn the meeting, Jim seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Submitted by
Susanne Wilhelm