

Minutes of the Meeting of the ASOR Committee on Publications (COP)

ASOR Annual Meeting, San Francisco, 2011

Charles E. Jones Presiding

Friday November 18 2011, 8:30-11am

In attendance: Charles Jones, Lynn Dodd, Joe Greene, Thomas Schneider, Bill Arnold, Kevin McGeough, Jim Weinstein, Thomas Schneider, Piotr Michlowski Ex-officio: Andy Vaughn, Kevin Cooney?

Absent: Mitch Allen, Susan Ackerman, Ann Killebrew, Tim Harrison.

Minutes of the last meeting. Jeff Blakely may have the 2010 minutes. When they arrive, they should go to Chuck Jones and once approved/revised, they can be posted on the web.

Introduction of Thomas Schnieder, new editor of NEA. The committee welcomes him to COP and wishes him success and offers him our assistance. Last year's renewal of AK was done with the recognition of the need for a discussion in COP about the need to transform NEA in future in various ways during the future terms of the NEA editor. Ann Killebrew's editorship was not renewed by the Board. Thomas Schneider was proposed by COP as new editor to the ASOR Board.

Thomas introduced himself. He has recently become aware of "prehistory" of editorship and of a desire that NEA's scholarly move so that it isn't merely a less scholarly color BASOR . He expressed his desire to return to broad themes that would appeal to broader audience too.

Chuck Jones passed along the suggestion of identifying editorial board committee member who will play a role in ensuring good English language style and native English. Joe Greene understands concerns about having a popular journal that sounds like it is written in standard English; he points out that the multi-lingual editor could broaden the appeal beyond the typical themes and authors (Greene). Has to be done by someone who knows the subject matter (PM). Thomas Schneider will inquire of Bob Buller about whether he will continue to do this service. Andy Vaughn says that he (Buller) will give one year notice if he cannot continue.

The question of how to grow the reader base for NEA was followed by a general discussion of marketing by ASOR and DBB

Lynn Dodd suggested that we support Thomas Schneider in reconvening the Editorial board of NEA. Chuck Jones recapitulated the current status of the Editorial, and the controversy over the change in Editorship. Thomas Schneider met with the five people who attended the NEA Editorial Board meeting. Four indicated willingness to continue serving. Thomas Schneider indicates a willingness to involve membership in broader conversation about future of NEA .

Formal vote on nomination of Thomas Schneider as editor of NEA for a three year term had been conducted by email prior to the meeting in San Francisco. Vote: 8 yes, 2 abstain, 1 not voted.

Nomination of Thomas Schneider is confirmed., and forwarded to the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees for action.

Nomination of new members of COP (Class of 2014): Mitch Allen and Sidnie White Crawford. Motion made (Piotr Michalowski) and seconded. Unanimously approved, forwarded to the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees.

BASOR

BASOR 2012-2015 editorial board members are appointed: Yorke Rowan, Tom Levy and Benjamin Sidel. Moved (Lynn Dodd). Seconded (Kevin McGeough). Unanimously passed.

Jim Weinstein reports that the transition to color will take place in early 2012. He has also submitted a proposal to move to semiannual production. Andy Vaughn reports that action on this is expected by EC/Trustees in Spring. Bill Arnold moved that COP endorse and support the contents of Jim's report that BASOR move to semi-annual circulation. Motion seconded by Chuck Jones. Unanimously approved.

Regarding Executive Committee request for a self-study of BASOR. COP recommends that we wait until the move to color and changes in format have been made.

COP empowers Chair of COP to express the view of COP that a holistic marketing survey of journals and publications is required. Additionally, we ask the COP chair to communicate that an external and self-study should be done once BASOR journal changes have been implemented, and once a clearer explanation for the request has been articulated to COP by the Board. Motion made by Piotr Michalowski. Seconded Lynn Dodd. Passed unanimously.

JCS

Piotr Michalowski reports that JCS is on track, but that it is difficult to get MSS of sufficient quality.

The JCS Supplement publication of the Arad-mu UR III prisoner of war archive from Iraq by Benjamin Studevent-Hickman has taken longer than expected. Joe Greene provided background on the history of the archive from its recovery from the market to its repatriated to the Iraqi Embassy in 2010. Piotr Michalowski reports that most texts (90%) are not excavated. For UR III period (90K tablets in 100 years). Perhaps 5% are excavated. In this case, the archive is not in private hands, but in the hands of the Iraqi authorities. Piotr Michalowski feels that the ASOR policy creates an unworkable situation. Kevin McGeough reviewed the ASOR policy on publication of unprovenanced objects. Given that this archive is in the hands of the proper authorities in Iraq, and that they have no objection to the publication of the archive, Lynn Dodd moved that COP approve the publication of the Arad-mu UR III prisoner of war archive in JCS supplementary series, subject to the policy on cuneiform texts from Iraq, with the proviso that the publication satisfies the documentation requirements stated in the ASOR policy. Seconded Chuck Jones. Unanimous consent.

ASOR ANNUAL

Joe Greene reports that the Annual published in 2010 (late) and now there is more than one in the pipeline, which will be published retroactively. Raised issue and asked that the periodicity/serialization and color (with subvention) issues be raised with the board by COP chair.

ARS

Kevin McGeough reports that Iskander won the book award. There is a good geographic distribution but we are not attracting ASOR affiliated excavations in the series. As a member of CAP, Lynn Dodd described CPA's interest in increasing value/convenience/connections for ASOR affiliates, and suggested that Kevin contact Sten Labianca about recruiting ASOR affiliates to ARS publication. There followed as general discussion of the pros and cons of new materials/digital supplements and erratum sheets.

Kevin McGeough discussed workflow complications: the current volume is hard to edit, huge, etc, and that there are other volumes in the pipeline. Jim Weinstein suggests that Carol Layba (edits Cotsen monographs, BASOR, Left Coast) might contribute time to support ARS.

NEA

Ann Killebrew completed 4 issues this year. Remaining MSS and reviews will be turned over to ASOR eventually. Jeff Blakely is guest editing the or 1st 2012 issue. Jeff and Thomas Schneider is working on the transition and the next issues.. He has a short deadline for the next issue.

Chuck Jones proposed postponing the discussion about process for reappointing editors.

Jim Weinstein recommended a complete redraft of the policies and procedures document, most recently updated in 2000 and still referring to the Atlanta office. This task might be rolled into the self-study. By-law contents and actual practice and best non-profit institutional practice should be evaluated.

Motion to adjourn made by Jim Weinstein, seconded by Bill Arnold, and unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 10:56am.

Minutes prepared by Chuck Jones, base on detailed notes take by Lynn Dodd.

Supplement: Summary of the discussion and actions taken by COP by email since the 2011 Annual Meeting (based on the archive of ASOR-COP list traffic archived at <https://lists.uchicago.edu/web/info/asor-cop>]

February/Mach 2012: Nomination by Thomas Schneider of NEA Editorial Committee and NEA Book Review Editor passed unanimously (one member not voting), and was passed to the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees for action.

March 2012: Mitch Allen withdraws from the discussion of ASOR's book distribution contract, since he expects to submit a bid.

Discussion of ASOR journal article self-archiving policy.

Discussion of responses to reviews in ASOR journals appearing on the ASOR blog.

Discussion of the bids for the Book Distribution Contract

April 2012: COP report to the Executive Committee / Board of Trustees:

<https://lists.uchicago.edu/web/arc/asor-cop/2012-04/msg00006/2012-04-cop-report%282%29.pdf>

June 2012: Notification to COP of the NEA Editorial Management program:

<http://www.editorialmanager.com/nea/>

August/September 2012: The motion to support the expansion of BASOR to 512 pages per year and to use the OF to pay for the additional costs up to \$10,000 per year. As detailed in my message of Tue, 28 Aug 2012 13:18:31 -0500 (CDT) archived at:

<https://lists.uchicago.edu/web/arc/asor-cop/2012-08/msg00001.html>

has passed. Aside from two abstentions (Jim Weinstein and Mitch Allen), all members of the committee voted in support of the motion. It was subsequently approved by the Executive Committee and the Chairs Coordinating Council. No action is required by the Board of Trustees.