

ASOR Chairs Coordinating Council  
Conference Call  
February 14, 2013

**Present:** Bob Cargill, Erin Darby, Jennie Ebeling, Elise Friedland, Tim Harrison, Sharon Herbert, Chuck Jones, Sten La Bianca, Laura Mazow, Suzanne Richard, Andy Vaughn, Jacob Wright, Cynthia Rufo, Britta Abeln

**Absent:** Neal Bierling, Robert Darby, Andrew Smith II

I. Call to Order: By Sharon Herbert at 10:04am.

II. Approval of December minutes

December minutes were approved unanimously as distributed.

III. Recommendation about timing of members' meeting (The proposal from Andy, Kelley, Elise, and Andrew that is included below was circulated in advance)

Due to low attendance at the Members' Meetings at the 2011 and 2012 Annual Meetings, it has been deemed necessary to move the meeting from the Friday morning 7:00am time slot.

It is our recommendation (Andy Vaughn and Kelley Herlihy from the ASOR office and Elise Friedland and Andrew Smith as co-chairs of the Program Committee) to hold the Members' Meeting during the Friday lunch time period from approximately 12:45-2:00pm. If this time slot is approved, we may "shuffle" the start of the academic papers Friday morning after checking with the program committee. Such slight shuffling may allow us to start the members' meeting at 12:30pm.

If this recommendation is approved, ASOR's Director of Meetings and Events (Kelley Herlihy) will work with the Sheraton Baltimore City Center Hotel to provide reasonably priced "grab and go" lunch options for attendees.

It is our hope that moving the Members' Meeting to the mid-day time slot will increase attendance and engagement by those at the Annual Meeting. We have further concluded that it is impractical to hold the members during the academic session times because that would necessitate moving at least 40 academic papers and probably adding an additional concurrent session on Thursday or Saturday.

The CCC unanimously and enthusiastically supported this recommendation. It was agreed that ASOR staff would work with the hotel to get reasonably priced lunches from the hotel. The CCC asked the ASOR office to implement this recommendation for the Baltimore meeting and for future meetings if it works well.

IV. Update and discussion of new e-newsletters (Andy)

Andy reminded CCC members about the survey concerning News@ASOR and encouraged them to submit their feedback. The membership committee is going to be active in soliciting articles, and Jennie asked CCC members for suggestions and contributions (updates, stories, and news ideas). News@ASOR is designed to share news about ASOR and stay in touch with our members. It was suggested that there may not be a need for the print Newsletter any more. Tim and Andy explained that some ASOR

ASOR Chairs Coordinating Council  
Conference Call  
February 14, 2013

members still really like the print Newsletter, but that in may be phased out in the future with the success of News@ASOR.

Andy explained that News@ASOR is a front page rather than a typical Newsletter with the content included in the e-mail. All the articles in News@ASOR link to the full article in another location: the ASOR website, ASOR Blog, etc. The second e-newsletter, The Ancient Near East Today, was brought up briefly. It is geared toward a general audience and will be used as an outreach tool. An email blast will be sent about it in the coming weeks.

V. Update on program book production (Andy, Elise, Andrew)

Andy and Kelley have solicited bids, and these bids have allowed us to make some general plans. We will be able to use a professional copyeditor and proofer, but we will not be able to afford outsourcing the entire product. We have investigated assigning an ISBN to the book, and that will be feasible as well. We are actively investigating pre-press work and will have a plan in place to address the concerns raised last fall. Andy reported that he should have a further update at the CCC retreat in April.

VI. Update on CCC retreat (Andy, Sharon)

The retreat will be the last weekend in April at the Detroit airport (hopefully at the Westin). Sharon reminded the chairs that action plans are due by April 1. Andy told the committee that he needed to hear from everyone if they are attending, whether or not they need funding to attend, and if they would be willing to share a room with someone. The meeting is set to run from 2pm on Saturday (April 27) until 2pm on Sunday (April 28).

VII. Update on search for *BASOR* editor (Chuck)

Sharon reported that Jim Weinstein is retiring and COP will be searching for a new editor. Chuck added that the job ad will be posted on the website and social media (including the upcoming News@ASOR). He asked CCC members to distribute the ad among their committees, etc. The deadline for applicants is the end of July. COP hopes that a nominee will be identified before the September EC meeting so that can the person can be approved by the EC and announced at the November Annual Meeting. The term for the new editor will begin in the summer of 2014 and Jim has agreed to have the incoming editor assist him in a kind of apprenticeship beforehand if they wish. Jim will also be on hand as a consulting editor for the first six months of the new editorship.

VIII. Discussion of process for selecting new chair(s) of PC to replace Andrew and Elise as of 1/1/14 (Sharon)

Andrew and Elise will be stepping down on 12/31/13 as co-chairs of the Program Committee after five years. The Chairs Nominating Committee will work on filling this position; a notice will be distributed in the near future. Sharon asked for the CCC's thoughts on how the position will work in the future (is the job too big for one person, etc.). It is hopeful that the new chair(s) will overlap with Elise and Andrew and be a part of the 2013 Annual Meeting and that there will be a clearer idea of the candidates by the April meetings.

ASOR Chairs Coordinating Council  
Conference Call  
February 14, 2013

IX. Possible public track at annual meeting (Andy)

Andy explained to the committee that ASOR's strategic plan calls for increased lay involvement in membership and in the Annual Meeting. Additionally, the Annual Meeting is an ideal place for non-specialists to see what ASOR is doing. However, many papers are too technical so the idea has been proposed for a public track for papers geared for a public audience. The plan is that we would pay ASOR members to give these lectures Saturday afternoon and Sunday. The public track attendees would have one or two meals as a part of their registration, and they could attend the entire annual meeting for a modest additional fee. The initial goal would be for 200 to attend.

The CCC members supported the idea and the thought behind it, but several concerns or reservations were expressed about implementing the public track too quickly. One person was concerned that there may be too many new initiatives at ASOR at this time. There were also concerns about how this would impact the Program Committee, staff support of the annual meeting, and scheduling conflicts with the current Annual Meeting program. The overall consensus was that the concept of a public track is good, and it should be investigated. However, the consensus was that time was needed for planning and coordination.

X. Adjournment: by Sharon Herbert at 11:14am.