

ASOR Chairs Coordinating Council
Conference Call 10:00am October 17, 2014

Present: Susan Ackerman, Sharon Herbert, Cynthia Rufo-McCormick, Laura Mazow, Randy Younker, Erin Darby, Danielle Fatkin, Andy Vaughn

Absent: Geoff Emberling, Chuck Jones, Sten LaBianca

I. Approval of September Minutes

Minutes have been approved.

II. Update on Syria Symposium at Annual Meeting (Susan)

The Syrian Heritage Initiative Symposium is scheduled for Sunday afternoon after the Annual Meeting. There will be luncheon with a keynote address, followed by talks from each of the PIs from the Syria team. The lunch has a fee of \$45. ASOR is subsidizing the hotel's cost to bring the price down and make the event more accessible. The discussion after the luncheon is completely free.

The program will feature the four co-directors and everyone who is doing work on the project. Michael Danti will give the keynote about looting by the Islamic State and other groups. We've asked people from the State Department to speak, and Susan and Andy will also speak briefly.

Key officers and board members will be informed about the symposium as soon as possible, so they can make arrangements to attend.

A Cultural Heritage Committee has been formed. The chair is Sturt Manning and the committee will meet for the first time at the Annual Meeting in San Diego.

III. Matters Arising from Membership and Outreach Committee (Randy)

Feedback was requested about forming a subcommittee to review online ASOR content. Such a committee would require people who have the time and interest to provide feedback in a timely manner.

The Membership and Outreach Committee would like to reach out on a regional level to engage people locally. Originally, an event was being planned for the Annual Meeting, but in light of the Syria Symposium, a local outreach event isn't possible this year.

The committee chair has begun researching the possibility of setting up ASOR Tours. He has talked to a representative of a tour company operating in the Mediterranean, who is interested in an ASOR tour in conjunction with their company.

The committee is looking for ways to engage and increase international members, particularly in Europe and the Middle East. The question of whether increasing international membership would affect CAP affiliation and the distribution of fellowships. Will this make the already limited funding too competitive for American students.

The chair suggested setting up a parallel track for scholarship funding that came from and went to European applicants.

Andy stated that he has received complaints from international members who pay dues but don't get the same benefits as American members, so increasing engagement and inspiring local fundraising might be a means to remedy this. Regarding CAP affiliation, the research centers do not need to be involved in determining if a dig should get cap affiliation. Andy believes the research centers can be isolated from affiliation discussions.

Regarding fellowships, Susan made the point that to apply for a fellowship, you have to be a current member, or a student enrolled at an institution with a membership. We currently have no citizenship requirement. Theoretically there is nothing that currently ties our fellowships to North American citizens.

The committee chair stated that he thinks we can find ways to bring new folks on board without hurting our goals and membership offerings. This will involve finding local organization with similar interests as ASOR and formalizing ASOR's relationship with them.

Susan mentioned that 25% of ASOR's professional members are 25% international. Andy said that many of those are Canadian.

The committee chair mentioned that international scholars have told him that they know of ASOR but cannot afford to come to the Annual Meeting every year. The chair suggested organizing an annual meeting in Europe.

Susan suggested that, given the high number of international members, committee chairs should consider replacing outgoing committee members with international members to increase representation.

IV. Process for Awarding Dig Scholarships (Sten, Sharon)

Excavation scholarships have been chosen by a subcommittee of CAP. Initially, only a handful of scholarships were given, but in recent years, this has increased to sixty scholarships. The chair of CAP felt that the amount of work involved may warrant an official committee. In light of the fact that efforts have been made to streamline the number of standing committees, this will be discussed and decided upon at the Annual Meeting in November.

Sharon asked if it could be a subcommittee of Honors and Awards. The chair of that committee agreed that it would work with their current timeline. It was agreed to discuss it further in November when the CAP chair was present.

V. Updates from Other Committees as Needed

The chair of the Junior Scholars Committee asked for, and received confirmation that the other chairs felt that it was worthwhile for junior scholars to meet separately to discuss the ethics guidelines draft after the ethics meeting. All agreed this would be a good way to

Sharon reported that the Committee on Publications will recommend the renewal of Thomas Schneider as editor. COP also has good candidates for editors of the Annual of ASOR and the Archaeological Reports Series. They will be coming forth with the nominations soon.

VI. Discussion of Revised Ethics Proposal (Sharon, Susan)

The Executive Committee brought up two issues with the guidelines. The first is the "cuneiform exception," and the second is the statement that ASOR members "may consider" research undertaken in occupied territories to preserve heritage within that territory. It is unclear what is to be done with salvage. The guidelines do not tell the committees if they

must include it or must not include salvage.

The chair of the Honors and Awards Committee mentioned that the guidelines address presentations and publications, but its unclear how some of this might apply to awards.

The COP chair also wanted to share feedback on the ethics guidelines draft. The chair asked if ASOR is the custodian of any archaeological objects and do we have a catalogue of them? Andy replied that we have a collection of artifacts housed at the Semitic Museum, which is thoroughly documented.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00.