

ASOR Chairs Coordinating Council
Conference Call, May 4, 2016, 1:00 EDT

Present: Sharon Herbert, Cynthia Rufo, Andy Vaughn, Geoff Emberling, Laura Mazow, Robert Darby, Erin Darby, Chuck Jones, Susan Ackerman, Danielle Fatkin

Absent: Tom Levy

1. Approval of minutes

Congratulations to Laura for being awarded tenure.

At the November meeting, notes were taken by Susan in lieu of minutes. The committee has reviewed and approved these notes.

2. Committee reports as needed

Awards Committee

The chair encouraged the committee to submit book and non-book nominations. A few nominations have been received. The chair will send emails out to publishers to remind them of our nominations process.

Publications Committee (COP)

The COP chair sent an email update: Mitch Allen completed his review of *NEA*. It was discussed by Thomas Schneider, Andy Vaughn, and the COP chair, and was distributed for comment to COP. The review makes some very valuable points about the strengths of *NEA* and about ways that it might improve. The chair would be happy to distribute it to members of the CCC if that would be of interest. Andy and Thomas, who are both in Vienna next week, will meet to discuss a plan to implement recommendations made in the report. The chair has asked them to prepare a written response to the report.

Andy said that the first step is that Thomas is going to send a summary of Mitch's report to the editorial board. Thomas and Andy both want to propose moving forward with what Mitch suggested, but want the editorial board to see Mitch's report first. The recommendations would be phased in with the fourth issue of *NEA* in 2016.

Andy summarized two highlights from the report:

- *NEA* is not an outreach journal but it is a successful academic journal. Even though its not accomplishing the outreach objective ASOR may have had at one point, it is successful at what it is. It has 200 subscribers who are non-members. Mitch did not suggest changing the journal, but pointed out that it is not

- accomplishing the outreach goal it was founded with.
- In terms of cost saving, Mitch recommended putting pre-press and printing production work out for bid. The savings could be used to hire an editorial manager to free up the editor to do more acquisition work. This would allow Tom to collect a backlog of articles so that we could have thematic issues.

Membership and Outreach Committee

The chair had a series of meetings in Europe and discussed what institutional membership and collaboration with ASOR could mean for European institutions. Everyone the chair spoke with was very interested in making contacts and he will report more as things develop. Randy also reported that European institutions tended to want to enter into memoranda of understanding with ASOR as part of an institutional membership: this seems to be an important part of European institutional culture. Finally, Randy will talk with the Program Committee about smaller European meetings that will not compete with the Annual Meeting.

The Program Committee chair asked if ASOR has other memoranda like this with other institutions?

Susan said that ASOR has a memorandum of understanding with a German institution, but it is more about the CHI project rather than membership.

The Membership and Outreach chair clarified that the type of memoranda he is describing basically just says that we all agree to be friends. There are no legal obligations on either side. After meeting with institutional representatives face to face, the institutions have indicated that they are amenable to formalizing this relationship with an institutional membership.

As part of the Membership and Outreach chair's internationalization efforts, he has requested that international members be placed on his committee. These members have been approved by the board.

Junior Scholars Committee

The chairs have been discussing Helen Dixon as the next chair of the Junior Scholars committee. Her term would start January 1, 2017, so her nomination will be brought to the board in November.

The Membership and Outreach chair said he would like to have a junior scholar serve on the Membership and Outreach committee. It was agreed that this is a great idea and it will be discussed in the fall.

Program Committee

The committee is in the final stages of sorting paper abstracts into appropriate sessions, filling out sessions, and will soon start working on preparing the copy for the program book. The schedule of sessions should also fall together in the next month or so.

It was asked if many papers were rejected. The chair answered that a few were, but some of those were from the Archaeology of Iran session. This session is overpopulated, and the presenters often require funding, so they have no second choice session.

The Professional Conduct policy once again provided guidance while determining this year's program. A proposed paper was about a survey on the West Bank, an analysis of surveys that have been done in the past. Once the PC discussed it, the PC was unanimous in approving the paper. However, the PC wondered where the line should be drawn between current and previous field work. It exposed another grey area in the policy. The PC did inform the scholar that future presentations of new research on this project would not be welcome at ASOR unless he had a Palestinian colleague or approval from the Palestinian authority.

Spring Board Meeting

A full report on the meeting was published in *News@ASOR*. The board reviewed the budget for the current fiscal year. It is balanced with a surplus of \$68. The budget for FY17 does presume that the Cultural Heritage Initiatives funding will be renewed, though we do not know that yet.

The strategic plan was approved.

The board held officer elections for those whose terms are ending. This includes our chair, BW Ruffner. Our current treasurer, Richard Coffman will be taking over on July 1, 2016. Our new treasurer, whose term will also begin July 1, 2016, is Chris White, who has previously worked with us during our audits. The president's term ends December 31, 2016, and the board has reelected Susan for three more years.

After the board meeting in DC, the board members were able to attend World Monuments Day events at the Hirshhorn Museum and we were pleased to have a strong ASOR presence there.

4. Discussion Items

Committee membership

There are several people in ASOR who serve on more than one of the ASOR standing committees, and the question was raised regarding this duplication and whether it would be better to limit service on multiple committees in the interest of broader representation and democratization. We do not have a policy, but it would not be a

stretch to formalize one the way the Program Committee has done with the appearance policy in the program book.

Sharon offered to write up a “best practices” for committees.

The Publications chair asked if we poll membership to ask what committees they might be interested in serving on?

Andy mentioned that the staff is planning a member survey, and we may add a question to pertaining to serving on committees.

The Awards chair suggested posing this question at the membership meeting.

Professional Conduct Policy: “prior publication”

On the Professional Conduct policy, what constitutes a “prior publication”?

Last year, an issue arose with a paper submitted to the Annual Meeting about unprovenanced ostraca. If the ostraca had been previously published, it would have been in accordance with our policy for the author to present a paper about them. If they had not been previously published, the abstract proposal would have violated the Professional Conduct policy. Yet what constitutes prior publication? How fulsome or in-depth must a prior publication be considered adequate? This question affects the Program Committee, Publications Committee, Awards Committee, and other areas of ASOR activity.

The subcommittee that periodically reviews the policy took on this question. The subcommittee thought this would be much better handled by the CCC because it affects so many committees.

Susan noted that in the absence of any formal definition of "prior publication," it might be assumed that any mention in a popular or academic publication counts as a prior publication. Hershel Shank's photos of unprovenanced objects would therefore qualify as a prior publication. She also mentioned that in this absence of a formal definition, an auction catalog might be considered a prior publication.

The PC chair said he would want a higher bar than an auction catalog or a slide from a presentation, especially because items in an auction catalog could be in direct opposition to what is trying to be achieved by the policy.

The COP chair asked how we defined where “the bar” is.

The Junior Scholars chair said that some museum catalogs would be fine, so the policy would need to differentiate between types of catalogs.

The CCC chair mentioned that we would need to be sure that the museum the catalog came from adhered to ethical acquisition practices.

The PC chair said her committee has come up with a good way of discussing these ad hoc situations, though she has concerns that the PC's definition of what counts as a publication is not consistent with what others might think. Having a firmer clarity as an organization would help the committee.

The CCC chairs and the President said they would discuss this and find a way to proceed.