ASOR Chairs Coordinating Council
Conference Call September 27, 2016 1:00 PM EDT

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

Absent: Erin Darby

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved.

2. Committee Reports as Needed

Awards and Honors Committee
The committee received a large number of nominations for book awards; 12 for Wright, 7 for Cross, 8 for Popular. There has been a delay in receiving the books. The chair will communicate with Arlene to figure out a better way to distribute nominated books. Service award nominations are due by Friday.

Committee on Archaeological Policy
The CAP application site is up and running. We sent out requests and reminders that every project needs to sign up on the new system. Out of sixty, only seven have registered, and five have posted their proposals. The Chair hasn't heard any feedback from the committee. The Chair will send out a reminder to every project prompting them. Tom will email a link to Cynthia to post on the website. Andy suggested reminding them that they need to do this to be eligible for the $5000 Harris fellowship.

It was suggested that the chair reach out to international affiliates, and remind them that ASOR affiliation is now international. Susan suggested reaching out to the research centers for suggestions for the list of people to contact. Andy suggested that he, Tom, and some others should talk to develop a list of people for Tom to contact.

Membership and Outreach Committee
The chair just returned from Jordan and Europe, where he made several preliminary contacts. Administrators of research organizations and university departments are very interested in memorandum of understanding. The chair would like to work on a template for how that might look. A memorandum could lead to institutional membership.

Publishing Committee

Following Mitch Allen's report on NEA, Andy put pre-press work out for bid. Billie Jean Collins submitted a bid to do the work at a substantially reduced rate.

The BASOR editors' term expires next summer, and they agreed to renew their terms.

The gender issue of *NEA* is getting lots of attention for being both "too queer" and "not queer enough." We're getting lots of thoughtful feedback about the issue.

Bill Caraher produced an interesting first try at making his Cyprus data available via Open Context. This is a continuing experiment that will make pave the way for different kinds of publications in the future.

Junior Scholars Committee
In the CCC meeting in November 2015, Helen Dixon was discussed as a nominee to take over the vacant chair position in 2017. Dixon has noe indicated that she is in process for becoming Co-Chair of the Program Committee, so we are looking for a different person to fill that roll.

Annual Meeting Program Committee
The upcoming Annual Meeting it shaping up to be the largest meeting ever. There will be 95 sessions, out of a maximum 96. There will be 468 papers presented (versus 435 in 2015). The program book is moving along. A draft will be available soon.

The committee has been discussing two issues: the research being presented about the cemetery at Ashkelon, and the Program Book appearance policy.

There was a news report about the Philistine cemetery at Ashkelon. The team has been digging the cemetery for a few seasons, in cooperation with the Israeli Antiquities Authority. However, there was a report that the excavation was dodging Israeli laws regarding the treatment of human remains. The PC chairs looked into this, and were assured by the excavation director that the excavations were conducted in cooperation with the Israel Antiquities Authority and with their full knowledge.

However, the chairs have received emails from people who are concerned that the research is not being done legally. The chairs discussed this with Lynn Swartz Dodd, and she said nothing illegal was being done, but that there are sensitivities in Israeli about dealing with human remains, especially Jewish human remains. While the project's research is technically legal, it does seem like an ethical grey area.

The CAP chair asked if anyone had asked if the IAA had an opinion about this. The PC chair said that she had contacted Daniel Masters to get the confirmation from him directly. ASOR relies on self-reporting, so the IAA was not contacted.

Susan added that if the pool of people who are going to be asked about this is going to be expanded, to keep in mind that the Professional Conduct Policy states that ASOR is a self-policing organization. Therefore, any contact with the IAA should be solely informational. They should not get a veto on whether or not this paper is presented.

Regarding the appearance policy, when the policy was changed last year, we differentiated between presenters and authors. Presenters are listed in the program book. Authors are listed only in the abstract book. Now that the book is nearing completion, people are seeing what the copy is going to look like, and about 15 or 20 people do not like that only the presenter is being listed. Some people have funding tied to appearing in the book. Being listed in the abstract book is not sufficient documentation. In these special cases, these authors have been listed against the policy. In general, people want to be listed as presenters even if they are not presenting the paper.

At this point, this policy change has been made and cannot be reversed for this year. Concerned authors have been told that we are taking these concerns into account and will discuss them with the PC.

Sharon suggested coming up with a form letter to supply to people whose funding is in danger. This is something that could be sent out to all second authors, that could be shown to their administration.

Both co-chairs' terms end after this meeting. Geoff would like to continue as a co-chair, Danielle would like to step down into the PC. Helen Dixon expressed interest in being a co-chair.

Chairs Nominating Committee
A small committee formed by the Vice President, who serves as chair. The committee is in charge of finding chairs for committees. Sharon, Chuck, and Tom comprise the committee. Honors and Awards, Membership and Outreach, PC, and Jr. Scholars all have openings. Laura and Randy have agreed to stay on for a second term in Honors and Awards and Membership and Outreach. Nominees are needed to fill a co-chair for the PC and chair or co-chair for Jr. Scholars.

Helen Dixon's name came up for the Jr. Scholars position and also came up for the PC. She would like to be co-chair of the PC, so, assuming this is approved by the Chairs Nominating Committee, that nomination will be taken to the board.

One issue that was raised is the propriety of putting tenure track junior scholars into these very time-consuming committee positions.

Geoff wondered if more senior scholars are passing on these time-consuming chair positions because they do not want to do the work. Are junior scholars bearing too much of the brunt of the work that needs to be done?

Sharon said she has talked to senior scholars who did not want to be involved because they were already involved with high level administrative work at their institutions.

Regardless, nominations are needed for a chair for the Jr. Scholars Committee.

3. Discussion Items

What constitutes a "prior publication" in regard to the Professional Conduct Guidelines?

When Porten's ostraca paper was rejected because the materials were not documented in a prior publication, he argued that the ostraca had been published in a tabular form. This caused us to consider what constitutes a prior publication. The paper Susan sent out prior to this meeting proposes a definition.

The Publications chair was content with Susan's statement. He wondered how people can talk about the *problem* of unprovenanced antiquities. People do scholarship about objects that are in the market, so would they have to present their research un-illustrated?

Susan said the policy would allow for that kind of illustration.

The Publications chair also mentioned that SBL adopted ASOR's conduct policy without consulting their members, which has caused some drama among their membership.

The PC chair commented that he wondered whether publication in a popular periodical or book should be considered authoritative. The people editing those types of publications might not know about the politics surrounding antiquities.

Sharon suggested that the three committees most affected discuss Susan's proposed definition, tinker with it, and propose revisions. That would be the Honors, Publications, and the Program Committees.

Susan agreed with this, and indicated also that the compiled suggestions should be sent to the committee overseeing the Professional Conduct Policy, for adoption as an official amendment. This would ultimately be approved by the board.