

Chairs Coordinating Council
Conference Call
March 23, 2017, 3:00pm EST

Present: Sharon Herbert, Susan Ackerman, Andy Vaughn, Cynthia Rufo, Helen Dixon, Chuck Jones, Randy Younker, Laura Mazow, Heather Parker

Absent: Geoff Emberling, Tom Levy

1. Approval of February Minutes

Approved.

2. Committee Reports

Committee on Outreach and Membership

The committee is still working on European workshop proposals. A workshop in Paris is planned for 2018, and a proposal will be ready for the next CCC meeting.

Lorenzo Nigro from La Sapienza contacted the chair. Nigro is on the board of the Whitaker Foundation. Archaeology is an interest of the foundation. They foundation has a mansion in Palermo, Sicily that is mandated to be used to further archaeology. They would like to start a center there for the study of archaeology and have proposed holding a workshop there this June under the banner of ASOR. The workshop would be about two Early Bronze Age sites in northern Jordan. La Sapienza University would sponsor the event. The committee would like to make a memorandum of understanding between ASOR and the Whitaker Foundation to establish the mansion as a center for the study of archaeology. This workshop would be a great way to springboard ASOR and let people in the region know about ASOR. Unfortunately we do not yet have a vetting procedure set up for evaluating potential workshops. Now that this is quickly becoming a reality, we need to discuss what a vetting process would look like. If the foundation does not have our endorsement, they intend to hold the workshop anyway.

Sharon stated that matter at hand is whether the CCC agrees that the CCC is place to vet workshops like this.

Susan said that ASOR has never formalized a process for this, but now we have a workshop on June 19th that we could be affiliated with, so a process is necessary. The CCC is an appropriate place to vet workshop proposals because; 1. The CCC was established to administer issues that are within the purview of more than one committee; 2. The Program Committee has a lot on its plate, so they should not be the ones to take this on; 3. The bylaws are specific in that the Program Committee is supposed to be in charge of the Annual Meeting. For all of these reasons, the CCC is the

obvious body to do the vetting of these kind of proposals.

The COM chair said that the next thing to consider is the specifics that would guide the vetting process. He suggested that a budget be one of these items. He also suggested that the workshop represent ASOR's values. The workshop should reference the ASOR Policy on Professional Conduct. We would need to review the content of the workshop, but it may be too formal to request abstracts from everyone. Perhaps a summary provided by the organizer would suffice.

Sharon thought this sounded reasonable. She congratulated the COM chair for bringing this idea of internationalization to near fruition.

It was agreed that the committee should move forward in developing these guidelines.

Between now and the Sicily workshop, the CCCC will figure out proposed vetting guidelines.

Committee on Publications

The committee has nothing to report.

Honors and Awards Committee

The committee received its first book nomination. It is from a Turkish scholar.

Junior Scholars Committee

Brian Coussens has agreed to serve another term. The call for applications for additional committee members went out a couple weeks ago and ends on April 6th. The chair will look over who applied and will make a recommendation on who else will join the committee to the Board of Trustees.

Program Committee

This time last year, there were 450 paper abstract submissions. This year there are nearly 700. The PC has agreed to temporarily use the space for a 9th parallel session to accommodate more papers. The committee is aware of pushing against the Strategic Plan guidelines about not increasing the meeting size, but this year is exceptional. The chairs have been placing overflow papers into second and third choice sessions. The next step will be to invite session chairs to review abstracts.

Andy mentioned that the SBL director said that their meeting is down about 10% for paper proposals this year.

It was asked if SBL has put out a statement about the activities in Washington?

Susan said they put out a statement about the initial immigration ban proposal. They did not put anything out about the revised ban. ASOR has put out a statement allowing people concerned about travel restrictions to put off Annual Meeting registration and still take advantage of the early rate while we wait and see what is going to happen with the ban. She did not think SBL has put out such a statement.

For the first time ever, the meeting might top 1,000 members.

3. Imminent Eviction of ASOR Office from Beacon St.

Susan: We all have known for some time that BU put up for sale the building where we are headquartered. In August 2016, that building and several others were sold to developers who plan to gut the buildings. We had been led to believe that we would need to vacate by March 2018. Last Thursday, we were informed that we need to vacate by May 31, 2017. Boston University said they do not have alternate space to offer us at this time. This week we have been figuring out where to go next with this. Right now our priority is, if possible, to stay within the BU orbit. Every school at BU controls its own property, so perhaps other schools might have space for us. If we can't stay at BU, we would hope to stay geographically near BU. We have an extraordinarily good, hardworking staff, so we would like to stay within their commuting patterns. This will have budgetary implications. Currently our space is rent free. The odds are very low that we will have such an arrangement going forward. We estimate that the contribution we get from BU for rent is \$30,000 per year.

Andy: We have pursued seven options for space in the past week. BU isn't ruled out. BU faculty are also being moved. This is a provost- and presidential-level decision. The BU rental properties person was clear that this was a decision handed down from above and they were not consulted about timing. We have been talking with AIA, trying to coordinate the logistics of moving. Selma has viewed three properties. The only one within our budget is very, very small. There was a great property that was far out of our budget. We hope to view another property tomorrow. We are talking to three different commercial realtors. Lots of progress has been made with our member numbers and institutional subscriptions -- these are things that will be very important for our revenue, especially if we need that money to pay rent.

Sharon: How flexible or expandable is the proximity to BU? Can we move to cheaper real estate that is still accessible for our staff?

Andy: The staff has said is that first choice is any place on the Green line. Second choice would be one of the major lines. Third would be any place that would require taking a train and a bus.

It was asked if ASOR has considered buying a space. Andy said that would be a decision to be made by the board.

Susan: We do have a committee called the New Office Committee, populated by board members. Once we get past this current crisis, we will know more what our options are.

We are also looking for something to accommodate ACOR and CAARI.

The staff is positive but anxious. They are committed to staying with us and being as flexible as they can.

4. Discussion on Appropriate Level of ASOR Commentary on Government Action Affecting ASOR

Various committee members stated that they feel proud whenever they receive an email from the ASOR President regarding the actions of the government. Several mentioned that they have been sharing the emails with colleagues, and are pleased by the initiative and leadership ASOR has shown through Susan's letters.

5. Committee Member Nominations

If anyone has new members, make sure you get the names to Susan by April 18th, before the board meeting.