

Chair Coordinating Council
Conference Call
May 25, 2017 3:00 PM EDT

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

Absent: Tom Levy, Randy Younker

1. Approval of April Minutes

The Program Committee Co Chair suggested that in the Committee on Membership section, the minutes read that the PC chairs “continue to be concerned” about the idea of international conferences. The chairs have differing opinions on the issue: one is neutral about the idea, one does not like it.

2. Committee Reports

Committee on Publications

Nothing to report aside from what will be discussed in Item 3.

Honors and Awards Committee

It has been quiet, so nothing to report.

Junior Scholars Committee

The committee met for the first time and it went well. The panel luncheon speaker was selected: Vanessa Juloux. She is involved in a lot of digital humanities projects, which is something junior scholars need to be conversant in.

Program Committee

Progress is being made on the meeting schedule. All the papers and sessions fit in all the available rooms. There will be 120 sessions in total. The chairs had to be creative about placing papers in different sessions. This year there will be an active waitlist that can be used to fill in the program when cancellations come in. The committee had a meeting about how to streamline this process in future years.

The Jr. Scholars luncheon might be moved from its usual time.

3. Report on ANET E-Newsletter Oversight

In the strategic plan, oversight of ASOR's outreach publications is specified as something that needs to be decided. The CCC is tasked with deciding how to go about this.

Chuck: We concluded that the Publications Committee is responsible for this. *ANET* is a publication. Alex Joffe has been invited to the last three Publications meetings at the Annual Meeting and has given his report each year. *ANET* has been integrated in practice, but it is time to integrate it more formally. It should be treated like any other publication and have an editorial board to assist the editor in controversial publications decisions. The Publications chair will bring this to the Publications Committee to discuss.

Susan: In discussions with Alex, we cannot realistically put in an editorial board for a peer review process. This would impede *ANET*'s ability to come out every week, and to respond to breaking news in the Near East. What we are looking for is a board to help Alex think through good people to contact, good themes for issues, and so forth. An advisory board.

Do we know how much longer the funding for *ANET* lasts?

No, we don't know. We probably have 18 months left, but we will try to keep it going. We have always managed to keep it going since it started.

Susan: We should take a vote whether, if the Publications Committee agrees to take responsibility for this, does the CCC agree that this is what should be done?

Sharon: I'll call a vote on this. Is anyone opposed to this proposal?

There were no nays or abstentions. It has passed that the Publications Committee will take on this issue. The process that will be followed is that Alex will suggest members of the advisory board to the Publications Committee, which will then ratify these members. The members of the advisory board should have staggered terms. An effort should be made to include someone from the Membership and Outreach Committee -- ideally someone from the Friends of ASOR sub-group within Membership and Outreach -- to be a member of the advisory board.

4. Boston Office Update

The office staff has done a great job clearing out recycling, old documents, and junk. A lease was signed for a small space at 665 Beacon Street for 18 months, and Andy just spoke to the director of the BU real estate office, who said he has a draft of the

lease for the larger space at 650 Beacon Street (runs through December 31, 2017). We are hopeful this will get worked out by Tuesday. It has been very frustrating to have companies offer to rent space, but fail to produce paperwork. The company that bought the block does not care about the income they will get from us. . Moving day is May 30, 2017; AIA is not going to be out of the building by this date.

4. Matters Arising

The proposal federal budget has been released. Susan has been working on a statement to be published by ASOR.

Susan: It is great to be able to run the draft of this statement by the CCC before sending it out.

Helen: This is another home run in my book. I love the action items.

Susan: I was helped by the fact that I was at the CAORC meeting in May and they had anticipated something like this and had already worked up some of the action items.

Sharon: I liked the matter-of-fact tone.

Chuck: I agree that it's a great letter. What will be in the list from CAORC that is missing in the draft letter at the moment?

Susan: The Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the analogous committee in the House: CAORC has lists of who the members of these groups are, and I would like to include these lists in the letter. CAORC suggests that people who live in those states can write these representatives directly. It would be more efficient to write the people in the initial decision-making states. I have four lists of committee members that I will add to the draft. How would you like to see the membership receive this? We will put it on the website. Would you like to see an email blast? We did already send an email earlier this week about our Dept. of State grant.

A few people felt this was important enough for a second email blast.

Sharon: I don't think this statement is a political hot potato like the travel ban. I think it would be good to use the Friends of ASOR list to get this out to as many people as possible.