

Chairs Coordinating Council  
Conference Call  
December 7, 2017, 1:00 PM EST

**Present:** Sharon Herbert, Andy Vaughn, Helen Dixon, Cynthia Rufo, Heather Parker, Laura Mazow, Susan Ackerman, Chuck Jones, Geoff Emberling

**Absent:** Tom Levy, Randy Younker

**1. Approval of November Minutes**

The November minutes were approved.

**2. Update on November Board Actions**

This is the end of Sharon's fifth year as Vice President. She was originally tasked with figuring out how to make the CCC work. In the past five years, we have developed a great system, at least from the board's perspective. The CCC has worked well in reporting information from the committees to the CCC to the board, and conversely, reporting what happened at the board meeting back to the CCC. This is a system that has come to work extremely well. Thanks to Sharon for making this happen.

The board met in November. The first thing the board did was approve the new committee chair appointments, including approving Chuck Jones for a final year as chair of COP, and Steve Falconer as CAP chair. Both appointments are effective January 1, 2018.

Committee member appointments were approved. This includes Honors & Awards, Programs, and CAP. If a committee chair submitted names for approval, the new members have been approved.

Thomas Schneider was approved for a third three-year term as editor. Thomas is also newly elected to the board.

Oversight of *Ancient Near East Today* by the Publications Committee was approved by the board.

The Junior Scholars Committee name change to "Early Career Scholars Committee" was approved. It was agreed that this name is more inclusive. This committee is also seeking new members. A call went out on the website and *News@ASOR*. As a side note, the Chairs Nominating Committee is also looking for a new member.

The next thing the board looked at was a written report from the Initiative on the Status of Women, which is an ad hoc committee, not a standing committee. It is not

represented by Sharon's report. It was recommended that another ad hoc committee should be formed to establish a Field Code of Conduct. It was discussed whether CAP would be a more appropriate committee to address this, since they form policies. The board agreed that CAP was the better place for this Code of Conduct to be created. With the help of Tom Levy, a potential membership list for that sub committee has been drafted. This draft has been shared with the CCC and feedback would be appreciated.

The PC chair appreciated that the proposed Code of Conduct is aspirational rather than a set of requirements. It is appropriate that ASOR is not in charge of policing.

The Publications chair mentioned the Society for Classical Studies' policy on sexual harassment and wondered if ASOR has a system in place for people to report harassment.

Susan said that the call for a fieldwork code of conduct has made her wonder if we should extend this to a code for conduct at the Annual Meeting. She prefers that the committee takes this one step at a time and first work on a fieldwork code of conduct and build from there. ASOR may go here in the future, but not yet. She has read other policies from other organizations and they seem little more policing and punitive than we are aiming to be with the Code of Conduct. We will have a better idea how to proceed after we nail down the Code of Conduct for the field.

The Honors & Awards chair agreed that fieldwork is the place to start. People are abroad and away from their networks and really need their options spelled out.

Susan continued her summary of the board meeting. There was the discussion of ASOR's new home. It took about a third of the time at the meeting. There were many opinions heard and discussed. We brought the board a series of proposals:

- A. An affiliation with a different New England university similar to what we had at BU, minus the complimentary rent.
- B. An affiliation with a mid-Atlantic university.
- C. Try to go it on our own, looking to first rent, then buy space.
- D. Continue to pursue affiliation options in Boston.

Sharon continued the summary. In the end, it was decided to go it on our own without institutional affiliation. The logic being that ASOR is strong enough and has a solid enough profile that we should not be subject to the whims of universities. We opted to stay in Boston and rent with the intent to eventually buy, not necessarily in Boston. This was not driven by keeping the staff, or being comfortable in Boston.

Susan continued that the motion was to find a place to rent in Boston temporarily as we look for a place to buy and raise the money to buy it. Andy has started researching locations. We will look at some high-end markets (Boston), mid-range (Raleigh), and low

end markets. The timeline on the current temporary office is that we need to be out by June 30, 2018. The most urgent need is to find somewhere else we can rent for the next few years. Given that the board has voted this motion, Susan feels that it would be irresponsible not to try to see it through by the end of her presidency, which ends in two years.

Susan asked if she should draft a new statement about the travel ban.

A few chairs felt there is not the urgency to make a statement. ASOR's previous statements still stand in regard to this most recent iteration of the travel ban.

It was asked whether ASOR has a precedent for allowing op-eds on some of these issues. Is there a venue for people to express opinions on these subjects without it being an official statement from ASOR.

Susan said the blog might be a possible place for such a piece if we decided that ASOR does not want to make a statement.

The Honors & Awards chair asked if ASOR is thinking of replacing the social media person?

Andy said that various staff members are doing that work now. Cynthia is doing ¾ of the work, and other people as well. We do not have plans to get a new social media person in the next six months.

The Junior Scholars chair said that her committee is feeling the absence of that position. The committee had plans that had to be put on hold.

Susan said that there is no doubt that there were many budgetary consequences of losing our BU affiliation and how we manage staffing is one of those consequences.