

Chairs Coordinating Council
Conference Call
January 16, 2018, 1:00 PM EST

Present: Cynthia Rufo, Helen Dixon, Andy Vaughn, Sharon Herbert, Susan Ackerman, Chuck Jones, Steve Falconer, Geoff Emberling, Laura Mazow

Absent: Heather Parker, Randy Younker

1. Approval of December Minutes

Approved.

2. Committee Reports

Programs Committee

The committee has discussed Plenary Speaker options and is eager to hear feedback from the CCC. The committee strongly wanted to nominate someone from the Middle East. We have five candidates from a wide range of areal specialties, time range, and subject areas. Are there questions or statements of support for any particular candidate?

Sharon observed that all the candidates are very accomplished, and wondered if anyone has heard any of them speak.

The Publications Chair offered that Salima Ikram is a very good speaker.

Susan said that Amr al-Azm is a very good speaker. Not super high energy, but extremely moving in a quieter, more measured way. His care and concern come through.

The nominator for Kulakoğlu said he was a very good speaker. All of these nominations come from people who have seen these people speak.

Sharon thought Kulakoğlu sounded exciting.

Abbas Alizadeh is a very important archaeologist in Iran, but Iranian archaeology is extremely polarized. So he might be a little controversial according to some. That said, he is a good speaker.

Helene Sader is very compelling one on one. I haven't heard her speak though.

One of the Programs Chairs mentioned that she nominated Helene Sader for a speaker a few years ago and, and believes that she can speak to many issues, women, Lebanon, sustainability of cultural sites long term.

The degree to which she has been engaged in ASOR, very dedicated, for a long time, is notable. The others on this list maybe have not been so involved in ASOR.

After more discussion, Sharon asked if a consensus was forming around Sader? Several people agreed, but a first choice candidate could not be identified.

A Programs Chairs was interested in Kulakoğlu. Turkey is a country where we are having struggles at the moment. The site of Koltepe is of broad interest. He worries that we run the risk of beating a dead horse with the heritage issue. He is personally leaning toward hearing about new research. The Archaeology of Anatolia sessions are always overflowing.

Susan said that it needs to be considered that we can provide hotel and registration, but cannot fund travel unless we fundraise.

We aren't really coalescing around a single candidate. Perhaps we should do this as an email vote, particularly since two chairs are not present. Everyone can vote confidentially to Sharon and she can tally it. Sharon will structure a ballot or a ranked list and send it out.

The Programs Chair continued with the report. There was a quick turnaround for new member-organized proposals. 32 out of 33 proposals were accepted this year. This brings us to 42 total member sessions and workshops, and 34 standing sessions for a total of 76 sessions. That's a slight decrease from last year, but still very strong. The Call for Papers has been posted.

Committee on Publications

As a consequence of the office move and reduced space and human capacity, we put out an RFP to outsource to distribution and production of publications. Mitch Allen has been reviewing and offering suggestions regarding the proposals. This process began at the beginning of the January, and has been delayed by holidays and snow. This will be discussed next week among the committee and the editors. The editors feel strongly about maintaining control of the typesetting. The proposals take this into account.

We put out a call for nominations for new COP members. We got a very interesting list of potential members to fill the positions. We are moving from 6 to 9 members, so we need to build up this committee.

Honor & Awards

The committee sought nominations for committee members for one position. Inda helped us created a new form, which will go out in News@ASOR tomorrow.

When people have won awards, sometimes they want to make remarks. The Awards Chair had the thought that awardees could write up their remarks and they could go in *News@ASOR*.

Committee on Archaeological Policy

This is Steve Falconer's first month as chair of CAP. He is familiarizing with the online review and submission process. Currently there are 84 projects under review. The committee welcomed new members, and formed a committee to draft a Code of Conduct for field work. Beth Nakhai invited the chair to participate in a session at the next Annual Meeting about how to make fieldwork safer.

3. Matters Arising

Andy offered an office update. Selma Omerefendic, who has been with ASOR for 17 years, took a new position at BU. The dean at BU informed us in September that Selma would have to go off the BU payroll when ASOR left the BU owned building. Selma opted to take a new position at BU, so as to retain her benefits. We are taking two steps to address the gap left by her. One step is to take some of her budget responsibilities and give them to Andy. The second was to hire an accounting temp to carry us over for the next few months. The first temp was completely overwhelmed by the work load. The second and third temp were also unsatisfactory. We are back to redistributing Selma's tasks to existing staff. We are also looking to hire a lower level person to take over some office tasks while the existing staff absorbs the higher level responsibilities. The whole office staff has pulled together impressively. It was a trying week and the staff has banded together.

Sharon expressed anxiety about being without a trained accountant. We should really consider hiring someone who does this professionally.

Susan agreed that it is worrisome. We had counted on the accounting temp to work out. Selma is going to continue working for us on a contractual basis, so the staff will have her support and knowledge available.