

Chairs Coordinating Council
Conference Call
February 13, 2018, 1:00 PM EST

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

Absent: Geoff Emberling

1. Approval of January Minutes

Approved.

2. Committee Reports

Publications Committee

The committee reviewed the consultant's analyses of the proposals for outsourcing some of the publications process. We were not able to come to consensus for the top four candidates, but Andy and Susan took this information to the board and a decision was made.

Andy said that the proposals will be confidential, but the top four finalist proposals came from Cambridge University Press, University of Chicago Press, University of California Press, and Wiley Press. He has had calls with each of the four to share the concerns heard from the Publications Committee, mainly that the editors want continuity with typesetting and copy editing. All four seem open to meeting those requests and are preparing revised proposals. Within two weeks, we hope to share these with the Publications Committee and get feedback. Susan and Andy will schedule calls with all four to ask further questions.

Susan said that she and Andy found in reviewing these that they were difficult to compare to one another. The overall question that is driving us is who will help us best fulfill our mission statement of widest knowledge dissemination.

Andy said there are reasons for considering a commercial publisher. The consultant suggested including a commercial publisher because they would, "keep everyone honest." The two best financial proposals are from the commercial publisher and one university press. The market pressure from the commercial publisher may help get tighter financial proposals from the university publishers. The commercial publisher's proposal was the most professional, especially in regard to how they would support our mission of disseminating knowledge.

There was a short discussion about whether or not a commercial press would be appropriate for a nonprofit academic organization.

Committee on Membership and Outreach

The chair sent materials out prior to the meeting containing info on the proposed Paris symposium.

Vanessa Juloux sent out a call for abstracts. She received 27 submissions. There are two session themes: violence in the ancient Near East, and digital humanities. There is a nice variety of people from different backgrounds and locations. Over half are graduate and doctoral students. No one on the committee had problems with the submitted abstracts. The committee has discussed how to make this an event to raise membership. Four people from ASOR will be there, two from the Outreach Committee. The vast majority of potential attendees do not have an ASOR connection. We have talked about incentives for memberships, such as an introductory membership fee, whether some of the funding could go to subsidizing memberships and so on.

It seemed economical to do a second event right after Paris in Palermo. Lorenzo Nigro and Sebastione Atuzza agreed to organize with us, an event about connections between the central Mediterranean and the Levant. We have the facility at no cost. We would like feedback from the CCC once a call for papers is sent out.

Sharon suggested that the committee take a vote on giving approval to move forward with the Paris program. We could do the same for the Palermo program over email in order to keep things moving forward with that. She asked if final approval should be given to this Paris event. No one objected.

Sharon then asked if the committee gave the Committee on Membership and Outreach provisional approval to move forward on the Palermo event? No one objected.

The committee chair said that Cynthia Schafer Elliot and Kyle Khimer have been nominated to replace the members who left the committee.

Susan said that the board will vote on these nominees in April.

Honors & Awards Committee

The committee does not have much to report. This year, the deadline for the Service Awards has been moved to May 1st instead of October. The committee talked about meeting with the Poster Committee, March might be a good time for this.

Committee on Archaeological Policy

The fellowship committee has made their decisions, which have been forwarded to the office. The fellowship committee has not yet received the applications from the February 15th deadline. There were over one hundred applications received. CAP has affiliated 65 projects.

Junior Scholars Committee

Petra Creamer replaced a committee member who rotated off the committee. We had some people self-nominate, but were not chosen, so we'd like to pass them along to see if there are other ways they can volunteer with ASOR.

We have subcommittees for social media, events, outreach. We thought carefully about a name change, which will come up for approval at the April board meeting. We changed our social event from a pub crawl to a more formal reception. We are starting a new Facebook page. Within the next two to three months, we will have some big things to talk about.

Programs Committee

As of today 186 abstracts have been submitted for the Annual Meeting. We expect this to go up substantially as we reach the deadline later this week. We have been asked to grant an extension to our policy that papers from undergraduates cannot be accepted. The request came from someone who has an undergraduate co-author. As we looked into this, we found several anecdotal stories where something like this has happened before. We want to update our policies to spell this out and address it directly.

We have also had people write to us about the question in the abstract system asking if a paper deals with materials from contested territories. A handful of people have written to us asking for more information on this. We may need to tweak this question in the future. The aim of this question is to narrow down the number of abstracts we would have to review for possibly ethics policy violations.

3. Items from Boston Office and Report on January Executive Committee Meeting

Susan said that the Executive Committee met in January. This is a new meeting -- we usually meet at the two board meetings and September. Meeting between the November and April board meetings is more useful timing for the EC meeting.

The major item was the issue of ASOR's office, especially long term plans about where the office will be. The board voted in November that ASOR should aim to buy in the long term. The board did not specify where that should be. Andy and Susan brought information for high end properties (Boston, 4 million dollars), suburban locations (Arlington, 1.5 million dollars), mid-range locations (Durham, 750,000 dollars), and

cheaper options. We cannot afford 4 million. We are looking at the suburban price range. We have had some extraordinarily generous donors come forward. NEH offers challenge grants for nonprofits to enhance their office situations, so Andy is in Washington to meet with NEH to discuss that.

The EC also discussed the Glueck archival materials that belongs to ASOR but has been housed at Harvard Semitic Museum. The HSM would like to formalize this agreement. Ownership of those materials will be transferred to the Semitic Museum. Joe Greene and Susan also discussed if the HSM would be a good home for the ASOR archives.

A new change to the bylaws is that the Cultural Heritage Committee will become a standing committee, so there will be a new chair on the CCC.