

Chairs Coordinating Council
Conference Call
March 6, 2018, 1:00 PM EST

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

Absent: Geoff Emberling, Laura Mazow, Randy Younker, Heather Parker

1. Approval of February Minutes

Minutes approved.

2. Committee Reports

Committee on Publications

The committee has been discussing self-nominees for new committee members. The committee also received the information about the four finalists for a publishing partnership and will provide feedback for this soon.

Honors and Awards Committee

The committee is planning to put pieces in *News@ASOR* about the 2017 award recipients. The committee is still looking for a new member. None of the nominees had broad enough expertise. Does the CCC have suggestions for an archaeologist who does early or late period, and an area specialty outside the southern Levant? Please email suggestions directly to Laura.

Committee on Archaeological Policy

The committee received word from Kate Grossman that excavation grants have been awarded. The offers have gone out, and have been accepted.

The online application set up was great to work with. Unfortunately the link is down. The CAP project page has been updated and will continue to be updated as I provide information to Cynthia.

Andy suggested that Matt Vincent and Jared speak, though Matt has been difficult to contact. If we could get the fourteen applications from Matt, we can find a workaround in the office to move things forward.

Susan added that the March Fellowship Madness funding drive was under way. We announced that we had funding for 18 fellowships and wanted to raise money for 20. We achieved this quickly. So we are now hoping to fund 21.

Programs Committee

The PC has received 518 abstracts. Compared to 2016, we are 4% under 2016 and 7% higher than 2015. This will probably grow a little bit. We have a few sessions that are undersubscribed. Prehistory did not have momentum this year. In general, we are excited about the numbers. Archaeology of Iran will have one session devoted to virtual presentations from people in Iran, which is a new experiment.

3. Update on Central Office Search

Susan reminded the committee that she had previously reported that the EC met and determined that our search was narrowed to Washington, DC and Raleigh/Durham. The clear choice was Washington but we were not sure if that was feasible. Our plan through February was to research what was financially possible. Andy, Sharon and Eric Meyers visited DC to look at properties. We were also in touch with our donors to see what was possible for fundraising. We also began writing an NEH challenge grant proposal to help with the cost of office space.

The EC met again this past Friday to make a final decision. The office will be moving to Washington DC. The plan is to rent space as of July 1st in Alexandria VA. By August 15th we will know if we get the NEH grant or not which will inform fundraising. Then we will start looking toward buying once it becomes possible, within 12-18 months of our initial move to Washington.

Andy said that they found properties within our price range. Susan and Andy will be going to Alexandria on Friday to look again. We have good possibilities for reduced rate rent for the first year.

A PC Chair asked when the move will be announced to the membership?

Susan said the board was just informed and the CCC was informed as of this call. We are not dispersing the information at this moment. This is not a secret, but we do not yet have a plan for sharing the information with the membership yet.

The Publications Chair asked about the staff's reaction.

Andy said the staff is disappointed, but not surprised. People are glad to have a clearer idea of what the future will be even if it's disappointing news. Right now I am talking with the staff about our desire to have them continue working until December 31st and what types of incentives will make that mutually worthwhile. They have expressed the willingness to consider that.

Arlene will be continuing past December. I have had preliminary talks with other staff about whether working remotely. We are still trying to determine what is mutually attractive.