

ASOR Chairs Coordinating Council
Conference Call Minutes
9-12-18 11:00 AM EDT

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

Absent: Geoff Emberling

1. Approval of May minutes: May minutes were approved without corrections or changes.

2. Committee reports

Committee on Archaeological Policy

The chair (Steve) reported that summer was quiet, but more applications for affiliation are anticipated as the academic year gets going.

A committee (Virginia Herrmann, Katie Kearns, Emily Hammer, and Randy Helm) has been working on a Code of Conduct for Fieldwork Projects. The code seeks especially to address fieldwork projects that are CAP-affiliated. There are questions as to how to get people to adopt the code and how to get some “muscle” behind it.

Steve asks: should the code extend to behavior at ASOR meetings, not just fieldwork settings?

Helen and Steve were in support of extending the code of conduct to ASOR meetings, and Steve pointed out that other societies have similar codes. Susan emphasized process and procedure. Any code should go through the ASOR governing structure, and it is not a part of CAP's remit to develop policy for the Annual Meeting. Instead, the CAP Code of Conduct should apply only to fieldwork projects. Going forward, it would be appropriate for other bodies to engage in developing a Code of Conduct for the Annual Meeting.

Andy suggested that in considering a Code of Conduct for the Annual Meeting, we consider the codes developed by other professional organizations, such as SBL, and their strengths and weaknesses. Steve suggested adding a clause referring to the UN guidelines for doing field work in occupied territories, and

Susan responded by saying this is already addressed in the ASOR Policy on Professional Conduct. Susan and Sharon both shared that this issue has been extensively discussed, citing the specific examples of East Jerusalem and North Cyprus. Helen said the Programs Committee has been struggling with the North Cyprus issue, which has become more complicated in current Cypriot discourse.

Steve spoke about touring CAP projects in Jordan and Cyprus, which took place in conjunction with the 40th/50th anniversary celebrations of CARRI and ACOR. These site visits were a good tradition and experience.

Committee on Membership and Outreach

The chair (Randy) submitted a report on the EPHE/ASOR Symposium in Paris prior to the call. It was a nice event with good attendance (about 55 people) and interactions. The conference was accessible via live streaming (about 47 hits) and there is a webpage that reports on the conference. There was lots of good social time, including a private tour of the Louvre. Susan said it was an impressive event with many young scholars and post-docs, perhaps a result of the subject matter (digital humanities) and the relative youth of the organizer (Vanessa). There was discussion of how to get more senior people to attend the next planned event and perhaps offer a keynote. Martha Roth attended and gave feedback, and it was both useful and added gravitas to the conference.

Randy said the next conference is being planned for Palermo. He also reported that he hopes to gather survey feedback from the Paris conference participants.

Committee on Publications

The chair (Chuck) reported that there are currently two editorial searches taking place (Annual of ASOR and *NEA*). Thomas Schneider, the editor of *NEA*, is moving to China. Kevin McGeough, the editor of *AASOR*, is taking over as Chair of the Publications Committee. A few applications have been received, but they were hoping for more and Chuck will nudge some people.

The transfer to University of Chicago Press has been a success so far. UCPress is very accommodating of all requests and is allowing increases in page count as well as a greater number of color pages. They would like a long-term relationship with us. Andy weighed in with details on the page and color increases. He also

stated that UCPress has been a good partner thus far and wants our journals to succeed.

Susan also pointed out that we are seeking committee members for the class of 2020.

Honors & Awards Committee

The chair (Laura) sent out a report before the call. She asked for any questions and there were none. There was some concern about the number of books nominated and whether there were enough committee members to get through them all. Publishers are asked to limit their nominations to two books each, but Oxford University Press did not, and perhaps we can pare their submissions down.

Chuck said that the AIA is in the process of designing a specific book award for archaeological reports and has used our book awards as a model.

Laura identified one issue with a publisher who does not think their book qualifies for the award.

Junior Scholars Committee

The chair (Heather) asked for input on an open forum addressing the future of the annual meeting, which could possibly be combined with the lunch for junior scholars.

Susan has been in touch with Gary Arbino, the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Annual Meeting, and he will moderate the forum. How do we get good attendance? What format should the forum take? Susan said the biggest problem facing future meetings is the location. SBL and AAR are huge and we are getting forced out of main locations. The next couple of years are set, but San Antonio in 2021 is a problem. ASOR needs to rethink the commitment to be in the same place as SBL and we need a member-wide forum to discuss it. Andy suggested a specific title (not just “The Future of the Annual Meeting”) with an emphasis on the discussion of locations.

Programs Committee

Helen reports that things are in good shape for the Annual Meeting. There are 100 sessions, 480 papers, and 40 posters, which puts the Annual Meeting on the same basic growth rate we saw through 2016 (2017, in Boston, was an exception in terms of size). Some struggles surround papers about sites in contested territories, with implications for future meetings. All in all things are under control.

3. Office move and changes

Susan reported that Andy is installed at VTS. The Boston office, consisting of Britta, Cynthia, and Inda, will continue through the end of the year. There is an ad out for hiring an Office Assistant in Alexandria. The VTS residency is good financially and logistically, but the downside -- VTS's plan to sell one of its Ashurnasirpal II reliefs through the commercial art market (Christie's) -- is identified in Susan's email.

Helen asked that ASOR make public which staff members are leaving during the Annual Meeting so that they can be recognized. Susan said that Britta and Inda would be at the Annual Meeting and discussion ensued over how to recognize their service--a tangible gift? Acknowledgement during the plenary address?

Helen said she was proud that ASOR had debated the move to VTS and asked how complaints regarding the sale of the relief should be addressed. The Christie's catalogue is out, and Susan indicated that it was fine for the chairs to share information on the sale with committees. ACOR and CAARI are also aware. Steve asked whether VTS understands our viewpoint and Susan responded that they do. Their institutional rep, Steve Cook, opposes the sale and the VTS faculty and board were divided. Steve asked: if the sale goes ahead, is there a way to make sure the buyer makes the relief accessible and not shut away? Susan responded that we do not know what's in the contract.

Sharon stated that there was intense discussion amongst the ASOR board and Susan said that even some of those who voted for the move are still dismayed by the situation. Andy has voiced his concerns to the community at VTS and they are very involved. He pointed out that VTS is trying to be conscientious and the sale is legal.

4. Development matters

Andy reported that ASOR has \$475,000 in pledges and gifts for a new building. He is talking to two donors about larger pledges and the possibility of naming the building. He is also traveling to visit potential donors. While all gifts are important, Andy welcomes suggests for those who might be interested in contributing in the \$10,000-30,000 range.

5. Matters arising: October call date to be determined.