

ASOR Chairs Coordinating Council  
Conference Call Minutes  
January 23, 2019 11:00-Noon EST

**Present:** Susan Ackerman, Helen Dixon, Tiffany Earley-Spadoni, Geoff Emberling, Sharon Herbert, Laura Mazow, Kevin McGeough, Marta Ostovich, Andy Vaughn, Eric Welch

**Absent:** Steve Falconer, Randy Younker

**1. Approval of November Minutes:**

Susan asked that the meeting be marked as having taken place at Annual Meeting. Laura pointed out “If they” in third paragraph and a couple of other typos. Sharon then said that the November minutes are approved.

**2. Committee Reports**

*Programs Committee*

The co-chair (Helen) reported that the Programs Committee had a conference call to process member-organized sessions for the 2019 Annual Meeting. A second call is taking place to discuss the plenary speaker. The PC received 36 proposals from member-organized sessions. They accepted 31 of the 36 proposals. There were 32 proposals last year and 48 is the record set for the Boston meeting.

Geoff spoke about the policy for open call for all appointments. The PC has received 9 applicants for 1 open spot to replace Bill Caraher. The committee nominated Scott Moore (a Cyprus specialist and Bill’s recommendation) and while his appointment is pending approval by Board, he has been participating in the committee.

Announcements for open standing session chairs have been posted. These announcements are getting less response than the call for new committee members, but the chairs are getting filled. All is going well and the Committee has received some new and unexpected names for standing session chairs. The co-chair (Geoff) stressed that candidates must understand that these are activist positions: that the chairs should solicit good papers and reject bad papers.

The committee has a couple of minor policy modifications. One concerns paper cancellations for late-arising medical issues. The goal is to have the policy written into the PC guidelines. Another policy change is for the process by which member-organized sessions are converted into standing sessions.

Laura had previously asked if a standing session can be decommissioned. The number of standing sessions could limit the number of member-organized sessions.

Geoff replied that this is a good point. It is possible, but there is no formal policy. He gave the example of the member-organized session on landscapes, which was long running and popular and became a standing session. The technical session on GIS was

closed and became a digital humanities session. These decisions are made based on attendance and participation.

Helen stated that member-organized sessions can be approved for 3 years and up to 6 years.

Geoff stated that the number of sessions is ok, but the number of papers is the real issue.

### *Honors & Awards Committee*

The chair (Laura) reported that this is a slow period for a committee. Honors & Awards has a new member (pending approval by Board in April), Mahri Leonard-Fleckman, a former student of Mark Smith. The committee is working on finding replacement for the chair (Laura) and also has submitted two names to nominate to the Code of Conduct Committee. The committee rewrote the Lapp Award to specify a geographical designation, focusing on the Near East and Eastern Mediterranean.

Susan asked whether the committee wants to run more detailed news items (as opposed to the one big announcement that has already gone out) for the individual award winners in News@ASOR.

Laura responded yes and she will reach out to Cynthia to do this.

### *Early Career Scholars Committee*

The co-chair (Tiffany) reported that the committee is seeking a couple more members and they have some excellent candidates. The committee is developing a new social media strategy with more member engagement. Tiffany mentioned video-conferencing as way to disseminate career building information. Eric's idea is to use the Facebook group to do a Facebook live event, which would provide a resource that can be archived. The committee is also discussing their events at the Annual Meeting.

The co-chair (Eric) spoke about the AM location survey and using a social media push to get a high response from Early Career Scholars. This is important as the outcome has big implications for Early Career Scholars.

Susan asked that once new committee members are identified they be sent to her and then get put on the Board agenda.

Geoff asked how welcome Early Career Scholars feel as whole to submit member-organized session proposals.

Eric replied that this situation is improving.

Tiffany commented that the call for member-organized sessions was posted on the Early Career Facebook page. The emphasis here is to make people feel comfortable and welcome.

Eric spoke about using the annual meeting luncheon for a session on how to produce an effective poster. The general feeling is that Early Career Scholars are more inclined to submit a session than 5-6 years ago. More structured opportunities to learn would be good.

Geoff stated that this is important for program's vitality as the Early Career Scholar introduce new topics.

Susan said that the poster idea sounds great and Morag would be a great resource. Eric and Tiffany have already reached out to her and have a soft commitment.

### *Committee on Publications*

The chair (Kevin) is working with the former chair (Chuck) on the transition. *NEA* has a new editor, Stephanie Budin. Things are in good shape and the 2019 later issues are well set up, while the earlier issues required a little more work.

The Digital Working Group of COP convened at the AIA meeting to discuss the policies for digital publication and these are being circulated through COP. The Committee is pushing for hybrid publications with both print and digital content and addressing differences in time of production.

Susan said she will review the draft policy.

### **3. Ad Hoc Sub-Committee for Developing an Annual Meeting Code of Conduct**

Sharon stated that members have been calling for a code of conduct and getting a committee together. It was brought to the fore by incident at the SCS meeting in January, where an insulting remark was made towards a panelist. SCS moved rapidly to condemn this action. Meetings are events with reporters and ASOR needs a statement and way to act quickly. Susan wrote the charge and it is open to comments and changes.

Sharon asked if progress has been made in recruiting members from committees. Susan replied that Steve said Emily Hammer (CAP) is interested in being on this committee and reported that Chuck had said Mira Horowitz (COP) is interested. Ian Jones has expressed interest in representing Honors and Awards. More names are needed, especially from PC, ECS, and Membership and Outreach.

Helen said the PC is asking for self-nominations and asked whether the charge can be circulated.

Susan replied the charge is a draft until CCC approves it, after which it can be shared.

Helen said the charge is coherent and inspiring.

Sharon thanked Susan for putting it together.

There was no dissent. The charge is good to go, and can be circulated.

Laura has one definite person (Ian Jones) from H&A and is waiting for confirmation from one more. She asked about a timeline for the committee.

Susan replied the ideally the policy should be place by the 2019 Annual Meeting. The SCS incident means it is necessary. SCS put out statement Aug 2018 on issues of

harassment. Because SCS had a policy in place, they were able to respond quickly and on site. It would be best if a policy was in place by next November. The committee will draft something, which will be vetted through the CCC, and approved by the EC before meeting.

Drafting the initial policy on professional conduct was a prolonged process under Lynn Swartz Dodd; however the code of conduct for fieldwork came together quickly.

Geoff asked to see the fieldwork code of conduct and Susan said it would be on the agenda for the next call.

Sharon stated that once there are volunteers, a chair must be appointed. Should the chair be nominated by the committee itself, or by the CCC? Maybe one of the PC members or one of volunteers wants to chair?

Susan said it will be best to wait and see who volunteers.

Sharon asked that committees have volunteers for the next call.

Helen stated that the PC names will get names of volunteers by Jan 28<sup>th</sup>

Sharon will then circulate the charge amongst committees and get volunteers within two weeks. She will reach out to Steve and Randy to let them know.

#### **4. Central Office Matters**

Big news! Susan was in Alexandria in December meeting with Andy and the realtor. They visited four properties and selected two potential homes, with similar purchase prices, square footages, and locations. ASOR staff visited these two properties and all agreed on a three-story building that has most recently been used as architects' office (beautifully reconditioned and maintained). Only small changes need to be made to the building. A letter of intent was submitted in December and conference calls for the EC and Board followed in January. A roll-call vote was taken *on both* calls, with a unanimous vote to buy. Andy is negotiating the specifics of purchase-and-sale agreement. The hope is to be in by April. \$1.1 Million is the cost and ASOR has \$940,000 in pledges and donations. EC is meeting in Alexandria next weekend and Susan is hoping to show them the building.

Andy said ASOR is very close and according to the purchase and sale agreement, we've agreed to be confidential to a certain point. Please don't post the news anywhere yet and wait until it is all signed.

Susan said the first pledge for building came in this week a year ago, which is amazing. It is testimony to the devotion and generosity of ASOR members and has been a gratifying and inspiring process.

Andy said two years ago he was in California doing ASOR work and realized he had no idea ASOR would be leaving BU (he didn't know until March 2017).

Laura said she is sad that current leadership is coming to end and noted the call for a new VP had been circulated.

Susan said that the items on the agenda for the EC meeting are:

- 1 . Nail down details for purchase of building and financing plan.

2. Discussions on location of future of AM with Gary Arbino (chair of ad hoc committee on future of AM).

**5. Matters Arising:** None