

ASOR Chairs Coordinating Council
Conference Call Minutes
March 20, 2019 2:00-3:00 EDT

Present: Susan Ackerman, Tiffany Earley-Spadoni, Geoff Emberling, Steve Falconer, Sharon Herbert, Laura Mazow, Kevin McGeough, Marta Ostovich, Andy Vaughn, Eric Welch, Randy Younker

Absent: Helen Dixon

1. Approval of February Minutes

Geoff suggested removing the “speaker from the region” section in discussion of plenary speaker.

Susan responded that it is fine to remove from the public version, but full minutes will be sent to PC chairs.

2. Committee Reports

a. COM

The chair (Randy) had both bad and good news. The bad news was that Sebastian Tusa, who was the primary local contact for the Palermo symposium, was killed in Ethiopian airplane crash. Randy is still hoping that the symposium can go forward, but everything is up in the air.

There was discussion surrounding Regine Hunziker-Rodewald’s conference proposal, which is planned for 2021 in Strasbourg. Regine would like to start contacting people and planning, with the CCC’s approval Sharon asked for proposal to be sent to the CCC.

Randy will send a copy.

Andy stated that the proposal was discussed in COM meeting in November, but Susan noted that according to her the notes from Nov.meeting, the CCC still needs to see plan for Strasbourg (Regine’s proposal).

There was discussion surrounding Randy’s replacement. Teddy Burgh is interested. Sharon has consulted with Chairs Nominating Committee about Randy’s recommendation and they agreed Teddy is a good candidate. Sharon wrote to him and he was pleased, but waiting to here about administrative job. Susan also wrote to him. Randy spoke with him about a week ago and he wants to do it. Randy will continue to assist with overseas symposia.

b. Programs Committee

The chair (Geoff) reported that the PC is in the process of assembling the AM program. There are 500 paper submissions, which is 10% more than last year. Some sessions are overflowing (Archaeology of Egypt, Archaeology of Iran,

Archaeology of Jordan). Reviews from session chairs are due back in couple of days, and the PC will then start shuffling papers to set up the program. This year the PC has implemented further steps in ethics reviews, so that papers from contested territories and with unprovenanced artifacts will have a second level of review. No issues yet. Stephanie Langin Hooper stepped down. Allison Thomason is her replacement, pending Board approval.

c. *Honors and Awards*

The chair (Laura) did not have much to report other than she attended the SE Regional AR/SBL event.

d. *Early Career Scholars*

The co-chair (Eric) reported that the EC is now up to speed as Owen Chesnut and Tine Rassalle have been added as new members. The EC members for the Code of Conduct at the AM Committee are Tine Rassalle and Vanessa Workman. EC scholars were very involved in future of AM location discussion as the cost and location can present difficulties for them. Lots of work was done by the committee to get people to take survey and get a good idea of the EC opinion.

Some of the other topics the EC is discussing are engagement and what issues concern EC scholars outside of the annual meeting, such as professionalization and going back on the job market.

Eric pointed out that outside of the AM, ECs who work in Israel see each other during the field season at the Rashut summer dinner and at the Albright's 4th of July party. Lots of grad and undergrad members attend this party. Eric has talked to Margaret Cohen about using this event as a way for ASOR to reach out to early career scholars.

Another issue raised by the co-chair was traveling after the AM to see local sites. People who have traveled a long time make effort to see new part of US. Can the EC organize events following the AM?

Kevin brought up the COP Digital Working Group-maybe ECs would be interested? Topics such as a guide for publication, technical recommendations regarding, say, photographic resolution might be interesting for ECs.

The co-chair (Tiffany) is working on professionalization resources for the ECs.

e. *CAP*

The chair (Steve) reported that this is a quiet time for CAP applications. Erin Darby prepared a report on dig director participation and scheduling the AM. 55 (of 73) dig directors (89%) say they would be unaffected by split from SBL. Those who would be affected are mostly directors who work in Israel and Jordan.

f. *COP*

The chair (Kevin) reported that the first issue of *NEA* under Stephanie (the new editor) is out. People are happy with UCP's online approach, which is easier than the previous JSTOR version. The committee had a conversation about recent articles in the *American Historical Review* and the *American Journal of Philology*, which discussed decolonizing publications and supporting diversity. These are recent editorial practices and not an attack on editors. The committee is interested in starting a working group on the topic

Geoff fully supports this idea.

Susan brought up an issue with the *BASOR* name and discussed the session at AM on ASOR's name. Small group work from the session was collected, but the results have not been presented. Geoff will send a note to Danielle and Kevin will move forward with working group

3. *Central Office Matters*

Susan addressed the membership email from yesterday, which was sent to all members informing them that their membership had expired. This was an unfortunate glitch in the system.

Susan has names for the AM Code of Conduct Committee. As all of the potential members are either brand new to ASOR governance and/or extremely junior, both Sharon and Susan think the chair should have more experience in ASOR/seniority especially considering delicate nature of the issues. The Officers Nominating Committee is choosing Sharon's successor as Vice President and once they decide on a candidate there is a possibility to ask that person to take on chairing this committee.

Susan reported that the Officers Nominating Committee has made decisions regarding the chair of Board and a new president. The current chair (Richard Coffman) will be nominated for second term. Sharon has been nominated as next ASOR president. Congratulations to Sharon. The Board will vote on these candidates at its April meeting.

Andy said that ASOR staff were in new building today. Please come visit!

An update on building purchase appeared in *News@ASOR*. Staff are getting set up for the reception at 209 Commerce. Fundraising is going well. \$1.5 million is needed for purchase, furnishing, and to establish an endowment for maintenance. The purchase and sale agreement is signed and the closing date is April 24. There is an agreement with BB&T for a \$550,000 line of credit and gifts and resources available in the ASOR general fund will pay for the rest.

Andy spoke about the challenge gift of \$450,000. This challenge calls on ASOR to receive gifts from 450 donors this fiscal year. ASOR needs 200 more donors to give \$10 or more. ASOR also need to raise \$225,000 to get challenge. Since Feb 1, we have received \$143,000, so we need \$82,000 more. Pledges payable through Dec. 1, 2020.

Susan stated that Andy has done remarkable job fundraising.

Andy: Members and friends have been very generous, which is gratifying and humbling.

Susan next spoke about the Future of AM Location Survey. The Ad Hoc Committee worked very hard on this survey. There were 572 responses, which represents a third of the membership. Some people selected more than one top preference. Marta has been working on sorting out the survey

The general feeling is that ASOR members like meeting in the fall (71%) and the current timing is good.

In terms of meeting with SBL, people were given 9 options. About 70% chose meet in conjunction with SBL in some way, shape, or form. 14% respondents indicated they wanted ASOR to join back up with SBL as it was in the 80s/90s.

There were lots of options for further comments and many of these will be useful beyond the survey, especially for PC.

Geoff asked about the high response for staying with SBL as this does not fit with the comments that were presented at the AM.

Susan replied that there was a high response rate from SBL members. People who cared and took the time were those who have strong feelings and the middle ground is not well represented.

Eric said that there is a call this Friday to determine recommendations.

Susan said that the committee should provide more than one recommendation-give the Board options. Eric, on both the committee and on Board, replied that each committee member has submitted three ranked recommendations.

Susan stated that 33% of survey respondents have been members for 1-5 years, which shows good representation of ECs. The survey asked people about preferences for city/hotel. The overwhelming response pointed to ease of travel, cost of travel, walking distance to restaurants, and good public transportation

There was discussion about AM attendance. Denver attendance was less.

Andy reported that Boston had around 1150. 160 went to SBL. Denver had 810. San Diego around 935. The number of attendees impacts not only number of people we reach, but also revenue for AM and membership. Membership dropped by 200 people last year.

Geoff asked what the CCC's role was in this discussion

Susan said ultimately it is a Board decision. At a minimum, the Board must make a decision for 2021 when SBL in San Antonio, and ASOR does not have a hotel contract yet. Given that 2022 in Denver and 2023 in San Antonio a decision should be made to take ASOR through 2023.

Geoff stated that the numbers are interesting and point to a strategic decision. This decision speaks to the soul of ASOR (Biblical or broader?) and will affect future members. Susan said that the Board has set aside lots of time for this at their April meeting. While in 2021-2023 it is impossible to meet with SBL, ASOR has the luxury of running the experiment. ASOR can see who attends during these years. There is not a lot of interest

in meeting with another group (maybe AIA? 20%, but people don't want to meet in winter. 3.6% MESA 4.9% AAA)

Eric emphasized that this is a strategic decision, not something for ad hoc committee to decide. The committee's job was to do best job with the data and present it to Board. Initial feedback from the period of 2021-2023 will be essential.

Susan pointed out that when asked what the top five reasons for attending the ASOR meeting, 90% replied the quality of sessions.

Andy stated that during the last 6 months misinformation and rumors were floating around. The role of the CCC is to share with their committees what has been discussed. Sharon said this is an important discussion and it is good to be informed.

4. Matters Arising

None.