

ASOR Chairs Coordinating Council
Conference Call Minutes
May 9, 2019 11:00-12:00 EDT

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

Absent: Steve Falconer, Kevin McGeough

Sharon announced that this is the last call of academic year. Meetings resume in September.

She also announced that Chuck Jones has been nominated as ASOR's next Vice President and thus the next Chair of the CCC. The Board will take up that nomination at its November 2019 meeting.

1. Approval of March Minutes

Teddy Burgh's appointment as Chair of the Membership and Outreach Committee was approved at the April Board Meeting.

Eric noted a misspelling of Owen Chesnut's name.

2. Committee Reports

Membership and Outreach

The Sicily symposium planned for September 2019 is on indefinite hold following the tragic death of one of the key organizers (Seb Tusa).

The Strasbourg event is moving forward and the chair circulated the preliminary proposal to the CCC prior to the CCC call. The organizer (Regine) wants a green light to start organizing. The event is titled "Ritual Gestures in the Ancient Near East," and most of CCC has read it.

There was discussion over who will attend the event (ASOR members, international and European scholars).

Susan pointed out that the event needs to attract more senior scholars (as opposed to the Paris symposium) in order to add more gravitas. The chair has leads among established scholars for possible keynote speakers and will share these suggestions with organizers.

Sharon asked that the call for papers go out in US through ASOR publications such as News@ASOR.

There were concerns about the timing of event (May/June) and whether it would conflict with field seasons and the end of the academic year. The CCC discussed whether the event could be scheduled between the end of the academic year and the start of field seasons, which might allow North American colleagues in transit to the field to stop in Europe for the symposium. The chair will bring these concerns to the organizer.

The CCC agreed to give the event its provisional approval, and Randy will ask for full proposal from Regine.

It was noted that while Teddy Burgh will be the new chair, Randy is going to keep helping with this event so that it will be successful.

a. *Program Committee*

The co-chair (Helen) reported that May 15th is the date that potential paper presenters at the Annual Meeting will be notified regarding acceptance for the 2019 AM, and 530 papers, in 102 sessions, are scheduled to be accepted. The sessions Archaeology of Lebanon, Encoding Data, and Change and Continuity in 7th Century Near East have been cancelled. The co-chairs are predicting a 10-15% attrition rate for presenters.

The committee is working through papers that utilize materials from contested areas and artifacts without provenience and they are consulting with the CAP committee.

The co-chair (Geoff) brought up two sessions that have issues: Reports on Current ASOR Excavations and Non-ASOR Excavations. Overall, the Standing Sessions at the AM function as catch-all sessions, and the sessions on Current ASOR Excavations and Non-ASOR Affiliated Excavations are the catch-all of catch-alls, and they are the last to be filled. There was discussion of how to make these sessions more productive.

One proposal was to merge these two sessions, but there was some concern that this would undermine CAP and its efforts to encourage excavations to affiliate through ASOR. The co-chair (Helen) suggested that this problem might be addressed by putting a logo throughout the program book next to papers that come from ASOR-affiliated excavations. This would have the effect of showcasing ASOR-affiliated excavations throughout the program book. Eric Welsh spoke in favor of this idea, although it was agreed that because we would need to ask paper presenters to self-identify regarding affiliation when submitting, this idea (if adopted) could not be rolled out until 2020.

Susan added that next year (2020), all fellowships for dig directors and students will be for CAP projects.

b. *Early Career Scholars*

The co-chair (Eric) provided an update on what the ECS committee has planned for San Diego in 2019 and even Boston in 2020. The ECS committee's overarching goal is to develop professional resources -- e.g., videos -- for its members, which could be archived on the ECS Facebook page.

Eric and Tiffany also spoke about using the EC Facebook page to congratulate and recognize the accomplishments of EC scholars as they hit important professional milestones (defending their dissertations, getting post-docs, etc.).

The Committee is also looking, in terms of its programming for 2020, to develop a careers page on the ASOR website. The committee has formed a subgroup to research how other societies do this. The eventual goal is to have the page provide resources (live-streaming, digital content, practical workshops) to provide training for the job market.

(Laura joined the call)

For the AM in Boston in 2020, the committee is hoping to offer two practical "How To" sessions: how to format a cv, how to format a resume. They hope to live-stream these sessions, and also archive them as permanent resources on the ECS Facebook page and the ASOR website. The goal is for today's Early Career scholars to thrive and still be around, as career scholars, 10 years from now.

There was discussion about live-streaming. Live-streaming offers those who cannot attend the AM a way to engage. Yet the Program Committee has discussed at length the downsides: (1) would live-streaming would affect attendance, and (2) whether wi-fi at the hotels would be strong enough to support it. The Program Committee is not hostile in principle, but it is concerned about these challenges. Sharon suggested that this issue would be a good topic for the November CCC meeting, where we could talk about the issue face-to-face and when we could ask Arlene to be present. Tiffany asked whether cell-phone based service might be a streaming option.

Discussion then returned to the ASOR website and resources that might be made available there: Helen suggested that information offering pedagogical support might be especially helpful to Early Career Scholars. Andy noted that the ASOR staff is working on creating some "exclusive content" web pages, for members only: perhaps some of the ECS materials could go there, as a benefit that comes with ECS (and ASOR) membership.

c. *Honors and Awards*

The chair (Laura) reported on revisions to the Frank Moore Cross Book Award to make the award category broader and include more types of materials and books being authored by our membership.

The CCC approved of the new description and changes will be made to the website.

The chair is working with Marta to clean up the awards webpage. Last year, the committee used a single on-line form for nominations for awards; this year, there will be two separate forms (one for book awards, one for service awards). News@ASOR will highlight those who have won awards in 2018, with a call to nominate candidates for 2019.

Deadlines are Sept 2nd for service awards and Sept. 16th for book awards.

3. Central Office Matters

Susan provided a report from the Spring Board Meeting (April 5th-6th in Alexandria, VA).

1. The Board passed new version of the ASOR By-Laws. There was one change for the CCC. New committee members will now be approved by the CCC and the CCC will inform the Board of their decisions.
2. The Board approved going forward with Ad-Hoc Committee for AM Code of Conduct. Emily Miller Bonney was appointed by Susan as chair. An initial email has gone out to the Ad-Hoc Committee. Susan has charged the committee with getting something to her by September in order to have EC approval in time for the AM this year.
3. Eric reported on the decision regarding the future of the AM. The Ad Hoc Committee on the Future of the Annual Meeting, chaired by Gary Arbino, put together a recommendation for the EC and the Board, which passed with very little discussion. There were two recommendations:

*AM should take place on Tues-Fri, instead of Wednesday-Saturday, in the week before Thanksgiving, with the hope that moving the dates one day earlier would open things up in terms of hotel availability. But further research by the ASOR staff determined that, at least for San Antonio in 2021, shifting to Tues-Fri would not change the picture in terms of hotel availability (or, more specifically, the lack thereof).

*When ASOR can meet in SBL, ASOR will do so. If ASOR cannot, an alternate city will be selected. This recommendation was approved by the EC, with slight modifications, and sent to the Board. The Board passed the recommendation unanimously. The resolution reads:

ASOR will make all reasonable efforts to meet in its current time frame (Wednesday to Saturday pattern) in the same city as SBL. In years in which it is not reasonable and economically feasible, ASOR will conduct its meeting in a city that best serves the greatest number of its constituencies.

The location will be an issue in 2021 (San Antonio), and Richard Coffman and Andy are looking at hotels.

Geoff and Helen were interested in hearing more about what has been learned from the AM location survey.

Eric replied that some people felt the Saturday programming was uneven in terms of distribution, and he will pull together more information. Part of the problem stems from issues of religious observance, as any session that has a colleague who cannot, for religious reasons, present on Saturday has to be moved to Thursday or Friday (and sometimes, the only option is Thursday, if a presenter indicates he/she cannot present on Friday or Saturday). The CCC then discussed whether we could be more "granular" in

asking people to identify conflicts, so that observant Jewish colleagues do not, say, block out all of Friday, but just the late afternoon Friday session. The PC did not try to do this in 2019, as it felt a little overwhelming, but may implement this for 2020 -- with a checkbox on the submission form asking people to indicate specific times that they cannot present.

Incidentally, some people find Saturday the richest day of the program, especially if one is not interested in Israel.

Susan stated that as of April 24th, ASOR owns a building and Andy followed up by saying that News@ASOR has some photos and information on the move. He also discussed the challenge pledge ASOR received, which requires 450 donors by June 30th.

4. Matters Arising

None!