

ASOR Chairs Coordinating Council
Conference Call Minutes
August 13, 2020, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM EST

Present: Teddy Burgh, Tiffany Earley-Spadoni, Jane DeRose Evans, Helen Dixon, Steve Falconer, Sharon Herbert, Chuck Jones, Kevin McGeough, Marta Ostovich, Allison Thomason, Andy Vaughn, Eric Welch, Lynn Welton

Absent: None

1. Approval of July Minutes: Minutes approved.

2. Update from Sharon and Andy

Open Letter to the ASOR Board

Sharon updated the CCC on the Open Letter to the ASOR Board. Thirty-one people signed the letter, and there was a need for discussion and response from ASOR. The Ad Hoc Committee on ASOR's name wanted to move quickly and called for help from ASOR's leadership. There was an Executive Committee (EC) call in early August and the EC made recommendations to the Committee on ASOR's Name. There will be a special meeting of the ASOR Board on August 19th. Agenda items include removing the word Oriental from ASOR's name and establishing a DEI task force. Sharon is working on charge for this committee and selecting chair.

Andy sent his report to the CCC via email.

ASOR will continue to operate virtually through at least Sept. 8th (probably longer).

ASOR has new resource pages and photo collection pages. These photos are designed for lectures and classroom use. Please share and contribute.

3. Discussion of the Code of Conduct for the Virtual Annual Meeting

Helen introduced discussion of ASOR's current Code of Conduct for the Annual Meeting and how it works with this year's virtual meeting. There are different challenges (cannot have phone numbers on the back of name badges, social events happening differently). There was discussion of whether the current code can be amended or if a new code of conduct is needed. Some of the questions raised during discussion were:

1. What constitutes harassment in a virtual setting and how is reported?
2. What have other organizations done? ASOR should check with them on what has and has not worked. Andy and Arlene are in contact with a number of other organizations.
3. How is the code enforced (muting or blocking someone)?
4. Who is responsible for regulating and enforcing the code (session chairs, ASOR staff)? Whoever is responsible for enforcing the code needs to receive training.
5. What can the OpenWater platform offer? Would it be possible to have a button to report harassment and a sign/button for the Code of Conduct? Has OpenWater dealt with this before?

6. How are both conference participants/members and ASOR protected?

One idea put forth was a statement of expectations for participants. Participants are expected to be accommodating and engaging and participation and screen sharing are at ASOR's discretion. This could include a best practices guide for session chairs and presenters with links to the ASOR website.

There was discussion over who should be handling the virtual meeting code of conduct and how to implement it.

One additional issue raised was the option of not using video, just a photograph and name, especially as some of those participating may not have video.

7. Revisions to the Strategic Plan

Chuck remarked that limited work has been done on the Strategic Plan revisions in the Google drive folder. The goal was to have a completed outline by this call. Many of the committees have outlines and working drafts of revisions. Kevin reported that COP is mostly finished with recommendations for revisions. Marta will continue to provide support for the chairs in their revisions to the plan. Andy pointed out that ASOR is moving more quickly with implementing changes than it has in the past.

8. Matters Arising

Helen provided an annual meeting update. Tomorrow is the deadline for withdrawing from the program. So far 22% (the normal rate is around 10-15%) of papers have withdrawn and there are currently 540 papers, which means 97 time slots. This is within the range of the goals of the old strategic plan. Some sessions have been postponed until 2021. Allison noted that the goal is to have 4-6 pre-recorded papers per session.