

ASOR Chairs Coordinating Council
Conference Call Minutes
June 22, 2020, 11:00 AM EST

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

1. Approval of May Minutes: Sharon asked about the number of paper rejections for the annual meeting, and Allison confirmed that none were rejected. The minutes were approved with the incorporation of corrections sent via email by Andy.

2. Strategic Plan

Chuck began the discussion about revising the Strategic Plan. How do the committees fit within the plan? What needs to be done for each of the points?

Sharon reported on the Executive Committee retreat where a day and a half was spent on the Strategic Plan. The goals are still the same, but can be changed a little.

Discussion of the Strategic Plan commenced.

Strategic Goal No. 1: ASOR's Annual Meeting

Allison reported that the Program Committee has not had a lot of time to discuss the Strategic Plan, as the PC is busy with Boston 2020. She identified the following goals.

- Size: there is a desire for more participants. Session numbers are holding steady with a small increase
- Increase diversity of participants and attendees (DEI Committee is in the works)
- Coordination with the Early Careers Scholars
- Increasing revenue
- Involving Friends of ASOR
- Reevaluating time and location

Strategic Goal No. 2: Publications

2A: Expand Monograph Publication Program: Kevin has met with the editors, and is planning a larger meeting for COP. There will be a new *ARS* editor by January. The committee is revamping oversight of publications and is considering more of an editorial board for monographs. The goal is to have more room for different types of publications.

2B: Develop Digital Publication Program: The *JCS* board has been revamped and brought more in line with ASOR's general publication policy. Kevin is working with the Baghdad Committee on this as well.

A subgroup on digital policies is working on getting the whole committee on board

with how much digital publication is mandatory. Hopefully a set of policies will be ready to be voted on at the annual meeting.

2C: Expand Open Access: The committee would like as much open access as possible. One idea is for different tiers of access for authors. Authors can post on institutional repositories, similar to what is done with the monograph series.

Strategic Goal No. 3: ASOR's International Affiliations

Eric stated that many Early Career members have had fellowships at the affiliated centers and are interested in the Albright directorship. He will discuss this more with the ECS.

Steve reported that CAP is pushing international efforts and coordination with the ORCs. CAP is planning on lots of networking in Boston.

Strategic Goal No. 4: Fellowships, Grants, and Other Forms of Support for Members

Sharon identified developing more fellowships as a goal.

Steve reported that the fellowship committee has seen an increase in the quality and number of applications. The committee is examining how applications are reviewed. Some of the issues include encouraging first-time students vs. rewarding dedication, helping build professional careers, and the larger intent of the fellowship program.

Eric identified equal representation in access to fieldwork opportunities as one issue. Teddy noted that fellowships are an important benefit of membership.

Andy reported on the current state of the fellowship program.

- ASOR had planned to award 25+ dig scholarships (\$120K in fellowship money) this year, but cannot because of fieldwork restrictions.
- PhD students from top programs have done well, but certain donors are interested in supporting students at public colleges/schools.
- Certain professors have students who always do well and ASOR limits fellowships to 2 per school.
- There is a bias for those who can write a research agenda.
- Keeping fellowship recipients as members: less than 25% have stayed members.
- What is the goal in terms of the scholarships?

Strategic Goal No 5: Fostering the Field

Allison reported that the PC is invested in recruiting posters and papers, and involving people from MENA region.

There was discussion of virtual involvement with ASOR, both in terms of the Annual Meeting and more broadly.

- New process for virtual involvement
- Encouraging international participation (higher when we meet in a hub city,

- 46% of proposals come from outside the US, travel restrictions)
- Support for specific sessions (Iran, Libya) from the state department and embassy

Eric stated that 5B (Secure the Success of the Next Generation) is a fundamental goal of the ECS. Some of the topics that the ECS plans to address include:

- Writing grants for ASOR: leveling the playing field
- Serve and preserve current members. Fewer undergraduate students coming into ASOR. Those who return are the ones with the means.
- Working with Honors & Awards to recognize ECS.
- Presenting alternative careers. Highlighting ASOR scholars in other careers. Maintain engagement with ASOR.
- Keep people coming back and presenting at the Annual Meeting.
- Development of online resources.
- Course development grants. Intro courses are money-making courses. Funding for TAs for larger courses. Course release fees. Fitting into the in core curricula.
- Creation of faculty positions.

Strategic Goal No. 6: An Increased International Identity for ASOR

Covered in previous discussion.

Strategic Goal No. 7: Outreach

Sharon stated that more needs to be done in terms of engaging the public.

Teddy reported that COM is working on outreach through the FOA program, ASOR TV, public virtual lectures, and making ASOR more accessible for the public.

Allison said that the PC is discussing engaging the community through public events and speaker series as part of the Annual Meeting.

Andy reported on the current state of outreach efforts. There are 15,000+ FOA members. The ASOR staff is exploring online learning and webinars and how to involve the public in the Annual Meeting.

Strategic Goal No. 8: Cultural Heritage

There has been a lot of growth here, and there is now a standing committee for CH.

Jane pointed out that CH influences everything ASOR does, and is part of all of the goals, not just number 8. The committee has been making steps towards revising the strategic plan. CH is a common denominator and shows the value of what we do. CH has come up in discussions of a new name for ASOR.

There was discussion of including development and fundraising in the Strategic Plan.

Chuck will circulate the report from COP. The PC report has already been circulated.