

ASOR Chairs Coordinating Council
Conference Call Minutes
October 13, 2020, 2:00-3:00 PM EST

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

Absent: None

1. Approval of September Minutes: Minutes approved

2. Update from Sharon

Name Change: The Board of Trustees met last month and chose not to accept the recommendation of Committee on ASOR's Name. The recommendation was to ask the membership to choose between two names, AARCHE and ASOR. The Board decided to send out two ASOR names: "American Schools of Overseas Research" and "American Society of Overseas Research." Two town hall meetings to discuss the name are being held on Thursday Oct. 22nd at 1 PM, and Sunday Oct. 25th at 4 PM. Sharon is putting together a panel for Q&A and discussion.

DEI Task Force: The task force has been formed and the first meeting is happening soon. The list of members and the charge to the Task Force will be posted on the ASOR website shortly.

3. Committee Reports

a. CAP

Steve reported on an Oct. 1st Zoom meeting of ca. 40 project directors to discuss prospects for fieldwork in 2021. A number of people presented on the situation in various countries. It is most likely there will be further impacts on travel and field projects are unable to plan for a safe field season. There was desire for another meeting at end of 2020/early 2021.

Andy, Steve, and Kate have discussed fellowships and grants for 2021, and the conversation is ongoing. There is support for student fellowships and project grants to be used for purposes other than travel. For excavation grants, 3 Harris and 1 Seger are being offered for 2021. In terms of student fellowships, ASOR will offer 10 undergraduate and 10 graduate fellowships. Applications from students will be submitted in conjunction with the project supervisor and the projects should not involve fieldwork/travel. Applications will be limited to 1 undergrad/1 grad per project and only 1 per project will be awarded. The committee is also working on how to encourage and support applicants of color. Some of the named student fellowships are specifically for undergraduate travel

and will be saved for 2022. Andy will check with donors about the availability of their funds for non-travel fellowships.

Chuck asked whether any project directors were planning on a field season, and Steve replied that a few are. There are political and health concerns in a number of countries. Having in-country staff makes work more likely. The focus is on analysis and study seasons, not standard excavation

b. CHC

Jane and Sharon submitted letters of report for the MOU with Greece. Jane reported that much work is being done on the Libyan cultural heritage grant as well. Andy gave more details on two grants for work in Libya. One is an Ambassadors Fund grant and one is from Susan Kane and Ahmad Emrage for work in eastern Libya. The start of work has been postponed until Jan. 1, 2021. An additional \$40K was added to the grant to expand work on documentation and anti-trafficking and this needs to be completed by December. The embassy is encouraging ASOR to apply again and would like to see a more regional approach.

c. H&A

Lynn announced that recipients have been selected for service awards. The logistics for the awards presentations at the members meeting are still being worked out. For the book awards there were 17 nominees for Wright, 19 for Cross, and 11 for Lapp. These numbers are quite good and bit higher than last year. Voting for the book awards will happen next week.

The new student paper award has been advertised and the deadline is Oct. 23. The deadline is a bit earlier than the deadline to upload papers, so as not to overwhelm the committee. The award recipient will be selected before the meeting.

The poster award deadline is Nov. 2nd and the winner will also be selected before the meeting.

There was discussion of the format of the awards presentation during the members' meeting. Many of the parts of the members' meeting are being pre-recorded.

d. EC

Tiffany reported on the brown bag seminar on publishing that was held as a zoom event last week. Ninety people registered and 70 attended the panel discussion on publishing journal articles. The recording is up on ASORtv.

Career resources update for the ASOR website has been completed.

The EC committee is planning social time outside of VAM schedule, probably during two different times. The committee is meeting tomorrow and wants to form a subcommittee for DEI. Bianca Hand will serve as the EC liaison to the DEI Task Force.

e. COM

The committee is working out a time to meet around the VAM, according to Teddy. Topics to be discussed are representation in other fields, membership benefits, and virtual field experiences for course credit. Teddy is working with Bob Mullins on the virtual fieldwork idea, and will test it on Hanan's excavation. Andy pointed out that ASOR might be able to bring schools together to plan virtual fieldwork experiences.

f. PC

Helen announced that there are 30 days until VAM starts. Right now there are 480 papers and posters, though some attrition is expected. The platform looks great. Grouping the posters by themes is a highlight this year. Allison commented that things came together well this year and the scheduling process was a little easier. She seconded Helen's comments on the online platform. The submission process is easy and some have already submitted their papers. A best practices guide is forthcoming.

Chuck inquired about a printed program, which is not being done this year. People can print their own copies if need be.

Chuck also asked about publisher participation and Andy responded that there are fewer exhibitors than last year (probably around 15). Revenue will be down.

There was discussion of how to feature the book award publishers.

Andy commented on how it is nice to be able to offer membership and registration scholarships this year, thanks to a number of donations and sponsorships.

g. COP

Kevin reported that the *ARS* Editor recommendation for Jennie Ebeling is in and will go to the board next. Ebeling's own volume, which is in production, will go to Bill Caraher as a work around.

The transition to the new *BASOR* team is underway. The new editors are working with UCP and will be taking over a journal that is already set for the next year.

4. Matters Arising

Helen asked about the VAM business schedule. The next CCC call will be in December. Chuck reminded the chairs to submit reports to the board. Andy stated that these reports are posted on a Board info page, and the majority of trustees read them. Send reports to Marta and Andy in late November.