

ASOR Chairs Coordinating Council
Conference Call Minutes
December 10, 2020, 2:00-3:00 PM EST

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

Absent: Teddy Burgh, Tiffany Earley-Spadoni

1. Approval of November Minutes: Minutes approved

2. Comments from Chuck

This year's Virtual Annual Meeting went well. The Executive Committee met yesterday, and the Board meets next week.

3. Updates from Sharon

DEI Task Force: The task force has four goals: establish community partners; create fundraising for BIPOC scholarships to promote participation; recommend sensitivity training for ASOR leadership; collaborate with committees and identify DEI areas in the new Strategic Plan. Goal four is particularly relevant to the CCC.

Strategic Plan: Sharon has reviewed the documents in the Google folder, and she proposed that the January meeting be designated to Strategic Plan. The Executive Committee will meet in February, and they will discuss the Strategic Plan then. There is potential for a joint meeting of the CCC and the EC. Sharon will put new material into the Strategic Plan format and circulate draft. Most committees have incorporated DEI initiatives though some committees still need to submit materials.

Chuck noted that the DEI task force will work with the CCC to put the Strategic Plan into action and the two should meet together.

Sharon pointed out that the Honors & Awards committee proposed new book awards (junior scholars, first book, efforts to support diversity initiatives). Lynn stated that the committee is trying to work around the conflict between junior vs. senior authors. They have moved away from "best first book". There are also issues in terms of getting enough nominations. In terms of the DEI award, the committee is interested in recognizing other kinds of work, not just service and book awards. Other ideas include mentorship, community engagement, etc. The committee voted in favor of an ad-hoc book award for early career scholars. Helen asked whether the award would be given every year and Lynn responded that it would be possible to do so. There is some pressure to make an award if there are nominees.

4. Committee Reports

a. CAP

Steve reported that the 2021 Excavation Grants & Fellowships post is now on the website. Students who receive summer stipends are also eligible for AM registration

scholarship. The Shepard Grant report on the Tabira Gate Project is available on the website, and there is a new Shepard Grant application from Cyprus.

b. CHC

Jane reported on a productive meeting of the Cultural Heritage committee. Kevin was invited to participate for a discussion of cultural heritage and publications, particularly manuscripts from disputed territories. There is a proposal for the next VAM connected to publications. Jane mentioned a number of North African regional workshops that ARCE and CAORC are part of it, but ASOR is not. Fred Winter is looking into these. Sharon asked whether the Cultural Heritage panel was a multi-year proposal as this would work well for discussing a different topic each year. The committee is focusing on the virtual component of the annual meeting in order to incorporate overseas members. It was good to have ASOR's Libyan colleagues involved in the VAM this year.

c. H&A

Lynn reported on the Honors & Awards Committee meeting in November. There was discussion of increasing committee size to cope with situations where a committee member is an author of a nominated book and needs to recuse themselves. The committee is looking to add one member per subcommittee. There are openings for two Hebrew Bible/epigraphy scholars and one archaeological scholar. New subcommittees have been formed for student paper and poster awards. Lynn is working on the description for the early career book award (discussed earlier in the meeting). She noted that this year the committee received lots of book PDFs and while these are convenient, they do not always make it easy to judge the quality of a book. Helen asked about books that were not received in time, and Lynn will make sure these books are nominated again next year.

Sharon acknowledged that the awards ceremony during the VAM went really well. Allison also noted the success of the congratulatory statements in the chat and in the networking lounge.

d. PC

Helen reported that the PC is busy sorting through VAM feedback.

- Initial feedback was positive (improved discussion, ease of continuing conversations, etc.)
- 152 survey respondents (80% of attendees)-a record high
- 4-10% were upset (dislike of virtual meetings)
- Suggestions including captioning
- Issue of too many papers, not enough time for discussion. The PC will impose a limit of five papers per session for next year.
- ASOR avoided some of the problems that other societies are experiencing.

Allison discussed the 2021 meeting, which will have two components: in person in Chicago Nov 17th-20th and virtual Dec. 9th-12th.

- A number of sessions/workshops (ca. 20) chose to postpone until 2021.
- Sessions will have the choice to be virtual, in-person, or a combination.

- The call for new member-organized sessions and workshops will go out in 5 days and the deadline will be after the new year. New member-organized sessions will be decided by February 15th.
- The call for papers will go out in February with a deadline of March 15th.
- Some part of standing sessions must be at the in-person meeting.
- The cost of live-streaming sessions is prohibitive. How do those who cannot go to Chicago have access to the in-person data? The virtual portion will be accessible for all. There was discussion of hotels and how the current market might influence the option of wireless and live-streaming in Chicago. The Hilton hotel is currently closed. Andy noted that the policy on recording might need to change.
- Pricing for 2021 works as a one-year subscription fee. Recorded material from 2020 will be available to all who register for 2021 and the FOA webinars will also be added.

Chuck thanked the PC chairs, committee, and ASOR staff for their hard work on getting VAM together.

e. COP

Kevin will be in touch with Jane about the proposed Cultural Heritage-Publications session. The COP meeting happened late during the VAM and was useful. Subscriptions are stable, and UCP reports show increase in online use. Book sales are down. UCP's emerging nations initiative (Syria and Iraq) allows for complimentary access to UCP journals, and institutions can apply. The *ARS* Editor nomination is being put before the Board next week. Chuck noted that COP requested funds from Opportunity Fund to provide subventions for scholars whose institutions cannot support the costs of publication.

5. Matters Arising

Sharon announced that the Board will vote on the name "American Society of Overseas Research" next week.

Chuck stated that VAM statistical data were discussed during the Executive Committee meeting and people should be made aware of the fact that ASOR is collecting this data.

Andy asked that any committee reports be sent to him to be posted before Board meeting. Allison and Helen will take part in the Board meeting to discuss plans for 2021.