

ASOR Chairs Coordinating Council
Conference Call Minutes
January 21, 2020, 11:00 AM EST

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

1. Approval of November Minutes

Helen asked that her nomination for the committee on ASOR's name be removed from the November minutes and there was some discussion of what to include in the minutes since they are posted on the website. Chuck and Sharon will coordinate with Marta.

2. Remarks from the Chair

Chuck welcomed everyone. He has served on CCC before and appreciates the opportunity to communicate with chairs. He introduced the possibility of Zoom to include a visual element for the calls, but it was decided to stick with phone calls for now.

Chuck noted that Publications submits an end-of year report to the Executive Committee and he and Sharon will consider whether all committees should be doing this.

3. Committee reports

a. Membership and Outreach

The chair (Teddy) inquired about the process for adding people to committees and Sharon detailed the process from soliciting new members. A call for new members goes out in News@ASOR. The committee discusses applicants with focus on diversity and nominates new members. The chair brings the nominees to CCC, who can approve the nomination (they do not need to go to Board). There was discussion over what constitutes a quorum for a committee-it varies by committee. The rules for each committee should state what quorum is, though these rules may need revision.

b. Publications

The chair (Kevin) reported that the BASOR editor search is still going on and there were a few more apps after the Annual Meeting. A conference call is scheduled for the search committee and they are aiming for a decision by the end of the weekend. The editor nomination goes to Andy, then the EC, and then Board.

The editors of the two monographs have a proposal for forming a collective monograph

editorial staff, which would increase the number of editors from two to three. Kevin will discuss this with Andy and then again with the CCC.

Chuck noted that both the new NEA editor and UCP have been in place for a year and all seems to be going well.

c. Honors and Awards

The chair (Lynn) updated the committee on two new committee members: Bob Mullins (southern Levant) and Pinar Durgun (Anatolia/Art History/Cultural Heritage). Andy stated that ASOR will begin highlighting the 2019 award winners in News@ASOR. Hopefully, this will increase nominations for both books and service awards.

Lynn asked about the procedure for increasing the size of the committee. Andy responded that the bylaws state that this procedure should be in the working documents of the individual committees. Any changes in operating procedure should be brought to the CCC.

d. Early Career Scholars

The co-chair (Eric) reported on successful AM Early Career events (reception and lunch). The committee is still interested in a career resource page.

The Early Career Scholars are looking forward to robust meeting in Boston. The theme of the ECS lunch will be “publishing at every stage” and will involve a number of publishers.

There is also a session/workshop on career trajectories with lots of material on academic careers. Eric and Tiffany spoke about a panel to address different types of employment, which includes an Egyptologist, Assyriologist, Archaeological Scientist, Art Historian, Field Archaeologist, and Bible/Language Historian. People with different experiences and career trajectories will talk about the decisions they made. The committee is getting some pushback about missing alternatives to academia.

Funding and set-up of the ECS reception in Boston still needs to be coordinated. ECS will also be coordinated with Honors & Awards about a paper award.

The ECS committee does not have an annual report. The chairs write letters to thank committee members for their service and to make sure they get credit for their service.

e. Cultural Heritage

The chair (Jane) reported that this committee is getting up and running. There are now nine regular members plus the chair and president. One slot is reserved for an Early Career Scholar. Three people are from the US and three are “in country.”

f. *Program Committee*

The co-chair (Helen) stated that the call for papers for member organized sessions in Boston is open. Boston will be the largest meeting. The minimum number of papers in a session has increased to five, which limits chair flexibility. This year there are 67 new applications for member-organized sessions (last year there were 36). A few of the proposals have been combined and 50 sessions were accepted. There was some unhappiness over rejected sessions. The total number of sessions is 94.

Co-chair Allison encouraged people to apply for 2021. The PC has suggested five candidates for the plenary address in Boston. The themes the PC wants to focus on are: 1. Museum experience 2. Speakers from the region 3. ASOR's 120th year (ASOR's history) 4. Original research

A discussion of the candidates followed. The CCC reached a consensus and recommended a candidate and an alternate. Sharon will reach out to that person.

4. Central Office Report

This report was in an email from Andy.

5. Action on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)

Sharon reported on requests for ASOR to address diversity, equity, and inclusion. Many universities now have a DEI department and the Executive Committee will discuss DEI at February meeting. Sharon stated that it is time for ASOR to take action on DEI and discussed a number of potential ways to do so (standing committee, ad-hoc committee, initiative, or subcommittee).

6. Matters Arising

The DEI information can be shared with committees for their thoughts.