

ASOR Chairs Coordinating Council  
Conference Call Minutes  
January 29, 2021, 12:00-1:00 PM EST

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

**Absent:** None

**1. Approval of December Minutes:** Minutes approved.

**2. Announcements**

This meeting diverges from the usual format, as the primary goal is discussion of the Strategic Plan. The short list of candidates for the Annual Meeting Plenary Address will be the subject of the February call.

The DEI task force hopes to have joint meeting with CCC. Chuck will circulate a report from the task force. Please review Andy's report sent via email on fundraising for DEI.

Sharon reported that the dates of the next Executive Committee and Board meetings are still be determined.

**3. Action Items**

Nominees for PC, CAP, and COP were all approved

*COP*

Kevin raised the issue of the book series name and whether to use the full name or the ASOR acronym. The committee prefers to use the abbreviation and there was discussion of why acronyms are preferable. The conclusion was that the acronym is practical and looks better.

Lynn noted that H&A will have three new candidates. Andy asked the CCC to send Marta classes for committee names.

**4. Strategic Plan (Sharon)**

*Organization*

Yesterday, Sharon circulated a number of Strategic Plan documents to supplement what is on the GoogleDrive. This 5-year plan is based heavily on previous plan. A number of the goals will remain goals ("best annual meeting"). There are some changes to the organization, including moving cultural heritage up in the order.

- Part One: core programs
- Part Two: aspirational, organized in alphabetical order

Sharon invited comments on the modified organization.

Part Three will have the most sub-parts (membership, BIPOC, geographical diversity), as there are multiple layers of diversity. Teddy noted that caution should be taken to avoid BIPOC issues getting watered down within broader discussions of diversity. Sharon will start this section with BIPOC issues.

Sharon asked Jane about including museums in the cultural heritage section. Jane replied that the CH committee has representatives from the museum world. Sharon said that the comments on Strategic Plan asked about museums. Helen weighed in saying that PC discussions of the Plan began with wanting to include museum professionals in ASOR.

Jane pointed out that the Plan deals with two types of issues: conceptual vs. practical (cultural heritage vs. publications, annual meeting). The question here is how to incorporate ASOR's values into programs, and Allison noted that the values should be conveyed through the mission statement. Sharon stated that the preamble will include prose on values and products/programs.

Tiffany asked where the Early Career Scholars fit into the outline. COVID has changed the landscape for ECS and it would be nice to show that ASOR is taking action on this. Early Career Scholars issues fit in two areas: under diversity and also under Part Five.

More discussion of the conceptual vs. practical parts of the Strategic Plan followed. Kevin views publications and the annual meetings as action items (not conceptual). Sharon said that membership is split-part is under diversity and part is under serving members

#### *Operationalization*

Allison inquired as to how the Strategic Plan will be operationalized? The previous plan had a list of 10 things to be operationalized. In the old plan, each committee had a section. Practical, tangible steps are needed. Chuck seconded the importance of steps for operationalization. The conversation on the Strategic Plan will take place in the Executive Committee, and the CCC will be responsible for implementation.

Sharon noted that lots of things happened that were not foreseen in previous Strategic Plan, and there is a need for ASOR to be a nimble organization. A couple of these unforeseen items included buying the building and the partnership with UCP for the production, distribution, and marketing of journals.

#### *The Strange Center*

Sharon invited comments on planning for the use of Strange Center. One idea is to use the ground floor as open workspace. The Executive Committee and ASOR staff can provide information here here. Sharon will consult the EC and the facilities committee. She also mentioned staff concerns about better technology and integration.

### *ASOR Archives*

Allison asked about the ASOR archives and how those doing work on the history of ASOR can access this information. Lynn added that there is difficulty in tracking people's contributions to ASOR. This would be a big help for H&A in terms of keeping track of those who have done good service. Andy replied that service is usually tracked through program book. As the goal is to move to a carbon-neutral meeting, the printed program book will look different. The plan had been to move the physical archive boxes from Harvard to Alexandria in June 2020, but even once it has moved ASOR does not have the staff to manage it. Much of the collection has been digitized, but the platform changed and it is not as useful now.

There was discussion of keeping the committee and Board of Trustee lists up-to-date on the website as a way of tracking service. This is also useful for knowing when committees started. Archived versions of the ASOR website are on Wayback, though they may not also have all the necessary information.

Chuck invited discussion of other matters and as there were none, the meeting adjourned.