

ASOR Chairs Coordinating Council
Meeting Minutes
November 23, 2019, San Diego, California

Present: Susan Ackerman, Teddy Burgh, Helen Dixon, Tiffany Earley-Spadoni, Jane DeRose Evans, Geoff Emberling, Sharon Herbert, Chuck Jones, Laura Mazow, Kevin McGeough, Marta Ostovich, Andy Vaughn, Eric Welch, Steve Falconer

Absent: Randy Younker

Sharon acknowledged the three chairs rotating off of the CCC (Laura, Geoff, Randy) and welcomed Chuck Jones (incoming VP and chair of the CCC) and Jane Evans (Cultural Heritage Committee). The Cultural Heritage Committee is now a standing committee (as opposed to an ad hoc one) and Jane was just voted chair.

1. **Approval of November Minutes:** Approved.

2. **Committee Reports**

a. *Programs Committee*

Co-chair Helen presented 2019 Annual Meeting statistics from Arlene. As of 7AM, there were 536 papers (7% attrition, below the usual 15% rate). The meeting is running smoothly and there have not been any complaints about ethics within the academic program. Andy presented corrected attendance: 942. Susan remarked that attendance in Denver was 807 and 942 is the highest, aside from the Boston meeting.

Helen reported that the PC has formed an ad hoc committee to engage with institutions in host cities and to help recruit activities and sessions. The general idea is that the academic program does not end at 6PM. Some issues discussed were a reception at the Semitic Museum, trips to the MFA, getting local institutions involved in the program. There were concerns about the PC taking on too much.

Geoff brought up Virginia Herman's poster on carbon neutrality and travel to the annual meeting and discussion followed. Some of the points discussed were:

- Hub cities are better (east coast).
- Concurrent international meetings (less travel, reach more people)
- Other learned centers are discussing these issues.
- There are technological difficulties as well as a loss of personal interaction.
- ASOR could offer a carbon-neutral annual meeting with a carbon-offset donation to a tree planting organization.

Geoff raised the issue of the split from SBL and said there is some anxiety about how it will affect attendance. The PC is focused on soliciting sessions and targeting people who attend both meetings.

This year there were some issues with room size. Chuck asked what percent of session chairs do not turn in their headcount. More breakout room space is needed. This year's hotel faced a number of challenges which necessitating using meeting space in building next door.

b. Membership and Outreach

The incoming chair (Teddy) reported that the committee is looking at strategies for increasing and retaining memberships and they are using Felice's data on journal usage/types of memberships. Steve Dana has many ideas for FOA programing (lecture series, FOA events, seminars, mini-conferences, international trips, sweepstakes, new types of ASOR memberships, ANE Today ads, and Amazon Smile). Helen suggested ASOR Adventures for trips with scholars. Susan noted that there are 15,000 FOA members and aside from ANE Today, ASOR does not really engage them. Sharon brought up the informal partnership with Sue Laden, who is sharing the Biblical Archaeology Society mailing list with Felice. Felice has 5-year plan for funding FOA, which becomes a money-making effort in the third year.

COM needs two new members (Elkins and Ruffner are leaving). Marta will put together an announcement for the openings. There was a discussion of why some committees are more popular than others.

c. Honors and Awards

The chair (Laura) reported that the ceremony went well and there were many worthy books nominated this year. Honors & Awards is also seeking two new members. Lynn Welton is the new chair of committee. The issue of a monetary award to accompany the service awards was raised and Lynn will discuss this with Andy. News@ASOR will spotlight those who won awards and offer them a chance to say something.

There were some issues with submission this year. Not everyone wanted to use the Google Form. Susan suggested a form which does not require entering in contact information multiple times (multiple nominations on one form).

Laura has set the service and book deadlines for September 11, 2020. She raised the issue of diversity in the award pool and want to make sure women members are recognized and encourage female authors for awards.

The committee is working on a "first book" award, which could really help early career scholar. The idea of using honorable mention to help encourage authors was proposed. Preference should be given to an author who has not received ASOR book award in the past three years, but some writers are prolific. This issue could also be addressed by a diversity and inclusion task force.

There was discussion about getting book nominations from publishers and comparing ASOR's deadline to the AIA. Overall, there is a need for more field archaeology nominations.

d. Early Career Scholars

Co-chair Eric reported the the EC goals and aims are still creating connections, networking, and maintaining ASOR membership. One third of annual meeting registrants were ECs or students this year and the committee wants to make sure they are having a meaningful event.

The EC cruise happened on Wednesday. There were 10 participants, many of whom were international. Possible events for Boston were discussed, such as a MFA "behind the scenes" tour.

The EC reception had around 85 people and ASOR covered one drink ticket. It was a good event for meeting people and professional development.

The Brown-bag lunch featuring Morag and Helen speaking about submitting posters and proposal was a success. The presentations are going to be converted to video for ASOR TV.

Tiffany stated that many ECs are excited for Boston and brought up the popularity of the digital symposium that happened the previous meeting there. The committee is focused on programming and panels for Boston, possibly including alternatives to academic employment such as non-profits and development. The committee also feels it is important to talk about diversity/inclusion.

The idea of an EC paper-award was proposed and this idea has been discussed before. There were issues surrounding self-identification and how submission would work. Would this award be overseen by Honors and Awards or the EC? This will be discussed more.

e. Publications

(Incoming chairs Allison Thomason and Lynn Welton joined the meeting. Allison, Lynn, Teddy, and Jane gave introductory statements.)

COP had a productive meeting and the committee supports the formation of an ad-hoc committee on ASOR's name. The committee also wants more discussion of Policy on Occupied Territories and the editors ask for a strict definition of occupied territories. University of Chicago Press provided a useful report, but the committee may not want UCP at the meeting for deliberations. There was discussion of supplemental materials and how to present them, and the committee is divided on this. The chair stated that the numbers from UCP are fantastic, which is probably a result of ASOR journals being bundled with others. According to Andy, revenue has not increased that much.

Kevin called for consultation and communication between COP and CH-perhaps someone on both committees.

The chair reported that the BASOR search is active and there are good candidates. Interviews will conclude in mid-December. There are applications from both solo editors and teams, and the applicants include women and international scholars.

Sharon informed the CCC that ASOR's journal exchange system is ongoing. There was a possibility that it might get cut in the transition to UCP.

Geoff pointed out that ASOR is missing the opportunity to publish edited volumes that come out of annual meeting sessions. These would collectively serve as an impressive testimony to work that goes into annual meeting. Kevin stated that these types of publications would work in AASOR, but the word needs to get out about submitting. The Annual would be peer-reviewed and the proposal process is online. How many sessions per year end up publishing? Kevin pointed out this would be lots of work for editors and the process needs to be standardized to make it work.

f. CAP

Steve reported on a quick meeting for CAP. The committee discussed the Policy on Occupied Territories and unanimously recommends not following the US DOS, but instead following customary international law. The committee also reviewed the Provisional Code of Conduct for the AM and affirmed it. CAP sees its role as conveying the importance of professionalization and keeping an eye on and informing projects of what ASOR stands for. The committee discussed the ad-hoc committee on ASOR's name change, but there were no volunteers. ACOR is changing name. 85 affiliated projects. Broadcast of importance of ASOR policy and standards. Encourage international fellowships. In order to be considered for fellowships/grants, project must be affiliated.

3. Ad Hoc Committee on ASOR's name

Sharon asked whether the CCC recommends establishment of committee. The make up of this committee needs to be representative of membership and all opinions.

Kevin reported that COP has a member who would like to defend "oriental".

The committee should be neutral as opposed to deeply entrenched positions.

It was decided to move forward with an ad hoc committee on studying ASOR's name. The committee should confer with other organizations who are dealing with the same issue (OI and ACOR).

Generally, there was agreement that the name change is an important issue right now and something needs to be done. There have been numerous discussions of the name over the years, but the last one took place in 2016 in conjunction with ASOR's rebranding. It is important to maintain ASOR's identity as ASOR splits from meeting with SBL.

Geoff made a motion to recommend establishment of ad hoc committee to study ASOR's name. Steve seconded it and it was a unanimous recommendation.

4. ASOR Policy on Occupied/Contested Territories

Considering that all previous discussions pointed to agreement on revising this policy, Susan was surprised by some of the conversations in committee meetings and COP was an outlier. There may be a need for more long-term conversations, but something is needed at present to serve as a stop-gap measure for the Board to vote on tomorrow and in order to allow the PC to continue to exclude papers from Golan. The language "customary international law" was favored by CAP and PC. Sharon reported that the same was true in the organizational meeting of the Administrative Oversight Committee. Susan considered deleting the phrase "as defined by..." but this puts ASOR in a tough spot. It is a balance between being deliberately vague and giving the committees the tools they need to make decisions. Sharon stated that the general consensus was that the current language was unacceptable. Susan said that ASOR can look at what other journals do, as ASOR does with unprovenanced material. Kevin stated that COP needs something to help with the decision making. There were discussions on how the inclusion on N. Cyprus on the list would affect those who work in Turkey and their ability to get permits. All agreed that Sharon will report that the policy needs to be changed.

5. Feedback on Code of Conduct for Annual Meeting

Susan stated that the provisional code of conduct was a deliberate choice, effective for this meeting only. It served as a trial run and gave people a chance to give feedback. She asked for responses from the committees.

- Helen responded that the PC appreciated the code being a priority. While listing the phone numbers on badges was a great touch, what happens when one of these people is called? If someone is ejected, can they participate in the future? Does ASOR report back to institutions?
- Overall, the ECs feel positive about code, according to Tiffany, and they are happy that ASOR reacted quickly and appropriately. Eric asked how do ASOR handles known entities? Geoff suggested peer-level ambassadors. Helen asked for training in how to report the incidents.
- Steve reported that the code is in line with CAP's fieldwork policy. There could have been more publicity on the badge numbers, perhaps as part of registration.

There was discussion over when to involve ASOR's legal counsel, issues of liability, due process and ways to respond to bad situations were talked about. While it is good that ASOR is making changes and showing support, the discussions need to keep moving forward.

Laura suggested that efforts to establish a Diversity and Inclusion Committee seek input from the ASOR Initiative on the Status of Women.

Sharon thanked all outgoing chairs for their many years of service.