

ASOR Chairs Coordinating Council
Conference Call Minutes
April 16, 2021, 11:00AM-12:00 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 March Minutes:** Minutes approved
2. **Summer Meeting?** Reassess in May.
3. **Committee Reports**

a. CAP

Steve reported that the Fellowship Committee is busy with grant and stipend application review. The Harris Grant from last year (Kate Liszka) is being used for this year. The Fellowship Committee is trying to be as flexible as possible. The Committee has recommendations for the project grants and is working on stipends now.

b. CH

Jane said that this is a quiet time of year for the CH. The Committee has sent suggestions to Sharon for the Strategic Plan.

c. H&A

Lynn stated that while things are quiet for H&A, they are gearing up for the busy summer/fall.

d. ECS

Tiffany shared the link to the Early Career Member resources webpage which marks the beginning of a career resources library. The page can be shared with grad students and others who might find it useful.

The ECS is working on programming for the annual meeting, as well as onboarding new subcommittee members and chairs.

Lynn suggested adding international funding resources to the page as it might be helpful for those outside the US. Kevin shared link for Canada plus the ASOR Canada page. Sharon asked that CAARI and ACOR be added, as well as ARIS and other overseas research partners in Egypt and Iraq.

e. COM

Teddy is hoping to hold a meeting before committee members depart for summer.

f. PC

Allison reported that there are good numbers for the AM program. As of April 15th:

- Total Submissions: 882
- Chicago: 469 (449 are from unique individuals)
- Virtual: 413 (396 are from unique individuals)
- Total unique presenters for both components: 631
- There is an overlap of 214 who are participating on both components.

Sessions/Workshops (if papers were all accepted as they are currently assigned):

- Chicago ASOR Standing: 44
- Chicago Member-Organized: 48
- Total = 92
- Virtual ASOR Standing: 51
- Virtual Member-Organized: 54
- Total = 105

News is good on the submissions front. Very few standing sessions did not make it, and Helen noted that these were ones that dependent on fieldwork.

Andy thanked the PC in their efforts to make the AM sustainable, accessible, and carbon-neutral meeting.

g. COP

Kevin reported that the Executive Committee will review the LCP relationship with ASOR at their upcoming meeting.

4. Matters arising

Andy reported that some members of the ASOR staff have been vaccinated. The availability in Maryland/VA/DC mean staff will have access by July and the goal is full vaccination by August. The current plan is to be back in the office day after Labor Day.

Sharon brought up branding, ASOR's name, and outdated language, such as that on the back of *NEA*. How rapidly and to what extent should ASOR disavow connections to the Bible? This will require more thought and discussion. Tiffany pointed out in the chat that "Biblical Archaeology" is a construct separate from mentioning the Hebrew Bible.

Andy asked for help in letting ASOR know where outdated advertising/language is.

Kevin asked about plans for new ads as both ISD and UCP have things they automatically insert. Andy will be in touch with Kevin and Teddy about this

Sharon raised the issue of describing ASOR's research area. Is "SW Asia and greater Mediterranean" really what is meant? Turkey & the Caucasus-do we mean West Asia? Allison noted that the British Museum or Louvre us Western Asiatic Antiquities, but where does this leave Egypt? Sharon suggested focusing on seas instead of land masses- perhaps the Mediterranean to Indian Ocean. Andy said that most of the public thinks of SW Asia as India. Most have heard of Mediterranean and Indian Ocean and know Middle East. Chuck invited people to bring objectionable terms to our attention.

Meeting Adjourned.