

ASOR Chairs Coordinating Council  
Conference Call Minutes  
Thursday, May 13, 1:00-2:00 PM EST

**Present:** Helen Dixon, Tiffany Early-Spadoni, Jane DeRose Evans, Steve Falconer, Sharon Herbert, Chuck Jones, Kevin McGeough, Allison Thomason, Meagan Shirly, Andy Vaughn, Lynn Welton.

**Absent:** Teddy Burgh

## 1. Reports from Committee Chairs

### a. *PC*

Allison Thomason gave statistics on the 2021 Annual Meeting.

- 903 presentations are scheduled for both in-person and virtual, 469 in-person and 434 virtual presentations.
- 217 presenters overlap between the two components.
- There are 657 unique presenters across both platforms.
- The Chicago Hilton is opening on June 10 and Arlene Press will be doing a site visit.
- In comparison, we had 850 presentations last year. This year's number is higher than the 2020 Virtual Annual Meeting but lower than Boston.

Helen Dixon expressed concern that it is smaller than normal for the in-person.

### b. *CAP*

Steve Falconer gave an overview of the fellowship applicants on behalf of CAP.

- There were 50 applicants for summer stipends.
- 13 graduate and 13 undergraduate stipends were awarded.
- 14 of the stipends went to students that identify as BIPOC.

Andy Vaughn noted that 39 applicants self-identified as BIPOC. There was a higher application from non R1 schools. 7 applications came from HBCUs. This is significant as we have never had an applicant from an HBCU.

No further reports from Chairs.

## 2. DEI Task Force Report Discussion

Chuck noted that page 31 is specific to the CCC and recommendations being made. Thought the report has good suggestions and the CCC is already headed in the direction indicated by the report, but there is room for improvement.

- a. Jane DeRose Evans asked for a clarification on “shared vocabulary” mentioned in the report. Sharon and Chuck are unclear by what the recommendation of shared vocabulary means. Helen mentioned that from the joint PC and DEI meeting the conversation had to do with what diversity and BIPOC means compared to our international members. Jane reminded that ASOR has a large international and non-American membership. There is confusion amongst international scholars as some aspects of the report do not apply. There will have to be explanation and

consider if international members are considered POC. Steve noted that it is important for people to self-identify. It is not the place of ASOR to decide who is POC, as seen in the group of scholarship awardees, some overseas students consider themselves POC. Sharon will write to Erin Darby, Chair of the DEI Task Force, for clarification on “shared vocabulary”.

- b. Andy reminded that the report has many proposals and that ASOR will not be able to accomplish all the recommendations. Money will have to be raised to accomplish this work. The Finance Committee has approved \$50,000 to start. Chuck says the CCC will endorse the Finance Committee recommendation.
- c. Discussion ensued about the international aspect of DEI. Kevin noted that the Task Force has been looking at this from an American point of view with American language. Helen and Lynn Welton discussed how the issues differ in different countries, particularly Canada.
- d. Chuck wants to ensure the thinking of the DEI process becomes institutionalized and is discussed on a regular basis. Jane suggested that initiatives are dependent on the committee chair. Allison mentioned the proposal of making the DEI Task Force a standing committee and make this a recommendation to the EC and Board of Trustees. Helen noted that it would show strong commitment towards DEI objectives that it is a standing committee and would be a topic on every CCC call. She continued that it needs to be integrated in every way. Discussion continued about the process of creating a standing committee with Sharon saying the Board would have to vote on this.
- e. Chuck brought up a potential town hall meeting regarding the DEI Task Force. Helen said that the PC and Task Force would need to meet to discuss this.
- f. Discussion about the merits of a mentoring program at the Annual Meeting facilitated by the DEI Task Force.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM EST. There are no current plans for a summer CCC meeting. Minutes submitted by Meagan Shirley.