

ASOR Chairs Coordinating Council  
Conference Call Minutes  
Thursday, September 23, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM EDT

**Present:** Teddy Burgh, Tiffany Early-Spadoni, Jane DeRose Evans, Sharon Herbert, Chuck Jones, Kevin McGeough, Marta Ostovich, Andy Vaughn, Lynn Welton.

**Absent:** Helen Dixon, Steve Falconer, Allison Thomason

**1. Report from Andy on the Annual Meeting.**

ASOR staff are preparing for the in-person meeting in Chicago.

- Requiring vaccination for all who attend.
- Hotel:
  - Hotel staff is partially vaccinated.
  - Taking extra cleaning and safety measures (plexi glass at registration desk, extra space in all meeting spaces).
  - Security team to enforce city mask mandate.
  - Hotel staff is partially vaccinated.
- Social events: how to handle events that usually include food and beverage?
  - Reception: trying to figure out options.
  - Coffee breaks: keep in an area that can be avoided or give attendees a card for coffee.

*Chuck joined the meeting.*

**2. Reports from Committee Chairs**

*COM*

Teddy is planning how to have the next committee meeting.

*COP*

Kevin is planning an online meeting for committee as much of committee is international.

- Andy mentioned the ASOR book sale.
- Kevin solicited contributions for *NEA*.
- There was discussion of the terms for editors (Stephanie Budin and Alex Joffe).

*H&A*

Lynn reported that the committee is busy with service and book award review.

- Service Awards: deadline for nominations was Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>. Good number of people were nominated. The committee is in the process of voting and the deadline is next week.
- Book Awards: deadline for nominations just closed. There are 20 nominees for the Wright Award, 21 for Cross, and 10 for Lapp. The deadline for voting is next month.

There was discussion of books written in languages other than English.

- Issue has not come up before.

- The committee is split (some want to evaluate books in other languages, particularly the areas where ASOR works and highlight the contributions of people in those countries).
- Even if there is someone who reads the language, this is only one person and how will the assessment be fair?
- There is a possibility of volunteers from outside the committee to submit a report, but this seems impossible from an administrative point of view.

Lynn asked the CCC to email her their thoughts and the H&A committee will discuss this further. Chuck noted that this has not come up at AIA for book awards. The committee would like to come up with a policy.

### *ECS*

Tiffany that there is much going on in the virtual realm for ECS.

- Monthly coffee hours offer social engagement, but also professional advice.
- Working with Open Context on the “Digging Up Data” workshop series. A recording of the first workshop is posted on ASORTV. Over 150 people registered for the workshop, with a strong international showing.
- The committee has organized panels for both the virtual and in-person annual meetings.
- ECS Brown Bag Lunch in Chicago: efforts to reduce the number of people at a table. It is an optional event and will not involve table service.

There was discussion of figuring out how many of those registered intend to attend the in-person meeting and Andy said that this will be included in an email about name badges. He reminded the CCC that they had chosen not to include institutional affiliations on the recommendation of the DEI Task Force.

### *CH*

Jane congratulated Andy and the ASOR staff on the grants ASOR has received.

- The committee is working with the AIA’s Cultural Heritage committee to write a letter in support of Cyprus’s MOU. Sharon will write letter of support as well.
- Committee meeting will be virtual because of international members.

Andy reported on the grants received:

- Grant from an anonymous donor whose identity was mentioned in the meeting to promote religious freedom and interaction between groups in Tunisia and Morocco. Programming will be similar in both countries. In both cases Jewish and Berber minority communities will be involved.
- Regional grant expanding work in Libya to whole Maghreb from the embassy. This provides support for the bi-lateral cultural property agreement on a regional level through public engagement events. This is the first time DOS is supporting work after the agreements have already been signed.
- Some grants include money for people to join ASOR and participate in the AM. This will grow ASOR membership in North Africa.

