

ASOR Chairs Coordinating Council
November Meeting
Saturday, November 19, 8:15-11:15am
Hancock Room, Boston Park Plaza, Boston, MA

Present: Tiffany Earley-Spadoni, Jane DeRose Evans, Sharon Herbert, Chuck Jones, Kate Larson, Kevin McGeough, Kiersten Neumann, Marta Ostovich, Allison Thomason, Andy Vaughn, Lynn Welton, Erin Darby, Helen Dixon, Vanessa Workman

Absent: Teddy Burgh, Steve Falconer

1. Approval of October Minutes: October minutes approved.

Chuck thanked Helen for 6 years of service.

Chuck welcomed Kate and Kiersten as new co-chairs of DEI and PC, respectively.

2. Language Submitted by PC

Helen reported that the issue of Ariel University being built on occupied territory was brought to the PC by an ASOR member. The question is whether ASOR wants to platform Ariel University's name.

Kiersten said that the PC tried to find comparable language in other organization's policies, but there was not much available.

Helen stated that the PC wants to distinguish institutions in occupied territories vs. those occupying. The institutional affiliation could be dropped if it is contentious. This could also be applied to publications. Chuck noted the AIA's dealing with N. Cyprus.

Andy voiced concerns:

- Cyprus, Kurdistan, Sudan, Algeria, Libya-It is hard to have a policy that handles everything
- ASOR has avoided sanctioning policies. The public will see this policy as sanctioning. ASOR should aim for supporting not sanctioning.

Helen replied that the PC has been asking for changes and having to make these decisions on an ad-hoc basis.

There was discussion of whether a policy is needed and if there is a policy whether it should be in writing.

Sharon will pass the PC's report on to a new ad hoc committee to consider these issues. Allison asked that someone from the PC be on the committee, and Kiersten noted that Gojko has already volunteered.

Kevin noted that COP has gone back and forth. They have people who give guidance on particular regions.

Chuck invited people who are interested to talk to Sharon about being on the committee.

Sharon asked for input as to whether to invite the directors of the ORCs. The conclusion was that they could be asked for their advice.

2. Committee Reports

PC

Allison reported on the one of the successes of VAM22-the participation of those from the MENA region. Most people attended only their own session. The PC is discussing what will happen in 2023. The virtual meeting will be one week later in October and will have only live synchronous presentations and discussion (no pre-recorded content).

For 2024 the PC is considering the results of Climate Impact Report. Consensus is to keep the virtual component for DEI reasons.

The PC's 2022 DEI activities included adding more activities for Early Career Scholars, continuing to not post badge affiliations, PC members signing a DEI pledge

Helen noted that a hybrid meeting would be ideal, but also the most expensive. She also mentioned feedback from Geoff Emberling about regional workshop series.

Jane asked about why eliminating the prerecorded content will make attendance better. Helen and Allison responded that people dropped out when they could not make the recording deadline. Jane noted that this does not solve the problem of people in the audience having to commit to four days in both October and November. Allison replied that the PC is cutting back on length of virtual.

Tiffany asked about people giving the same paper in both. Allison replied that this is still possible, but we are moving away from it

Sharon asked that a hybrid meeting still be kept as a possibility. The AM is still major item on the Board agenda and there could be some fundraising to support its cost.

Andy suggested having people make a case on why they need to share their research in both the virtual and in person formats.

There was discussion of last minute switches and cancellations and how best to deal with them.

Allison noted fairly high attrition for the in-person meeting, and questioned whether this marks a change in cultural of annual meeting.

Chuck asked for reactions to the plenary. Feedback was very positive.

There was discussion of the schedule of meetings and whether it would be beneficial to add another day on Wednesday or Sunday.

Helen stated that the PC is working on the plenary speaker for 2024 and the future of the annual meeting. The PC will bring ideas to the CCC.

Sharon said that a decision will be made at the 2023 spring Board meeting. Chuck asked chairs to bring recommendations to the CCC in February.

Chuck thanked everyone for submitting reports. He asked committees to put guidelines on their separate committee pages, and to make sure these are guidelines, not bylaws. Jane raised the issue of legal ramifications.

COP

Kevin reported that *Ma'arav* is now an ASOR journal. The editorial board is in place. Back catalogue available online.

Overall, subscriptions are stable, and UCP is happy with online journal usage. *NEA* and *BASOR* are close to 28,000 individual downloads. This represents a dramatic increase from last year, and is an important metric for libraries looking to subscribe. Kevin noted that *JCS* has benefited from being part of a UCP package.

There is a possibility of new JCS editor in the upcoming year. Kevin is putting together a search committee.

Andy commented on journal packaging and the benefits of UCP, and is pleased that they took on *Ma'arav*. He did note that ASOR journals are underperforming on royalties.

Sharon asked about cutting back on print. Kevin noted issues with print runs. Print-on-demand has poor image quality. Heading to print run of 100. This means books never go out of print and more can be ordered if necessary. Andy noted that most of the cost comes from Susanne's time.

ECS

Tiffany thanked Vanessa for coming on as co-chair. ECS expanded in size and reorganized into four subcommittees. Chairs of these subcommittees meet one a month.

2022 ECS activities included:

- Brown Bag panels via zoom.
- ECS resources on ASOR website.
- First "Research in Action" talk.
- Social activities: coffee hours, community outside of the annual meeting
- Mentorship program to broaden ECS network.
- Skills-based workshops on digital scholarship (partnered with Open Context and Leigh-Ann Lieberman). Digital project cohort of 7 people, all of whom presented at the annual meeting. This is a useful and successful model for mentoring around shared research interests.

Vanessa report on the in-person Brown Bag on alt-academic and academic-adjacent careers. About 50 people attended. The proposed ECS mentorship session on practicing paper

presentations did not get enough papers to support a session this year. It may be reworked for next year.

Social activities in Boston included the ECS reception and an MFA tour. Tiffany thanked ASOR for their support.

The committee hopes to develop more online content and ASOR is providing honoraria for those who work on these.

The “Research in Action” series will continue with another talk in the spring.

Tiffany: challenges in finding people to record and talk about job searching.

Erin: Academics looking for administrative roles and how to do those interviews.

Allison asked about ECS feedback on plenary. Tiffany heard positive feedback from lots of ECS scholars who work in Egypt.

Vanessa noted that students are still not that happy with the poster session (both virtual and in-person). Tiffany suggested a lightning round for the virtual poster session.

H&A

Lynn reported that the awards ceremony went well. Two committee members who are finishing first terms and would like to continue for a second term (Pinar Durgun and Bob Mullins).

Mehrnoush Soroush is stepping down from Wright committee. Lynn is done with her term at the end of year, and she willing to serve another term. She is thinking about restructuring the committee to redistribute the workload and push for new awards and growth.

There was discussion of the service award nomination process and the work involved in writing the nomination statement. Helen suggested a subcommittee to help with nominations.

Chuck brought up an award for first monograph. Lynn replied that this is constantly under discussion within the committee. There is an ad-hoc award for this. The committee must weigh monographs vs. excavation reports vs. edited volumes. Lynn noted a bias towards synthetic works for Wright Award.

Lynn identified open-access publishing and digital scholarship as an area where the awards can grow. Tiffany noted the need for peer review of digital projects. Erin recognized the importance of getting recognition for this type of work for promotion, etc.

Bob Mullins and Pinar Durgun were approved for a second term.

PC renewals all approved.

DEI

The committee currently has six inaugural members from the task force serving staggered terms. The proposed new members are Carolyn Strange, Aaron Brody, and Margaret Cohen.

All new members are approved.

Erin reported that Kate is working on a draft of guidelines for the committee and these should be finished by the end of the year.

There is a movement to include the ASOR Initiative on the Status of Women within the DEI committee.

Erin noted the committee may add some additional ECS members.

Chuck asked about the abstracts in Arabic. Kevin replied that this is currently on hold, but they are working to bring it back. Andy suggested the translation company ASOR has used in Tripoli, Libya.

Erin brought up need to resource moderators of sessions regarding issues of harassment and antagonism in sessions. There was discussion of how to respond bullying issues that arise and personal safety.

CH

Jane brought up the possibility of a spring FOA-CH webinar. She noted that it is nice to see lots of cultural heritage panels at the annual meeting. The open call for new committee members is focused on people not in North America.

3. Matters Arising:

Sharon thanked everyone.

Adjourned at 10:34am