

ASOR Chairs Coordinating Council
February Conference Call
Wednesday, February 14, 2024, 11:00am-12:00pm

Present: Tiffany Earley-Spadoni, Jane DeRose Evans, Sharon Herbert, Chuck Jones, Katherine Larson, Kevin McGeough, Kiersten Neumann, Marta Ostovich, Allison Thomason, Julia Troche, Andy Vaughn, Vanessa Workman

Absent: Georgia Andreou, Teddy Burgh, Lynn Welton

1. **Approval of January minutes.** Jane motioned to approve, seconded by Julia. Minutes approved.

2. **Office Matters**

Andy introduced two new staff members:

- Darren Ashby as Cultural Heritage Programs Manager starting full time March 1st. Darren will also be present for the Executive Committee weekend.
- Regan Baker as Office Coordinator, a recent graduate of George Washington University in archaeology, who will be starting next week full time.

3. **Action Items**

Chuck, with the support of the Chairs Nominations Committee, brought forward Mahri Leonard-Fleckman as a candidate for co-chair of the Honors & Awards Committee. Tiffany seconded. All in favor. The vote will move to the Executive Committee next.

4. **Committee Reports**

CAP

Andy and Sharon had a good conversation with Georgia Andreou and discussed some ideas on how ASOR can be proactive in supporting scholars in Gaza.

One option is looking for ways to support students from Gaza joining academic programs in Egypt in order to finish their degrees. Sharon invited other ideas.

Another option is setting up learning and cultural heritage documentation similar to ASOR's work in North Africa.

CH

Jane and Andrew Cohen helped with the CH Programs Manager job search. The committee has not met since the CCC's last meeting.

DEI

Kate stated that the committee is brainstorming earlier this year on how they can be visible at the Annual Meeting. They are working with Initiative on the Status of Women (ISW) and also coming up with inclusive and family-friendly practices.

Kate also had a discussion with the Governance committee concerning recognizing committee volunteer service to ASOR to help with tenure and performance review. Julia has drafted letter templates that will go to Sharon and Andy for review. Julia included a summary of what the committee does and noted that it would be nice to highlight the work/roles of particular individuals.

Julia is waiting to hear back about the cultural competency videos and determining timelines and how to move forward with video production with a subcommittee of DEI and Hansberry members.

Kate encouraged people to apply for BIPOC scholarships. There was discussion of how to promote BIPOC scholarships.

ECS

Tiffany reported that the Digging Up Data mentorship program is growing and now has 15 applicants.

The next online ECS social activity of the will focus on an article about ADNA and consist of a conversation guided by an EC scholar in the field. The ECS social sub-committee has tried social/coffee hour events in the past. This article discussion allows for a shared purpose to create connections, and all are welcome.

Vanessa reported on two upcoming events:

- February 23rd Spring Brown Bag: Digitizing the Past with Matthew Vincent.
- April 5th Research in Action Series event on Building Careers in Cultural Heritage with the Antiquities Coalition.

ECS Cultural Heritage digital resources are still in the works.

There was a discussion about involvement on social media pages and their efficacy in promoting events.

H&A

Marta noted that the book awards nominations are open.

PC

Allison stated that reviews for new sessions has just closed, and the full program is now up, as is the Call for Papers. There will be 50 member organized sessions and workshops for a total of 87 sessions. There were more workshop proposals this year.

The AM24 plenary speaker is Fikri Koloucouglu.

Kiersten announced a new standing session. The previous session, “Archaeology of the Near East and Games” (chaired by Tine Rassalle) will be replaced by “Archaeology of the Near East and New Media,” which will also include storytelling, movies, teachings, and interactive exhibits. There will be two new co-chairs.

There will be a three-person limit for chairing sessions to ensure opportunities for succession.

The PC is meeting next week to discuss the 2025 plenary speaker. They will be updating guidelines and discussing the overlap with SBL.

Sharon noted that this will be the 100th anniversary of the Albright Institute, and Allison responded that there will be a special session on the Albright, and she is open to other events. Andy added that this year also marks ASOR's 125th anniversary.

COP

Kevin stated that a copy of digital media policy which represents many years of work was circulated just before the call. There was a discussion on dealing with large amounts of data, drafting a data publication policy, and exactly how to implement good data publication practices. Chuck suggested that it might be a little early to bring to the EC and thus urged CCC to read the draft policy.

Jane and Tiffany voiced admiration of the work done on this policy. Jane asked to bring to CH committee and Kevin asked for members to share with as many people as possible.

There was more discussion about creating infrastructure for using a digital media policy and Andy noted that it could be substantial investment by ASOR. He suggested that Publications and Digital Initiatives could be part of the ASOR2025 initiative. Andy will share with the development committee to nail down a specific dollar amount and exactly what can be done.

5. Other Matters

Andy brought up the matter of fieldwork participation scholarships. March Fellowship Madness this year is focused on supporting 3-4 additional fellowships with an included asterisk noting that alternative types of work can be covered if fieldwork is not possible.

There was a discussion on the feasibility of fieldwork in countries other than Israel.

Right now, the CCC discussed keeping fieldwork scholarship applications open, but with the possibility of switching to also supporting non-fieldwork research.

Meeting adjourned 11:55.