

ASOR Chairs Coordinating Council
March Conference Call
Thursday, March 14, 2024, 1:00-2:00pm

Present: Georgia Andreou, Teddy Burgh, Jane DeRose Evans, Sharon Herbert, Chuck Jones, Katherine Larson, Kiersten Neumann, Marta Ostovich, Allison Thomason, Julia Troche, Andy Vaughn, Lynn Welton

Absent: Tiffany Earley-Spadoni, Mahri Leonard-Fleckman, Kevin McGeough, Vanessa Workman

Guest: Regan Baker

1. Welcome to Regan, the new Office Coordinator (Marta)
2. Approval of minutes: Jane sent a correction to Marta via email. Teddy moved. Allison seconded. Unanimously approved with changes provided by Jane.
3. Welcome to a new member of the CCC: Georgia Andreou - new Chair of CAP

Lynn joined.

4. Report on discussions at the Executive Committee (EC) Retreat (Sharon and Chuck)

Sharon reported on the work of the Ad Hoc Governance Committee. One of the proposed changes is switching the President to a single 3-year, non-renewable term. This could help with recruiting for the president role. The Past President's role will be switched to one year. There will also be a 1-year term for a President Elect, who may or may not be Vice President.

Sharon also reported that there are proposed changes to the bylaws following the report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Contested Territories.

The EC discussed making institutional statements and the organization of ASOR. There is a draft organization flow chart that is being edited.

Chuck noted that COP's digital media policy is also under discussion.

Andy mentioned the DEI committee's report on land acknowledgements. There is interest and support on behalf of the EC for providing educational materials on first peoples and history for Annual Meeting cities, and the Alexandria office. The Board will discuss this further in May.

Chuck said that more discussion is needed on the ASOR Policy on Professional Conduct and using ASOR platforms to uplift those whose personal behavior is questionable. Sharon noted that COP had reached consensus that it was not the journal editor's duty to examine the personal backgrounds of authors who are submitting. Issues of personal misconduct should go to the Executive Director and President, and they take counsel with others. This issue affects all committees, and it is good to have clarity on the proper way of dealing with them. There was

more discussion of how to deal with complaints and different issues that the committees have faced.

Julia and Lynn both noted the distinction between publications and those who ASOR recognizes with awards.

Lynn also noted the difference between something people find offensive versus something that has been investigated and censured. There is no policy for what ASOR considers acceptable conduct, aside from Annual Meeting Code of Conduct. There is no systematic way of considering these issues, which are uncomfortable and hard to deal with. She would be in favor of an ASOR policy to help navigate these situations.

For the PC, Allison said that while the chairs control which papers get accepted, they cannot control the personal behavior/beliefs of who presents. Standing chairs submit statement and CV and issues have come up here. The PC consults Andy and Sharon in these cases. The goal is to make sure that sessions go smoothly.

Julia suggested via the chat writing guidelines for awards and honors about how receiving an award is both an acknowledgment of an individual's contributions/expertise, and also that they are expected to align with the AM code of conduct.

Chuck mentioned the COP document on digital media, and he will talk with Marta about setting up a shared folder/ drive for storing documents.

There was discussion of expelling people from ASOR. There is no mechanism for denying membership, yet the Annual Meeting Code of Conduct has language about revoking membership. There were concerns about lawsuits and discussion of law enforcement involvement at the Annual Meeting.

The CCC discussed actions ASOR can take to support Gaza. Andy brought up funding for students to continue studies in Egypt, and also heritage documentation training. Sharon noted that ASOR has been raising money to support these actions. Georgia stressed that scholarships for students are very important, and the goal is to help students who have already made it to Egypt. Allison mentioned the possibility of working with ARCE and Julia offered to discuss this effort with ARCE as they could perhaps help promote it.

Chuck announced that the AM25 plenary speaker discussion will happen at the April CCC meeting. Marta circulated list of fellowships and grants.

Kiersten noted that the call for papers is open until tomorrow.

Chuck stated that COP is making progress on finding new chair of publications as Kevin is done at the end of the year.

Adjourned at 1:58pm