

Chairs Coordinating Council
November 23, 2024, 7:15-10:15am
Boston Park Plaza, Hancock Room

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

Guests: Eric Kansa, Sarah Kansa

Absent: Teddy Burgh, Georgia Andreou, Mahri Leonard-Fleckman

Introduction

Call to Order: 7:25

Welcome of incoming Chairs of Publications: Sarah and Eric Kansa

Chuck thanked chairs for their annual reports.

Committee Reports and Discussion

Committee on Publications

Kevin stated that the committee had a productive meeting.

- Nominee for *NEA* Editor, Christina Tsouparopoulou, going to Board
- Discussion of authors' behavior: should there be a policy? Editors are not responsible for doing background checks, but they can ask for advice from the COP Chair, CCC, and ASOR leadership.
- UCP report on AI: Other publishers are selling background data to Google AI, and authors are not being consulted. UCP is not interested in selling data and this is not an issue for ASOR. There was further discussion of AI and how it might affect authors, publishers, and other ASOR committees.

Julia raised the point of ECS not knowing where to publish amongst ASOR publications and recommended a one-pager or a flow-chart. There was discussion of how to share information on ASOR publications with membership. Vanessa noted the multiple ECS events have focused on this topic and there is an ECS guide available.

Cultural Heritage Committee

Jane reported on lots of members rotating off the committee, including Jane. She is working on a new chair or co-chairs and is hoping to have a nominee by the time the CCC next convenes.

There was discussion of the challenges of finding chairs and the length of service terms.

- Andrew Cohen and Rick St. Hilaire provided good perspectives on writing MOU letters.
- Jane will talk to Marta about where to store the committee materials.
- Andy and Will Reynolds asked the committee about affiliating conservation projects and civil societies. The committee consulted with CAP and they will use a similar process for affiliation.
- RPA code of ethics, which the AIA is thinking of implementing. It is very much geared towards North America and discussions of indigenous peoples.
- The committee is working with ASOR CHI, and Darren will be invited to committee meetings more regularly.

There was further discussion of terms, succession, the new role of President-Elect, changes to the role of Past President, and review of the length of the President's term.

Sharon noted the upcoming discussions of the new strategic plan. She is thinking about how we want to approach this (task force, retreat, CCC, etc.)

Andy brought up changes to the Executive Committee and Chuck noted the need for a new Vice President as well.

DEI Committee

Julia stated that CVs of potential new committee members will be circulated to the CCC for approval. The committee is also looking for new Board members to serve on the committee as well.

- The committee is encouraged by changes in ASOR and support from leadership. They shared DEI success stories.
- The committee discussed how to support members working in politically challenging areas. and providing tools for teachers to advocate for students.
- There was discussion of the service letters and the possibility of sending them directly to chairs, deans, or administrators. ASOR can ask where the person would like the letter sent.
- The committee is working on a land acknowledgment for the Alexandria office. Kiersten noted positive reactions to Boston and acknowledgment and History on ASOR AM website.

Julia thanked the chairs for working with the DEI Committee. She recognized Carolyn's incredible work on the committee.

Early Career Scholars Committee

Tiffany reflected on the history of ECS, which began as a committee concerned with building professional resources and community as well as making the Annual Meeting a welcoming place.

- Publishing Brown Bag event at this meeting was successful. Vanessa noted that ECS has hosted five events every year for the past three years.
- Vanessa has a candidate for co-chair in mind who has served on the professionalization subcommittee. Tiffany noted that ECS has good connections with members on other committees.
- Vanessa noted that there has been lots of turnover in committee members. An open call for new members is out.

Honors and Awards Committee

Lynn reported that the awards ceremony went really well. The committee is also working on succession (Mahri as co-chair), and they have identified someone to take over after Lynn's term. The split from SBL split affected H&A in terms of the Cross Book Award. Many of the members go to SBL. Lynn noted an opportunity to showcase ASOR next year when we meet with SBL. Andy agreed and stated that ASOR should focus on building up these areas in the program. It is a chance to show people that ASOR is a good venue for historical critical research.

Lynn thanked ECS for funding the Student Paper Award. She reported on the number of nominations and the need for a service nominations subcommittee. The committee is moving towards two deadlines: one to submit a name, then another to submit support materials. Vanessa offered feedback from ECS about difficulties of the nomination process.

Membership and Outreach

Chuck noted that Teddy is starting the final year of his term and there is a plan for a new chair.

Sharon noted the hiring of a new staff member, Rachel Bernstein (Communications and Friends of ASOR Manager), who will be a big part of membership and outreach.

Lynn asked about a social media policy. Andy replied that there is no policy now, but challenges arise over who can speak for ASOR. There was discussion of ASOR's social media.

Program Committee

Kiersten provided numbers on this year's meeting:

- 625 paper accepted(54 online), 590 presentations as of yesterday. There were some shifts to online, and some cancellation.
- 1044 registrations (141 virtual). Interesting to see how many watched online.
- 60 people request their recording not be posted. Can opt out at any point in the future.

Allison noted an increase in the number of people dropping out or switching to virtual.

Kiersten provided positive feedback on the hybrid meeting (good staff training, planning, and live Q&A with virtual presenters).

- Accommodations for speakers depending on what their needs are (to be included in call for papers, and in acceptance) Figure out what people need, but not promise that ASOR will be able to make the accommodation.
- Positive feedback on having a Turkish scholar as the plenary speaker (Turkish Consul in attendance) and covering travel for plenary speaker.
- Meeting capacity: currently using all of the space in the hotel.

Allison noted that the new app for the meeting got mixed responses, and there were some issues with updates. ASOR has a 2-year contract for this app and tech support is good. Statistics say only 115 are using it and this user data needs to be checked.

Next year will be in Boston again for ASOR's 125th anniversary and Allison invited discussion on extra events, perhaps on Wednesday afternoon. The plenary speaker for next year is Tim Harrison.

The committee is looking for new co-chair and has one member rotating off.

There was discussion of:

- how to deal with negative feedback to deadlines for uploading presentations.
- the members' meeting agenda (memorials, awards). There is some flexibility here.
- captions, papers in other languages, and the amount of staff time involved in AM.