



ASOR Board of Trustees Meeting  
Minutes  
Westin Boston Waterfront Hotel  
8:30AM – 12:30PM EDT  
April 29, 2017

Present: Fred Winter, Bryan Wilkins, Rami Arav, Joe Seger, Randy Helm, Jeff Blakely, Ann-Marie Knoblauch, Selma Omerefendic, Sharon Herbert, Susan Ackerman, Richard Coffman, Joe Greene, Elizabeth Macauley-Lewis, Debra Foran, Heather Dana Parker, Theodore Burgh, Andrew Vaughn, J. Edward Wright, Peggy Duly. Guest: Charles Jones (COP, Chair)

The Chair called the meeting Order at 8:35AM

1. Approval of Agenda.

**BE IT RESOLVED:** The agenda is approved by unanimous consent.

2. Approval of the Minutes from the November 2016 Board Meeting (November 20, 2016)

Peggy Duly: top of page 11 – Junior Scholars “if” to “it”

**BE IT RESOLVED:** The Minutes of the November, 2016 Board Meeting are approved as revised by unanimous consent.

3. Committee Appointments (Sharon Herbert)

Standing committees have 3 year term limited memberships with one term of renewal. The nominees to our committees are:

4a. Committee on Archaeological Research and Policy

- Levent Atici, renew for a one-year term (January 1, 2017- December 31, 2017) -- <https://www.unlv.edu/people/levent-atici>.
- John D. M. (Jack) Green, renew for a one-year term (January 1, 2017- December 31, 2017) -- <http://www.cmog.org/bio/john-dmgreen>.
- Doug Clark, renew for a two-year term (January 1, 2017- December 31, 2018) -- <https://lasierra.edu/article/la-sierra-archaeologycenter-director-to-lead-jordan-museum-development/>.
- Emily Hammer, for an initial three-year term (January 1, 2017- December 31, 2019) -- <http://nelc.uchicago.edu/faculty/hammer>.
- Virginia Herrmann, for an initial three-year term (January 1, 2017- December 31, 2019) -- <http://unituebingen.academia.edu/VirginiaHerrmann>.
- Catherine Kearns, for an initial three-year term (January 1, 2017- December 31, 2019) -- <https://classics.uchicago.edu/faculty/kearns>.
- Jennifer Pournelle, for an initial three-year term (January 1, 2017- December 31, 2019) -- <http://seoe.sc.edu/jennifer-r-pournelle>.
- Jennifer Ramsey, for an initial three-year term (January 1, 2017- December 31, 2019) -- <https://brockport.academia.edu/JenniferRamsay>.
- Hamed Salem, for an initial three-year term (January 1, 2017- December 31, 2019) -- <http://www.birzeit.edu/en/facultystaff/hamed-salem> and <http://birzeit.academia.edu/Hamedsalem>.

**BE IT RESOLVED:** the appointment of the foregoing persons to the Committee on Archaeological Research and Policy, with the terms as noted in the entries above, is approved by unanimous consent.

4b. Junior Scholars Committee (Heather Dana Parker)

The nominations committee for the Junior Scholars Committee looked toward ASOR's strategic plan, which encourages diversity and the inclusion of international members. Junior Scholars aim to have a widely known, concrete definition, and to expand their focus on early career scholars, which includes postdoctoral and Assistant Professor in tenure track, generally for about five years post-Ph.D. Heather Parker expressed gratitude that ASOR has created the new

Early Career Membership membership category. She expressed the hope that a Junior Scholar registration for the ASOR Annual Meeting could be created. Eric Welch is serving on the *ad hoc* committee for Annual Meeting (that addresses the question: will ASOR meet at SBL going forward?). This representation will assist in communicating the Junior Scholar perspective.

- Brian Coussens, renew for a two-year term as a Graduate Student Member (January 1, 2017- December 31, 2018) -- <http://religion.unc.edu/people/graduate-students/>.
- Tiffany Earley-Spadoni, for an initial three-year term as an Early Career Member (January 1, 2017- December 31, 2019) -- <http://ucf.academia.edu/TiffanyEarleySpadoni> and <http://www.cah.ucf.edu/common/files/cv/1391.pdf>.
- Eric Welch, for an initial three-year term as an Early Career Member (January 1, 2017- December 31, 2019) - <https://jewishstudies.ku.edu/eric-welch>.
- Vanessa Workman, for an initial three-year term as a Graduate Student Member (January 1, 2017- December 31, 2019) -- <http://telaviv.academia.edu/VanessaWorkman>.
- Vanessa Joloux, for an unofficial position as liaison between the Junior Scholars Committee and the Membership and Outreach Committee and the Initiative on the Status of Women -- <http://www.doyoubuzz.com/vanessa-juloux/us>.

**BE IT RESOLVED:** the appointment of the foregoing persons to the Junior Scholars Committee with the terms as noted in the entries above is approved by unanimous consent.

Richard Coffman thanked Heather Parker for her constitution of the Junior Scholars Committee.

#### 5. Editorial Board Appointments (Sharon Herbert)

- Rachel Hallote, for an initial three-year term on the Editorial Board of *BASOR* (January 1, 2017- December 31, 2019) -- <http://purchase.academia.edu/RachelHallote>.
- Bethany Walker, for a second three-year term on the Editorial Board of *BASOR* (January 1, 2017- December 31, 2019) -- <https://www.mamluk.uni-bonn.de/thekolleg/organization/forschungsprofessur>.
- Assaf Yasur-Landau, for a second three-year term on the Editorial Board of *BASOR* (January 1, 2017- December 31, 2019) -- <http://marsci.haifa.ac.il/en/about/faculty-and->

[staff/academicfaculty/department-of-maritime-civilizations/--17](http://staff/academicfaculty/department-of-maritime-civilizations/--17)  
and <http://haifa.academia.edu/AssafYasurLandau>.

**BE IT RESOLVED:** the appointment of the foregoing persons to the Editorial Board with the terms as noted in the entries above is approved by unanimous consent.

6. Editor Appointments (Sharon Herbert)

- Eric H. Cline and Christopher H. Rollston, for a second three-year term as the co-editors of *BASOR* (July 1, 2017- June 30, 2019) --  
<https://cnelc.columbian.gwu.edu/eric-h-cline> and  
<https://cnelc.columbian.gwu.edu/christopher-rollston>.

Randy Helm asks whether there should be development of a junior editor in order to ensure smooth transition. Sharon Herbert commends Randy Helm for bringing this issue forward. She remarked that the former *BASOR* editor was in his position for a long time, including a transition when Eric and Chris served as associate editors before taking on the *BASOR* editor positions. Yields floor to Chuck Jones.

Chuck Jones: In the past, there was overlap with our past long-serving editor, to enable the new editor to learn the system. Now they use the publication management system, which facilitates things. Chuck recommends the idea of overlap among editors. Nine to ten years is about as long as you want an editor to be in place, from the perspective of publishers.

Andy Vaughn: in the contract for the editors, we have included compensation for a 6 month period of overlap, and we try to identify a replacement 6-9 months in advance of the contract expiration for an editor. The last *BASOR* editor's contract had 6 months of additional compensation (for Jim Weinstein) to facilitate this. NEA will have a new contract developed as well, and likely we will introduce a similar clause for the editor as well.

Chuck Jones mentioned the process that the committee followed in creating its slate of candidates.

**BE IT RESOLVED:** the motion proposed by the Committee on Publications that the Board approve the appointments of Eric H. Cline and Christopher H. Rollston as Editors of *BASOR* is approved with the terms as noted in the entries above.

7. Treasurer's Report (Andy Vaughn, for Chris White)

We are on track to do about as well as we did in the past three years, with a note of a 5-7% dip in subscriptions. Exhibit B is the investment report. Non-profits this year are benefitting from a healthy, even robust securities market. 11.7%

return is slightly above our benchmark. This helps our temporary restricted assets. Endowments have risen from \$800,000 to \$1.75M in the last decade. We have made progress in past 10 years, because of generous contributions to endowed funds and because of the rising equities markets.

#### 7a. Adoption of the FY 2018 budget

The budget before the Board of Trustees for approval is built on assumption that ASOR will sign US Department of State and Whiting Foundation grants. If there are any substantive changes, then a revised budget will be brought to the Executive Committee.

Richard Coffman: What is the status of the Annual Fund?

Andy Vaughn: Note 15 has a forecast of \$80,000 and to date we have \$50,000 roughly. We are about \$30,000 behind, and we ask all the Trustees for their continued support of the Annual Fund in order for this Budget to work. Andy Vaughn thanked all the Trustees for their contributions and leadership.

Ann-Marie Knoblauch: can we assume that some kind of mortgage or rent will be part of the long-term budgets?

Andy Vaughn: the mutually beneficial cooperative relationship with Boston University has finished. ASOR is an extraordinary value, and he hopes that another organization will find a mutually beneficial relationship, otherwise, yes, we will have \$50,000 rent in our budget going forward.

Susan Ackerman: In 2014, we voted on a \$1.1M budget. Our budget has grown from 2014 to 2017 through funding of cooperative agreements, for example, with the US Department of State, The Getty, and the Kaplan Fund. Andy Vaughn and the staff have worked competently and quickly without whirling out of control, while doubling the size of our budget.

Andy Vaughn: The growth has been nice; but we have not had a corresponding growth in our staff capacity. Selma Omerefendic is responsible for twice the disbursements as before, etc. She has some help, but one of the challenges of having the new \$50,000 rent expense is that we are not in the position to address this issue. We need to ask the question whether operating at this level requires that we look at staff capacity.

Heather Parker thanked Selma Omerefendic for her fine work.

**BE IT RESOLVED:** the Finance Committee made a motion that the Executive Committee recommend that the Board approve ASOR's FY 2018 Budget. The motion was approved unanimously.

Susan Ackerman: we have received notification that ASOR will receive a grant from the Whiting Foundation in the amount of \$244,000 to stabilize and document manuscripts in the Mosul Library. It is an opportunity to move into an area of recent conflict to contribute work we have the professional capacity and expertise to do. Much of the funding goes to identifying and training Iraqis. ASOR is doing the work of cultural heritage preservation and providing real money to people who have suffered hardship. She expressed her gratitude to Andy who spearheaded the efforts.

Andy Vaughn acknowledged Michael Danti for his exceptional work on the grant proposal.

Sten LaBianca: We are facing an opportunity and a threat. Opportunity: we have incredible capacity and this is attractive to donors who want to know how ASOR is making an impact. Concern: transforming the work of ASOR from serving its members and publications to doing projects. This is happening at ACOR, but the full time personnel need support. Ensuring benefits to, and sustaining support for, the core mission requires careful strategic thinking.

Heather Parker: Mentions a feeling of paralysis on the individual and institutional level about these big issues for which individual response is difficult. She asserted that she feels served as a member of ASOR because she is empowered to participate in a project that she could not take on an individual basis.

Susan Ackerman responded that ASOR exists to serve and in service of its members. The US State Department cooperative agreement felt like a big investment. As our members largely are people whose work is grounded in this region torn apart by conflict, not only the places themselves, but our friends and colleagues and their families, we felt a sense that our members wanted us to be there to do what we could in the context of this devastating destruction. The Board made a decision that this was in support of our membership. The indirect funding from the grants has helped us do some of the core work that we do by offering opportunities to pay some of the staff salaries for their contributions to these grants.

A discussion of the work in Erbil ensued.

## 8. ASOR Policy Documents (Richard Coffman, Susan Ackerman)

### 8a. ASOR Gift Acceptance Policy

The Board engaged in a discussion of the revised language of the Gift Acceptance Policy.

**BE IT RESOLVED:** The Board of Trustees accepts the new language proposed for 2.11 of the Gift Acceptance Policy. Motion made by Ann-Marie Knoblauch.

8b. Definition of "Initial Publication or Announcement" (recommended by the Committee on the ASOR Policy on Professional Conduct as an Addendum to the Policy)

Susan Ackerman discussed the need for a definition in support of the statement in the Policy on Professional Conduct regarding an ASOR venue serving as the first place of presentation of publication for unprovenanced objects. The version before the Board was drafted by Susan Ackerman and brought to the Committee on the ASOR Policy on Professional Conduct, whose chair sent it to the CCC to be considered and further developed. The Executive Committee voted on the policy and forwarded it to the Board for a vote.

**BE IT RESOLVED:** the Board accepts the recommendation of the Executive Committee, which accepted a motion by the Committee on the ASOR Policy on Professional Conduct that the Definition of "Initial Publication or Announcement" be accepted and appended to the ASOR Policy on Professional Conduct.

#### 9. Chairs Coordinating Council Report (Sharon Herbert)

Our first choice for plenary speaker at the Annual Meeting was Irene Winter, and she accepted. The Strategic Plan includes language about internationalization; and we are moving forward to make this an integral part of the annual meeting rather than an add-on or competitive experience. The CCC is discussing oversight for ASOR's electronic publications. CCC feels a need for more professional oversight going forward, and this will be the topic of intense discussion in future meetings. CCC is working well in accord with the vision that Tim Harrison, during whose term as President the CCC was established.

#### 10. Other Business

All members of the Board of Trustees are encouraged to please continue giving generously to ASOR. Thanks were extended to the Chair of the Development committee, Ed Wright for his hard work and for the fastest report in ASOR history.

Ed Wright: ASOR is asking everyone to make an extra gift to the Annual Fund indicating that it is for the challenge that we have received. We are seeking to add 100 more givers to ASOR by the end of the fiscal year. Making a pledge to be paid by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018 will count toward this goal. We are seeking to make "every member, a donor".

Members of the Board shared their ideas for language to encourage all ASOR members to give a donation to the organization.

11. Trustee Roles and Responsibilities and the ASOR Trustee Pledge (Richard Coffman, Susan Ackerman)

The Trustees broke up into discussion groups to discuss the Trustees Manual, which had been handed out in draft form. Comments were made by each group were recorded by the President in order to inform revisions. Susan Ackerman promised to bring the Trustees Pledge in a revised form for consideration prior to the November, 2017 meeting for a final vote.

12. 656 Beacon Street (Richard Coffman, Susan Ackerman, Andy Vaughn)

The Board of Trustees discussed the timeline and issues associated with the requirement that ASOR move out of its current space at Boston University.

13. ASOR Web Page Redesign (Susan Ackerman)

A beta version was shown to the Trustees. Andy Vaughn mentioned that Susan Ackerman has spent a substantial amount of time on this website and thanked her warmly.

14. AIAR (J. P. Dessel)

A number of good things have happened, amid concerns about Title VI funding and the status of NEH funding. One NEH grant has been renewed. A generous donor allowed us to recapture our Director's House from its former tenants. It has been renovated to include an events center so that more people are able to come to our talks. We are improving our social media presence. Staff is becoming more professional, including new housekeeping which improves the hostel experience. We also have *en suite* bathrooms, and so we are generating considerably more income. As we are losing federal funding, we are working on opportunities to create new resources.

15. CAARI (Bryan Wilkins)

We too are worried about federal funding. Through CAORC, CAAIR received \$85,000. CAARI is gearing up for a 40th annual event. All the hostel rooms will have Air conditioning in them, and we hope this will draw people. Scholars can pay for AC as they use it. Finally, we are in the middle of a transition to a new Executive Director: Dr. Lindy Crewe. She is moving to Nicosia. Dr. Andrew McCarthy will stay on the island at the end of his tenure. We are scheduling a festschrift for Annemarie Carr. CAARI will have an event for the transfer to a new Executive Director.



16. ACOR (Øystein LaBianca)

Glenn Corbett, who has been Assistant Director is moving to the US, so a search will take place. USAID cooperation has encouraged community engagement to preserve sites. This worthy activity is taking considerable staff time. It will be the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary for ACOR in 2018 and an event will be planned to coincide with the ASOR meeting in Denver. As always, we welcome people to make a visit to ACOR.

The Board of ACOR thanks ASOR for the help in keeping ACOR together with ASOR in the move. ACOR is very concerned about funding for humanities and social sciences. It is essential to mobilize lawmaker support. Please, go to deans and college presidents and ask them to encourage their board members who have *contributed to congressional campaigns to go to congress and say this is important to me.*

CAORC Executive Director, Chris Tuttle resigned for health issues and there will be a Spring search for a replacement. CAORC aims to host the Directors Meeting in 2018 and is seeking a center to volunteer as a venue.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:34pm.