

Committee on Archaeological Policy
November 2008 Report
Executive Committee and Board of Trustees Report

Ann E. Killebrew

This will be my last Executive Committee and Board of Trustees meeting in my role as an ASOR Vice President. Following my acceptance in May 2008 of the position of editor of NEA for a 3.5 year term, I tendered my resignation as chair of CAP. I do not believe in one person serving multiple positions in ASOR. Instead, ASOR involvement should embrace and include the maximum number of ASOR members on its boards and committees. I did agree to continue to carry out the essential work of the committee chair until the November 2008 Annual Meeting in order to ensure a smooth transition and hand over of responsibilities to the new VP of CAP.

The major task of CAP during the fall has been the evaluation of ASOR affiliated field and publication projects. As was approved by the CAP committee, Executive Committee and Board of Trustees earlier this year, and previously outlined in my May 2008 report, the new guidelines for eligibility are as follows:

1. The PI is an American or Canadian citizen or resident who has an official affiliation with a North American university or official association with CAARI. Under exceptional circumstances where an American cannot appear on the license (e.g. Syria, Iraq) the matter would be discussed by the ASOR Baghdad or Damascus committees. All PIs or co-directors are required to be ASOR members in good standing.
Note: Due to CAARI's legal status on Cyprus vis-a-vis the EU, projects will be able to apply for CAARI affiliation to fulfill the North American requirements.
2. A PI is defined as a person appearing on the license.
Note: The directors of ACOR and AIAR were in agreement regarding the requirement that only those appearing on the permit/license are considered directors. Exceptional cases (e.g. Iraq), if this should arise in the future, will be discussed.
3. The previous year's license needs to be submitted with the application. In the case of new projects, CAP could give provisional approval which will dependant on the new project obtaining a license/permit from the host country. This would allow ASOR to encourage new projects/junior scholars but recognize at the same time that a copy of the license is important and will need to be produced when issued by the host country. If by chance a researcher does not receive the license or permit, then

the provision approval would be void and the project would be ineligible for ASOR grants.

4. ASOR Institutional membership of one of the sponsoring or consortia schools is highly recommended/encourage but not required.
5. All projects, both field and publication, will need to reapply for 2008/2009. After this, projects will need to apply for renewal every two years.
6. Field projects will present the results of their work either in a session (or poster session) a minimum of every two years.

As agreed in advance and in consultation with the schedule of the staff in the Boston office, in August I forwarded the new guidelines and revised application forms recommended by the CAP committee and passed during the Spring Executive Committee and Board of Trustees meeting to the staff in the Boston office. Unfortunately, following the resignation of Alex Ratzlaff from the ASOR Boston office in late August and the resulting staffing issues, the posting of the new guidelines and the subsequent submission of ASOR affiliated project forms were fraught with delays, difficulties, and organization problems. The launching of a new ASOR website two weeks before the Annual Meeting also complicated the process of preparing the applications for review by the CAP committee due to some links that were not functioning. As of today, a couple of days prior to the beginning of the Annual Meeting, applications that were either lost during the on-line submission process or submitted late are being posted on the ASOR website by Andy Vaughn, who has invested much time and effort in resolving these problems. I would like to express my thanks to the Executive Director for his assistance, which is greatly appreciated.

As of the writing of this report, I am very happy to announce to the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees that we have nearly sixty applications and submitted reports for ASOR affiliation. Even with the new eligibility guidelines, which regularizes ASOR affiliation, over thirty publication projects have applied or submitted reports, nineteen field projects have submitted their reports, reapplications and licenses, and six new projects have submitted new applications to be considered for ASOR affiliation.

Based on the difficulties experienced this year with the processing, posting and distribution of ASOR affiliated project applications, I suggest the following actions to address some of these issues:

1. A person in the ASOR office should be designated as the individual who will be responsible for processing and posting on line applications.
2. This individual should work closely and **directly** with the CAP chair throughout the process to ensure that the applications are complete and organized in a manner

that can be easily accessed by the CAP committee. One of the problems that I experienced while working on CAP affiliation applications this year was that office staff seem extremely hesitant to make any decision or implement any task without asking the ED. This complicates the entire process, is inefficient, increases the time spent on any given job, and creates a situation that encourages misunderstandings. Straightforward tasks such as this should be delegated to a staff person who will work directly with the CAP chair. This type of delegation of tasks and responsibilities should also be extended to other committee chairs and editors of publications.

3. Guidelines, eligibility requirements and submission dates for ASOR affiliation should be followed and respected. My impression has been as I have been in touch with various project directors that ASOR affiliation is rather low on their priorities and it has been difficult at times to “encourage” PIs to submit the necessary information and documents, even when their submission is past the deadline. ASOR affiliation should be prestigious and sought after, rather than an afterthought. With the new grant opportunities that are now available via ASOR, project affiliation should be a requirement for most, if not all, ASOR grants.

In spring 2009 large numbers of students will be submitting applications for various ASOR grants and it is essential that the on-line submission process work smoothly and as error-free as possible. Since the CAP chair usually serves on the grants committee when there is no conflict of interest, my last recommendation is that the deadline to submit grant requests will be earlier than in previous years. This will enable students and projects to better plan for their summer expeditions.

I would like to extend a special thanks to the members of the CAP committee who enthusiastically participated in a “virtual” roundtable discussion of new guidelines for ASOR affiliation at the beginning of 2008 and shared their visions of what ASOR and CAP should be in the future. I was especially encouraged by the resulting consensus that was reached regarding ASOR affiliation guidelines, which included the maximum number of “voices” representing most of the stakeholders of ASOR. I have enjoyed working with all of the CAP committee members. The incoming chair of CAP will receive the document summarizing our discussions this past year. I hope that some of the excellent recommendations and suggestions of this committee will be considered by the new Vice President of archaeological policy.

I look forward to working with the new chair of CAP to ensure a smooth transition and transfer of responsibilities in a timely manner.