

Spring 2011 ASOR Board Meeting  
DaVinci/Picasso, Arlington Hilton Hotel  
Arlington, VA, 8:00 AM–12:00 PM, April 30, 2011  
DRAFT MINUTES

PRESENT: P. E. MacAllister, Timothy Harrison, Andrew Vaughn, Jeffrey Blakely, Sheldon Fox, Øystein LaBianca, Jennie Ebeling, B. W. Ruffner, Eric Meyers, Carol Meyers, Ed Wright, Suzanne Richard, Joe Greene, Audrey Shaffer, Larry Geraty, Susan Ackerman, Robert Mullins, Lawson Younger, Ann-Marie Knoblauch, Ray Ewing, Beth Alpert Nakhai, Barry Gittlen, Lydie Shufro, Christopher Rollston, Robert Oden,

ABSENT: Joe Seger, Orlyn Nelson, James F. Strange, Morag Kersel, Gary Arbino, Susan Sheridan, Randall Younker, Jane Evans, Jimmy Hardin, Jeffrey Chadwick, Nili Fox, Sheila Bishop, Weston Fields, Glenn Schwartz.

GUESTS: Barbara Porter, Tom Davis, Vivian Bull, Sy Gitin.

1. Call to Order by P. E. MacAllister, chairman, at 8:00AM.
2. Approval of Minutes from the November Meeting (November 21, 2010). Moved and seconded. Passed unanimously.
3. Approval of Agenda. Andrew Vaughn appointed to take minutes by consensus. Moved CAP and ACOR reports to be heard before #4.
4. Report of Items approved by the Executive Committee (A. Vaughn).
  - A. The EC endorses a fundraising initiative growing out of this document with the proviso that the development committee brings back a more specific plan on how best to proceed by the November board meeting. Moved by LaBianca; seconded by Ruffner. Passed unanimously.
  - B. Be it resolved that the executive director's employment be adjusted from 4/5ths time to full time with an appropriate adjustment in compensation. Be it further resolved that the executive director's contract be extended for one year to a new end date of June 30, 2014. Moved and seconded. Passed unanimously.
5. Strategic Plan Implementation Update (T. Harrison). President Harrison thanked the members of the ITF who worked on developing the recommendations in the strategic plan into specific recommendations for changing the bylaws. Harrison described the process and the work of the committee. He then asked for comments on the proposal and a vote on the recommended changes to the bylaws.

Be it resolved that the ASOR bylaws be amended as described in the proposal that was distributed to the board about 30 days prior to the board meeting.  
Recommended by the ITF and moved by the EC. Passed unanimously.

Be it resolved that the President form a committee to clean up the language in the by-laws where there are cumbersome language or inconsistencies. Specific comments are to be forwarded to the executive director. Chair MacAllister ruled that this resolution was approved by consensus.

6. New board and other appointments (T. Harrison). President Harrison presented a new board appointment (Mark Lanier) and outlined Lanier's background and qualifications for the board. Harrison presented three names for election to the program committee. Harrison also presented a nomination for one addition to the board nominating committee. There was discussion about all of the nominations listed below.

Be it resolved that W. Mark Lanier be elected to the board for a term beginning May 1, 2011 and continuing through December 31, 2014 (Class of 2014). Moved by the EC. Passed unanimously.

Beth Alpert Nakhai reported on her work as chair of the trustees nominating committee. She stated that she would like to see a junior scholar elected to the board and possibly have ASOR create a new position for a junior scholar.

Be it resolved that Jennie Ebeling be appointed to the board nominating committee for a term concurrent with Ebeling's term as VP of Membership (ending December 31, 2013). Moved by the EC. Passed unanimously.

Tim Harrison reported that the program committee recommended three members be appointed to the program committee.

Following the recommendation of the program committee, be it resolved that Casey Elledge, Alexander Nagel, Elena Corbett be appointed to the program committee for a term beginning May 1, 2011 and continuing through December 31, 2014 (Class of 2014). Moved by the EC. Passed unanimously.

7. Officers Nominations Committee Report (submitted in writing by G. Arbino).

Be it resolved that Oystein LaBianca be elected to a second three-year term as chair of CAP (change in title from vice president of CAP). The second, three-year term will begin on January 1, 2012. Moved by the officers' nominating committee and the EC. Passed unanimously.

Be it resolved that Charles Jones be elected as chair of COP (publications) for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2012. Moved by the officers' nominating committee and the EC. Passed unanimously.

Carol Meyers reminded the board that the officers' nominations committee needs another member to have five members as specified in the bylaws.

8. Treasurer's Report (S. Fox). Treasurer Fox reviewed the handouts submitted with the finance committee report. He shared that membership and subscription cash receipts are up for this fiscal year. The investment results are positive with all accounts being positive. We had about a 24% gain as compared to 30% for the same period in the S&P 500. ASOR is somewhat more conservative in its allocations, so we are moderately below an all-equity allocation. The Harris endowment is no longer "under water," so that will help our unrestricted net asset level. We are forecasting a \$20,000 profit for the fiscal year. Salaries were about \$24,000 favorable to the budget (lower than budgeted).

a. Action Item: Adoption of the FY12 Budget.

Be it resolved the budget for FY12 as proposed by the finance committee and the EC be approved. Moved by finance committee and the EC. Passed unanimously.

b. Action Item: Auditor's Proposal.

Be it resolved that ASOR engage Romeo, Wiggins, and Company, LLP, as ASOR's auditors for a three-year period (through 2013). Moved by finance committee and the EC. Passed unanimously.

9. Annual Meeting Business Model and Venues Discussion (A. Vaughn). Andy submitted a written report on the challenges faced in 2016 and beyond for booking the annual meeting. AAR and SBL have rejoined and will be having concurrent annual meetings starting in 2011 in San Francisco. ASOR faces challenges in locating a venue in San Antonio (2016) and beyond. There was a general consensus that we should continue to meet at the same general time and place as SBL. There was a further consensus that members would not want to stay at a resort property. The suggestion was made to consider venues in Austin, TX for the years the SBL annual meeting will be in San Antonio.

10. Development Update and Discussion (T. Harrison). President Harrison reviewed our annual fund development initiatives for this fiscal year. We are doing well and need to focus on broadening the number of individual donors to ASOR.

Harrison then explained the vote of endorsement by the EC for furthering a development campaign. Discussion turned to the draft document submitted by Harrison. There was enthusiastic support for pursuing aggressive fundraising goals. There was also a request for a more specific plan that was consistent with the motion from the EC meeting.

11. COP Report (J. Blakely). Blakely reported that the journals are close to on time. He also mentioned that ASOR will move to JSTOR CSP next year. There is a question about making sure that the editors are covered with liability insurance.

Jeff reported that COP held a review of the editors and presented the following motions for the book series.

Be it resolved that Kevin McGeough be appointed to a second term as editor of the ARS beginning January 1, 2012 and ending December 31, 2014. Moved by publications committee and the EC. Passed unanimously.

Be it resolved that Joseph Greene be appointed to a second term as editor of AASOR beginning January 1, 2012 and ending December 31, 2014. Moved by the publications committee and the EC. Passed unanimously with one abstention (Greene).

Blakely reported that there was some disagreement on COP concerning the mission of NEA. Killebrew presented a vision statement that held that NEA was a professional journal and not a semi-popular journal. The vote by COP to recommend that Killebrew be reappointed for another term was 8 (for); 2 (against); and 1 (abstain). Discussion was held among the EC members about the mission of NEA. After discussion about the mission of NEA and other matters regarding Killebrew's service as editor, the EC rejected the motion (1 yes; 5 no; 1 abstain) from COP to elect Ann Killebrew as editor of NEA for another term and passed a substitute motion. The substitute motion included the proviso that the editorial contract contains terms acceptable to the president. The board discussed the additional proviso, and it was decided to move into executive session. The board went into executive session at 11:10AM. The board came out of executive session at 11:34AM.

There was a vote to act on the original motion from COP regarding NEA:

Be it resolved that Ann Killebrew be elected for a second term as editor of NEA beginning January 1, 2012 and ending December 31, 2014. Defeated by a voice vote with no "yeas" and two abstentions.

There was a vote to act on the substitute motion from the executive committee:

Be it resolved that Ann Killebrew be elected for a second term as editor of NEA beginning January 1, 2012 and ending December 31, 2014 subject to an editorial contract satisfactory to the president. Moved by the EC. After a request for a show of hands, the motion failed.

It was observed that the motion from COP to study the mission of NEA would complicate an immediate search for an editor of NEA. There was then a vote on the motion to study the mission of NEA:

Be it resolved that the board endorses COP's recommendation that COP undertake an investigation of the impact of the name change of *Biblical Archaeologist* to *Near Eastern Archaeology*. After this study takes place, COP should then recommend what changes (if any) should be made to *NEA*. These findings and recommendations should inform the next search for an editor of *NEA*. Moved by the publications committee and the EC. Failed unanimously.

12. CAP Report (O. LaBianca). (Given following #4 above). LaBianca reported on the review process for best practices and CAP affiliation. The committee has moved to a review of excavations every three years, and this new system will free up time to take on other project. He also reported that CAP has been working on developing a more robust website presence for CAP. To this end, Sten has raised matching funds of approximately \$10,000 to supplement approximately \$5,500 from ASOR. These funds have been used to hire Steve Savage to help ASOR and CAP develop a website. The work will also include a CAP Toolbox that will serve as a window for accessing resources in the field.

13. Membership Committee Report (J. Ebeling). Began by thanking Tammi Schneider for her work. ASOR had 1392 members as of March 31, 2011—this is the highest number in ASOR's history. Institutional memberships have lagged to somewhere in the range of 85–90. Jennie has been working with the committee on membership retention.

14. Update on Archives Project (E. Meyers). The following points were made during the course of the board meeting (the formal report was deferred because of time constraints at this meeting). It was reported that the NEH project is proceeding well. ASOR was not approved for a renewal grant, but we have a commitment to continue the archives program. We are aggressively pursuing other funding possibilities from foundations. We are also pursuing another renewal grant from the NEH.

15. CAARI report. Ray Ewing reported on the activities of CAARI. There is a new director (Andrew McCarthy) starting in July. The Cyprus exhibit at the Smithsonian continues through tonight. Tom Davis reported that he had enjoyed his time at CAARI and was glad to have served as the director. He reported that the fellows program is going very well and that they had their first Turkish fellow this past year. The library program is continuing to grow and has benefitted from several recent gifts of both books and money. There is a threat for Fulbright funding in the future because of political concerns in Cyprus. Davis thanked ASOR for its support throughout his eight years in Cyprus.

16. ACOR report. Barbara Porter reported on the various activities at ACOR. The program is full throughout the summer and the next year. 30 fellowships and scholarships and were just awarded. Eight of them are Jordanians, and two of those will fund some Jordanians to attend the annual meeting in San Francisco. On other fronts, Porter reported that everything was running smoothly in Amman. Barbara mentioned the development of Mega Jordan which is funded by the Getty Foundation.

17. AIAR report. Sy Gitin reported that the academic schedule continues to be robust and rich. There have been fellows from around the world. Their outreach program continues to be successful. Fellows have given lectures at all of the major universities, and there continue to be outreach programs to the Palestinian community. Fellowship programs have been expanded to include Europe among other locations. The Albright has returned materials to Jordan that had been stored at the Albright prior to 1967. This process has promoted better relations with Jordan. The publication projects of the Albright also continue and moving forward steadily. Of note, the pottery volume should be distributed in 2012.

18. Executive Director's Report. Vaughn referred to his written report.

19. President's report. Harrison thanked the many board members and staff members who made this meeting possible. He announced that the next board meeting will be from April 20-22, 2012 in Toronto.

20. Chair's report. Gave a stirring speech that referenced Edward II (of England) and Bruce (of Scotland). Several conclusions were drawn from recounting the historical battle. The first lesson is the importance of order. The next lesson is that strong leadership is critical. Bruce not only had strong leadership but also was able to correct course along the way. The next lesson is that a lack of planning can be catastrophic. One needs to be able to adjust course when facing changing situations and new challenges. The issue of preparation is also critical. Edward went into battle without knowledge of what might happen. The battle teaches us the danger of the lone ranger who does not plan for contingencies. The speech will appear in the next ASOR Newsletter.

21. Old Business. None.

22. New Business. None.

23. Announcements. Barry Gittlen mentioned that Brian Hesse passed away about a month ago.

24. Adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 12:18PM.