

Spring 2011 ASOR Executive Committee Meeting
Renoir Room, Arlington Hilton Hotel
Arlington, VA, 9:00 AM–3:00 PM, April 29, 2011

PRESENT: P. E. MacAllister, Timothy Harrison, Andrew Vaughn, Jeffrey Blakely, Sheldon Fox, Øystein LaBianca, Jennie Ebeling, B. W. Ruffner.

ABSENT: Eric Meyers, Joe Seger, Orlyn Nelson, James F. Strange

1. Call to Order by P. E. MacAllister, chairman, at 9:00AM.
2. Approval of Minutes from the November Meeting (November 20, 2010). Moved and seconded. Passed unanimously.
3. Approval of Agenda. Andrew Vaughn appointed to take minutes by consensus. Added two items under #5.
4. Strategic Plan Implementation Update (T. Harrison). President Harrison outlined the process for the work of the implementation task force (ITF) over the past year. The ITF submitted a proposal for changes to the bylaws to the board, and Harrison recommends that the executive committee endorse this proposal. The following are some of the major changes: the addition of the CCC (chairs coordinating council), the reduction of the number of trustees, and the creation of a new position of vice president. There was discussion about the future roles of the president and the vice president with the new, proposed structure. Chair MacAllister pointed out that there are a number of items that might be reworded or put in a different order. There was general agreement that it would be a good idea to have a committee to work on cleaning up cumbersome language in other parts of the bylaws and to report back to the board at a later date.

The EC endorses the implementation task force's recommendation that the board amend the bylaws as described in the proposal that was distributed to the board about 30 days prior to the board meeting. Moved by Øystein LaBianca and seconded by Jeff Blakely. Passed unanimously.

5. 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.

The EC endorses the nomination of W. Mark Lanier for election to the board for a term beginning May 1, 2011 and continuing through December 31, 2014 (Class of 2014). Moved by Sheldon Fox and seconded by B. W. Ruffner. Passed unanimously.

The EC endorses the nomination of Jennie Ebeling for election to the board nominating committee for a term concurrent with Ebeling's term as VP of Membership (ending December 31, 2013). Moved by Jeff Blakely and seconded by Øystein LaBianca. Passed unanimously.

Following the recommendation of the program committee, the EC endorses the nomination of Casey Elledge, Alexander Nagel, Elena Corbett for election to the program committee for a term beginning May 1, 2011 and continuing through December 31, 2014 (Class of 2014). Moved by Jennie Ebeling and seconded by Øystein LaBianca. Passed unanimously.

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

The EC endorses the officers' nominating committee's recommendation that the board elect Øystein LaBianca 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 committee. Passed unanimously.

The EC endorses the officers' nominating committee's recommendation that the board elect Charles Jones as chair of COP (publications) for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2012. Moved by committee. Passed unanimously.

7. Treasurer's Report (S. Fox).

a. Action Item: Adoption of the FY12 Budget.

The EC endorses the budget for FY12 as proposed by the finance committee. Moved by finance committee. Passed unanimously.

b. Action Item: Auditor's Proposal.

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

8. Annual Meeting Business Model and Venues Discussion (A. Vaughn). Vaughn 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. Sheldon suggested that we survey the membership to see how they might respond to the possibilities for San Antonio. MacAllister suggested that ASOR should take the feedback from a survey and make a decision that is the best option for ASOR and then promote the choice that is made. There was no consensus on where ASOR should go in 2016 and beyond, and several people expressed support for rethinking all of our possibilities.

9. Development Update and Discussion (T. Harrison). The giving levels are up in terms of total dollars raised. Our goal is 225 total donors this fiscal year compared to 196 donors last year. We have been contacting foundations and want to increase that work in the coming months. In terms of development planning, Tim presented (in a written report) some ideas for development priorities and items that ASOR might consider including in a future capital campaign. There are six funding initiatives with tentative dollar amounts listed in Tim's report. Various questions were raised about the specifics of the document and the wording of the six initiatives. There was also strong support for aggressively raising funds to support our strategic initiatives.

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.

10. COP Report (J. Blakely). The journals are all up-to-date (or close to it), and doing well. There is a question about how editors are covered by our liability insurance policy. Andy reported that ASOR has asked its insurance carrier to clarify our current policy and to provide a quote to expand our coverage if necessary. We have not received a report from the insurance provider. Everyone expressed support to cover the liability of the editors even if they are independent contractors. Andy stated that he would continue to work on this issue.

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

The EC endorses COP's recommendation that the board elect Kevin McGeough for a second term as editor of the ARS beginning January 1, 2012 and ending December 31, 2014. Moved by committee. Passed unanimously.

The EC endorses COP's recommendation that the board elect Joe Greene for a second term as editor of AASOR beginning January 1, 2012 and ending December 31, 2014. Moved by committee.

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 continue was 8 (for); 2 (against); and 1 (abstain). Discussion was held among the EC members about the mission of NEA and other matters regarding Killebrew's service as editor.

The EC endorses COP's recommendation that the board elect Ann Killebrew for a second term as editor of NEA beginning January 1, 2012 and ending December 31, 2014. Moved by the committee. 1 Yes; 5 No; 1 Abstain

The EC recommends 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 Sheldon Fox and seconded by B. W. Ruffner. Passed unanimously.

The EC 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 committee. Passed unanimously.

Blakely reported that he continues to be in conversation with Jim Weinstein about BASOR being printed in full color and about the possibility of BASOR being a semi-annual journal. Jeff plans to bring a proposal on these items to the November board meeting.

11. CAP Report (O. LaBianca). LaBianca reported that he 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.

12. 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. There is an emphasis on customer service and continuing to make improvements.

13. Update on Archives Project (E. Meyers). Meyers was not in attendance. Vaughn reported that the project is doing well and is slightly ahead of schedule. Andy also reported that ASOR's proposal for a renewal grant from NEH had been turned down.

14. Executive Director's Report. Vaughn referred to a written report. Andy then answered questions about the operations of the ASOR office and questions that would be related to his performance that would be reviewed in the personnel committee report. He then left the room for the discussion of the personnel report.

15. Personnel Committee Report (T. Harrison). A discussion took place on executive director's performance. In light of the recommendations from the review, the EC discussed whether or not to move the position to full time or alternatively to adjust his duties and responsibilities.

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.

16. Old Business. None.
17. New Business. None.
18. Announcements. None.
19. Adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 4:05PM.