

ASOR Chairs Coordinating Council
Conference Call 9:00 AM January 23, 2014

Present: Cynthia Rufo-McCormick, LeeAnn Gordon, Geoff Emberling, Chuck Jones, Susan Ackerman, Erin Darby, Sharon Herbert, Laura Mazow, Danielle Fatkin, Sten LaBianca, Andy Vaughn

Absent: Randy Younker, Robert Darby

I. Approval of November Minutes

Minutes have not been found.

II. Update on Ethics Task Force (Sharon)

The Ethics Task Force, chaired by Lynn Swartz Dodd, was formed several years ago with the goal of creating a general ethics policy for the organization. The task force plans to present draft recommendations at the spring Board meeting. The committees and Board will discuss the draft, with particular attention to possible special circumstances or exceptions to the proposed policy. Because of the complexity of the topic, an in-person discussion of the recommendations will likely be more productive than a conference call.

It was suggested that recommendations should be distributed to the CCC before the Board meeting. If there is no draft document to circulate, it will be taken off the agenda of the Board meeting. The intention is that after the May 3 Board meeting, a revised draft will be made available for public comment, and a discussion session will be scheduled at the 2014 Annual Meeting. The intended deadline for the adoption of a finalized ethics policy is the 2015 Spring Board Meeting.

III. Program Committee Report (Danielle and Geoff)

The new committee chairs acknowledge that they are thankful to have continuing guidance from former chair, Andrew M. Smith II, and appreciate the work that Andrew and Elise have done to ensure a smooth transition.

A record number of proposals (about forty) for member organized sessions have been received. This is partly due to the fact that many of the multi-

year sessions are turning over this year. The Program Committee has evaluated all of the session proposals and approved most of them. Four or five were rejected. City of David proposal warrants comment. It was approved, but the Program Committee was divided on whether or not to accept the proposal because it is for a session that focuses on excavations conducted in contested territory. While the committee ultimately voted to accept the session, it also concluded that there was a need for an ethics policy to offer guidance for similar issues in the future. Further discussion ensued.

IV. Discussion 2014 Plenary

The CCC was asked to provide thoughts or guidance for the 2014 Annual Meeting plenary lecture on archaeology in Kurdistan. The Program Committee originally recommended that the plenary talk be a dual presentation from Jason Ur (who would speak about archaeology) and another speaker. The CCC approved that recommendation, and asked Tim Harrison to invite the speaker.

An invitation was extended to Jason Ur to speak about Responses to the Arab Spring Kurdistan region of Iraq. Jason Ur has accepted. Tim did not extend an invitation to a second speaker because he had reservations about the logistics of two speakers at the plenary. Current President Susan Ackerman is asking for guidance and input from the CCC. The CCC agreed that the logistics of two speakers would pose a problem. The opinion was offered that Brian Rose's talk was representative of the kind of plenary event that we want. There was general agreement that keeping the theme of the plenary simple, and one presenter is preferable. Susan said that she would act accordingly.

Concern was expressed about the title of the session, and whether the term "Kurdistan" can be replaced with a more descriptive phrase such as "the Kurdistan area of Iraq." It was suggested that the CCC encourage the president to work with the speaker and other members to come up with an appropriate title.

V. Committee on Archaeological Policy Report (Sten)

The committee is in the process of sending out CAP affiliation acceptance and renewal notifications. Half of this year's applicants were field projects, and half were publications. Since projects are now reviewed every three years, most of the projects were approved with no concerns. Some applicants did not provide a budget. The chair posed the question to the

CCC of what CAP's role should be in reviewing budgets, and whether or not a budget should even be part of the application process. The opinion was given that, as an applicant, writing the budget was helpful in planning the project, but it was strange to use it to apply since it could change drastically. In response to a question, Sten stated that budgets were requested to help demonstrate the feasibility of a project. The opinion was given that a brief narrative statement might be more valuable for establishing feasibility than a budget. Several people opined that it was inappropriate for CAP to request a budget when it was not awarding funds for the projects.

Sten concluded by stating that CAP wants to move toward being more of an agent for establishing best practices rather than being seen as policing projects

VI. Committee on Publications Report (Chuck)

The primary activity of COP right now is to assist with the transition of BASOR editors, and to appoint an editorial board with people chosen by the new editors. This transition has brought up issues of governance for votes in COP. If there are two editors, do both get one vote, do they vote together, or should they be non-voting members of the committee. These questions are being discussed within the committee.

VII. Honors and Awards Committee Report (Laura)

The committee felt that the 2013 Annual Meeting awards ceremony went well. The committee plans to increase nominations and the visibility of awards. New awards ideas for next year include a poster award, and a popular book award.

The committee is working on an ethics policy.

The committee would like to increase the number of committee members from five to seven to facilitate better discussion. It was suggested that the committee chair make a recommendation that would be voted on by the Board. It was suggested that the chair amend awards committee plan to reflect the increase in size.

The suggestion was made to not provide lunches for purchase during the members meeting at the 2014 Annual Meeting. At the 2013 meeting, the cost of providing the lunch option was not justified by the number of lunches actually purchased..

VIII. Junior Scholars Report (Erin)

The Committee will appoint two new members this year instead of three. This will allow them to stagger tenure on the committee and have a better rotation of members.

The chairs are interested in the possibility of junior scholars playing a role with generating content for ANE Today and News@ASOR. Andy replied that the office staff strongly supported this, and the staff would like to see other committees get involved as well. The Jr. Scholars Committee intends to write a blog post or article explaining the purpose and goals of the Junior Scholars Committee.

It was suggested that the panels for the Junior Scholar luncheon be decided upon sooner than in previous years. The chairs will wait to hear from the Program Committee regarding an appropriate deadline for this.

IX. Membership and Outreach (Randy)

The chair is traveling in the Middle East and was unable to attend the meeting.

X. Updates from Central Office (Refer to Appendix 1 for a written report.)

Andy encouraged everyone to read a written report distributed prior to the call (see Appendix 1). Committee chairs were encouraged to donate to the challenge fundraiser, and to recruit donors before the January 31st deadline.

A question was raised about the assessment of the annual meeting. There was general agreement that it had been an extremely successful meeting, and everyone was pleased with the good and hard work of all of the staff. Further, the transition in the meeting planner position had gone well, and the support of the program committee is going well.

A Doodle survey was requested for dates for the Spring retreat.

Appendix 1. Report from the Executive Director

1. Webinar status. You may have noticed that the first webinar in the Archaeology of the Holy Lands Series did not take place in January. There were two reasons for this: a) one of the main speakers withdrew about 9 days before the webinar because she was not satisfied with the 3rd party provider of the webinar. It would have been hard to have the webinar without her as the topic assumed a debate between archaeologists. b) We only had 38 people sign up, and about 10 of them only signed up for \$5. We thus would have lost money no matter what we did.

The decision to cancel was made by the moderators (Eric and Carol Meyers), and I strongly supported that decision. The primary donor for the webinar was / is disappointed, but we felt that there really wasn't any alternative. Andy, Eric, and Carol are also disappointed. We have subsequently located a better webinar provider, but I do not recommend going forward under this model because we cannot pay the honoraria and webinar hosting fees (about \$700 per webinar) with the current registrations. I do not see us being successful at getting significantly more paying registrations at this time. I hope that that situation will change.

We also want to go back to exploring further in-person seminars such as the three that we did in conjunction with BAS. I have been in touch with Randy Younker as chair of the membership and outreach committee, and we will continue to explore something for FY15. I am pleased that we have received tentative (new) pledges from two people for between \$10,000 and \$15,000 to support such seminars as outreach events.

2. Friends of ASOR status. We now have about 5,400 Friends who receive the [Ancient Near East Today](#) every month. If you haven't done so, please check out this last issue that was sent yesterday. We are also moving forward with ASORtv and other resources as part of the FOA program.

I am working with a trustee and others on other ideas (besides webinars) to make the FOA program self-sustaining. One idea has been to have a high-priced raffle or lottery, but several people have expressed reservations about ASOR being seen as an organization to run raffles to support its programs. Your input (in any) on this idea would be appreciated.

Your input and help in soliciting articles or contributions for ANE Today is also requested. It is a monthly strain to come up with 6-8 articles each month, and we'd love to have the committee involved.

3. Fellowships: all of the fellowships and Harris grant proposals are due by February 15th. Please see the [link on the ASOR website](#) for information, and please encourage people to apply. We also need funding for the fellowships, so please consider a gift and encourage others to support these programs. If you know of people that we might contact about supporting the programs, please let me know. As you will see below, any gifts before January 31 will help us qualify for a major Legacy Gift.

We also need to work with CAP to ensure that notify recipients in a more timely fashion than we did last year. We are starting to put a plan into place, but we have more work to do in this regard.

4. News@ASOR: If you haven't done so, please check out the [most recent issue online](#). It contains a [Welcome Letter](#) from new president Susan Ackerman, as well as other important news items. Of particular note, I'd like to encourage all of you to read an article by Peter Herdrich (former AIA executive director) about how ASOR members are (and can) help protect cultural heritage in Egypt and other countries. There is also a [very nice video](#) with advice for members just starting in the profession.

The ASOR office is eager to receive your input about News@ASOR and welcomes submissions and suggestions for articles / features. Susan Ackerman and Randy Younker are in email contact with Inda already about future content, and we would love to receive input from others. Ideally, we'd like to feature something from each standing committee at least twice a year if not quarterly.

5. Cynthia Rufo will be working more closely with committee chairs in 2014. We are shuffling duties in the ASOR office, and Cynthia Rufo will be working more closely with all of the committee chairs, and she will be the primary staff person providing support to the CCC. She will be in touch with you in the next month to see what support we might provide. If the requests for support exceed the time that the office has available, Cynthia will discuss the requests with Sharon, Susan, and me, and we'll do the best that we can. Cynthia will also be distributing the minutes, etc. I will continue to be a part of the CCC, but I do less of the planning and work on minutes, etc.

One of the most immediate tasks is to make sure that we are complying with the new bylaws where committee term limits are described. Cynthia will work with you to make sure that the website is updated with the current list of members, and we also want to make sure that the ASOR office

provides you with a complete list of emails each calendar year to make sure that everyone (including ex-officio members) is included in committee discussions.

LeeAnn Gordon will continue as the point person on the ASOR staff for the Program Committee, but Cynthia will have a greater role in providing support for the other committees. For the publications committee, Ina (or whoever is hired as the permanent person in that position) will provide direct support for the journal and book editors, and she will coordinate with Cynthia how best to handle other committee support. This is all a work in progress, and it is our hope that all of the ASOR staff will support your work. At the same time, we want to assign one person to be your contact person to help avoid instances of where things fall through the cracks.

6. Annual Meeting and Membership numbers: We had 928 registrants at the Annual Meeting in Baltimore. That number was 7 more than Chicago! I'm extremely pleased that we were able to beat the number from Chicago because Baltimore has traditionally not been as good a draw. Next year in San Diego should be even more successful, and the hotel (Westin San Diego) is much nicer than the hotel from this year. Please make your [hotel reservations](#) as soon as possible. We anticipate that we'll be oversold again this year, and it would be nice for our committee chairs to have reservations.

My sense is that membership numbers are slightly behind last year at this point, but we experienced a slower rate of renewals from December 31, 2013. Those renewals are coming in, and I don't anticipate a problem. We have not yet experienced the growth that we hoped to see in paying memberships from Friends of ASOR. I do not have a firm report as of 12/31/13, but I will have those data for the CCC for our February call.

7. Budget update: It's premature to say much, but I don't see any problems with the budget so far. I anticipate that if we can continue our positive results with the Foundational Campaign and the Annual Fund, that ASOR will once again be in the black this year. All of our cash flow indicators are positive.

8. James F. and Carolyn M. Strange Endowed Scholarship Fund. As was announced in News@ASOR, we are very pleased to have received a challenge gift for another endowed scholarship fund. We have received a challenge for a \$25,000 gift to establish the [Strange Fellowship Fund](#) if we can raise another \$25,000. So far we have raised \$5,000, so we need another \$20,000 to meet the challenge. I hope all of you will consider make

a gift to support this Fellowship Fund.

9. 90 donors needed by January 31! I hope that you have heard that ASOR has received a major Challenge Legacy Gift of \$475,000. An anonymous trustee has given us two challenges: a) Have 300 donors by January 31. And b) Raise \$200,000 by January 31. We are only \$2,000 away from the \$200K goal, and that does not include the new \$50K pledge that we just received this past weekend. We will thus go way over the \$200,000 goal!

We still need help with the 90 additional donors by January 31. If you have not yet made a gift this fiscal year (July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014), please consider making a gift of any amount. Please also encourage your colleagues to make a gift as this is a transformative challenge for ASOR. You can [make a gift online](#) or you can [go to this link](#) to see how we are doing. I ask that each committee chair consider making a gift *and* recruiting one additional person to make a gift.

10. CCC Retreat. I think that Sharon will have this an agenda item, but I wanted to mention a possible date and a budget issue from an administrative perspective. Right now we do not have the retreat in the budget, but I think that I can find funding for something similar to last year. If the CCC would like to have a "retreat" or "workshop" every year, I think that it would be good for the group to let that desire be known so we can consider including a workshop or retreat in FY2015 budget and beyond. In terms of a date, I'd like to suggest May 17-18. Other dates in late April are not possible because of conflicts with officers, conflicts with Easter or Passover, or conflicts with other meetings. In terms of a venue, I'd suggest either Detroit or Atlanta at an airport hotel. Boston in May will be expensive in terms of a hotel.