

ASOR Chairs Coordinating Council
Conference Call, 11:00am, April 17, 2014
DRAFT MINUTES—NOT YET APPROVED

Present: Randy Younker, Andy Vaughn, Sharon Herbert, Erin Darby, Danielle Fatkin, Cynthia Rufo-McCormick, Geoff Emberling, LeeAnn Gordon, Sten LaBianca, Chuck Jones

I. Approval of February Minutes

The minutes from the February meeting were approved.

Sharon requested short status reports from each committee for the May board meeting. Reports should be sent to Britta, Cynthia, and Andy by Friday, April 25th or Monday, April 28th.

II. Update from Program Committee (Danielle and Geoff)

Over 500 abstracts have been submitted. All but about a dozen papers have been assigned to sessions. The next step is to finalize the program copy, which the committee hopes to have finished by May 1st. The committee is very pleased by the level of participation from scholars in Iraq and Iran.

The committee is trying to facilitate a grant to cover the full cost for three of the scholars from Iran to attend the meeting. The proposal was submitted last week and the committee is waiting on confirmation that it was received.

The committee is discussing whether to accept or reject about five papers pertaining to occupied territories. The committee is very eager to have guidance from ASOR as a whole as far as a policy for these types of papers. The ethics policy that is under development will be very helpful with this issue in the future.

The committee has received a number of complaints regarding the appearance policy, as well as a few requests for accepting late submissions. The committee is opting to be strict about enforcing the existing policies.

There have been a number of calls about partnering with other organizations (SBL, Quaranic Studies, AIA) to be branded as a session at the ASOR meeting. The committee will submit a report of recommendations on the subject.

Sharon – The ethics policy will be a major topic of the retreat and the May board meeting.

III. Update from the Committee on Publications (Chuck)

The journals are on schedule. The transition from the previous BASOR editor to the new editors is going well. We have transferred publication of the JCS supplement series to Lockwood Press.

The search committee for a permanent Publications and Fulfillment Manager had a robust pool of applicants. We had four semi-finalists. All four were interviewed by phone, and two finalists were selected. References were checked for both, and the committee held an additional phone interview with them. The committee was unanimous in its recommendation to Andy that he hire Inda Omerefendic as the manager. The committee is very pleased that she has accepted.

In keeping with the trend toward digital publications, the committee is in favor of replacing the print Newsletter with the e-newsletter, News@ASOR. A few members prefer the hard copy, but there are so few that it may be viable to print hard copies on demand. A policy needs to be put in place for archiving

the digital issues. Relatedly, the committee is interested in making past issues (i.e., the print newsletter) available on JSTOR with ASOR's other publications.

Regarding libraries with paid subscription to the print newsletter, very few have complained (maybe only one). Refunding libraries with paid subscriptions should not be an issue. These libraries will be sent a letter containing a refund check and an explanation of where they can find the e-newsletter.

Sharon asked if this decision needed to go before the board. Andy relayed that Susan and he felt the issue could and should be resolved by the CCC. Sharon declared that it was the consensus decision of the CCC that we move forward with News@ASOR and disband the print newsletter.

IV. Update from Membership and Outreach Committee (Randy)

The committee proposes an initiative for a major public outreach event that will run from some time on Saturday to Sunday evening at the Annual Meeting. The proposed event would feature a lecture program with "all star" lecturers speaking on "attractive" subjects of interest to a broad audience. The event may include a banquet or a dinner, and a book signing. Speakers would be compensated.

The question was raised of who should select the topics, and who would the speakers be. Regarding the selection of the speakers and topics, the question was posed of whether "attractive topics" is a synonym for "biblical," or should the program branch out to encompass non-biblical subjects. Andy opined that it would be important to present this event as an "ancient Near Eastern" fest, not a "bible" fest, so we can expand the conversation beyond what BAS does. It was suggested that the Outreach Committee should be the primary oversight committee of this project.

A concern was shared that this event might compete with the Saturday academic program, which, historically, has a low turnout. Space concerns for the annual meeting if the outreach event were to begin on Saturday afternoon were also shared.

It was decided that a conversation at the CCC retreat would be helpful. Randy will prepare a proposal to distribute before the May retreat.

V. Update from Junior Scholars Committee (Erin and Robert)

The committee would like to address the disparity between the jump in membership cost (from student to professional) and the reality of the job market for new Ph.D. recipients. The CCC agreed that this is an important issue to investigate.

VI. Syrian Grant Initiative (Andy)

On Monday, ASOR submitted a grant proposal to the U.S. State Department for a project to identify Syrian sites that are damaged or threatened. The grant is up to \$600,000, the proposal we was for just under \$600,000 with cost sharing from different groups. If the application were to be successful, ASOR would be able to accomplish many goals outlined in the strategic plan that we would otherwise not be able to address for many years. Andy would like to discuss at the May retreat how ASOR can find and apply for other transformative grants like this. LeeAnn pulled this together in the last week and did an exceptional job. The award will be announced by May 15th.

VII. Upcoming Ethics Report (Sharon)

Will be discussed at the May retreat.

VIII. May Retreat (Sharon and Andy)

Sharon would like to be contacted with topics that should be addressed during the May retreat.