

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE FUTURE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE ASOR BOARD REGARDING ASOR'S ANNUAL MEETING 2021-2031

April 2019

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The data show continuity between those who have been members 1-5 years and the general population of ASOR; thus, the data do not indicate a large statistical shift in membership demographics and interests among Early Career Scholars, although data do show a widening breadth of interests and specialties among ASOR members in general.

The data strongly show that attendance at the AM is connected to the expectations of a strong academic Program and solid networking and presentation opportunities.

The data do not warrant a complete split from the current schedule and locations in all years.

The data do not warrant alternating days of the week year over year.

The data do not warrant changing the season nor the month, in any or all years.

The data do indicate that a shift in days earlier in the week will provide both benefits (possible hotel bookings, Program scheduling, SBL transit, etc) and additional difficulties for some (additional time off work, possible increase in room and air rates, etc).

The data do not warrant re-joining SBL.

The data do not support meeting in conjunction with any society or group other than SBL.

The data indicate that modifications to the AM which **prohibit** SBL members from attending both conferences **in all years** is unacceptable for most ASOR members (shifting days to meet on the same weekend).

The data are inconclusive regarding whether modifications **in some years** which make it **more difficult** for SBL members to attend both conferences would have a net positive or a net negative affect on AM attendance (moving farther out from SBL cities or changing cities).

The data are inconclusive regarding the actual 'importance' of the host city for attendance at the AM.

The data indicate that a **shift from the SBL city** in some years would likely result in a drop in SBL+ASOR attendance of between 5 and 15% (up to ca 130 people) of current AM attendees in those years, and because of that group's current participation there would result changes to the AM Program, and could have ripple effects on membership. Data also indicate that fluctuations in attendance among this sub-group (specifically among the Israeli component) already fluctuates by as much as 50% in any given year.

The data indicate that **continuing to meet in certain 'undesirable' cities** does negatively affect attendance of those for whom a connection to SBL is less or not important; the data are inconclusive regarding the actual numerical effect on the AM that 'undesirability' has produced or will produce in the future – the only numerical marker for this is the singular datum of a ca 90 person (10%) drop in Denver attendance from the 2013-2016 norm of ca 900 – nor how such a drop may or may not impact membership. One issue here is the definition of 'undesirable' – likely

takes into account cost and ease of travel – which can be idiosyncratic, thus making statements about attendance in cities problematic.

The data from the 2019 Survey does have a roughly 10% proportional increase over other data sets in those respondents who are members of SBL, but the totality of the data analyzed indicates that this increase does not significantly alter the general trends indicated above.