

11. Ad Hoc Committee on ASOR's Name Interim Report (Randy Helm)
- Randy presented the interim report from the Ad Hoc Committee on ASOR's Name, beginning by thanking members of the committee.
 - He noted the only question with broad (but not total) consensus was that the name should address the geographical and chronological range of ASOR's work, neither of which is currently referenced in ASOR's name. Other than that, no consensus.
 - He described two viable options that enjoyed the closest thing to a majority in poll results:
 - Keep ASOR as the name without using the words the letters stand for, with a tag line that explains what we do. (Randy then asked for ideas for tagline)
 - A new name that forms an acronym. (This option did not have majority or even close to majority support)
 - The committee seeks the Board's advice for moving forward.
 - After some discussion, Andy thanked the committee, noting that the trend in member dissatisfaction with the name (particularly the word "Oriental") is growing, though others commented that such dissatisfaction with the name has been an issue for close to fifty years, and a poll taken in the 1980s showed a similar response as polls completed more recently.
 - Susan noted that if Randy's committee is interested in reporting to the membership before November's meeting, it could be an opportunity to solicit suggestions for a new name with a new acronym from the membership.
 - Randy noted that it's probably not possible to come up with a name that explains the chronological and geographical range of ASOR members.
 - In addressing the membership on this issue, many Board members asked that the committee make clear that the Board strongly objects to the word "Oriental." Apart from the intellectual objections, the word is viewed as offensive by many, and becomes problematic in explaining ASOR to colleagues in other fields. Trustees were asked if they objected to using "Oriental" in the name, and many (if not most) raised their hands over zooms to indicate their discomfort with continuing to include "Oriental."