

ASOR Chairs Coordinating Council  
September Conference Call  
Tuesday September 20, 2:00-3:00pm

**Present:** Teddy Burgh, Erin Darby, Helen Dixon, Tiffany Earley-Spadoni, Jane DeRose Evans, Steve Falconer, Sharon Herbert, Chuck Jones, Marta Ostovich, Allison Thomason, Andy Vaughn, Lynn Welton, Vanessa Workman

**Absent:** Kevin McGeough

**1. Approval of April and May Minutes:** Minutes are approved without changes.

**2. Nomination of Kiersten Neumann** (CV attached) as Co-Chair of the Program Committee.

The nomination comes from the Program Committee and is endorsed by the Chairs Nomination Committee (Jane, Kevin, and Chuck). All are in favor.

**3. Update from Sharon on Archives and Plenary**

*Annual Meeting 2023:* Rubina Raja has accepted the invitation to be the plenary speaker and is honored to have been chosen. Raja would like to focus on the Palmyra project and funerary symbolism. Sharon has asked for an abstract and title by next March. Sharon did not discuss the virtual meeting, panel discussions, etc. She invited Program Committee to start thinking about “where next?” in terms of planning for the future.

*Report on the ASOR Archives:* The archives are currently housed at Harvard, but there is need to move them. Sharon received a letter from the Director from Peter Demanuelian about a space crunch at the museum. The Ad Hoc Archives Committee is chaired by Susan Ackerman. On the committee’s recommendation, the ASOR Board, approved a move to the American Heritage Center (AHC) at the University of Wyoming. Paul Flescher is the Director. Sharon has signed a deed of gift and Paul is working on shipping. Paul and Susan went to visit HMANE in July. There is more material than what was put there in 2018. Some of the materials arrived as unofficial transfers to the Semitic Museum from Nelson Glueck and G. Ernest Wright. All of this material belongs to ASOR, but Harvard wants to keep some of it, and Sharon is negotiating this now. Sharon and committee think that AHC is great; it is a dedicated archive with a large, professional staff.

- Bulk of archive (including Glueck paper material) to Wyoming.
- Shechem material (6 boxes) from Glueck will stay at Harvard because Harvard has the majority of other materials from Shechem (plus 2 boxes from Tanoor).
- Tell-Halifa material/artifacts from Glueck have been at Harvard for many years and have been published. Harvard wants to keep it, but it is going to go to the AHC as their facilities are better.

Allison asked about total number of boxes, plans for systematic digitization. Sharon replied that archives fit in a medium UHaul. A good deal has already been digitized. Some of the digitized materials were lost due to the BU server issue, but Paul is hopeful that things can be recovered.

The AHC is considering a “smart scanning” which somewhere between doing the whole archive and doing it on-demand.

Erin has particular interest in the Tell Halifa material and asked whether University of Tennessee can help.

#### **4. Committee Reports**

##### *COP*

Chuck reported on Kevin’s behalf that the committee is interviewing candidates for *ANE Today* Editor.

##### *PC*

Allison reported on the final numbers for AM22.

VAM: video recordings are due at the end of the week.

80 time slots, 34 sessions (standing), 46 sessions (member-organized)

219 papers

Boston:

105 time slots: 50 sessions (standing), 55 sessions (member-organized)

533 papers

Arlene and Andy will gather some data and numbers on attendance. Helen noted the need to account for results of Ad Hoc Climate Committee survey that has been sent out.

Allison pointed out that the Boston meeting is back to pre-pandemic levels in terms of sessions. The VAM is doing well, but some of the sessions are very small.

No VAM plenary panel for Solange Ashby’s talk. It was a lot of work trying to find scholars from the MENA region.

##### *H&A*

Lynn stated that book award nominations were due in the spring, therefore the committee has had longer to review books and will vote in October. The deadline for service awards was Sept. 9th. Lynn noted a large number of nominations for the new award on Community Engagement (24 nominations for 9 people/groups). Overall, the number of nominations looks good. The committee will vote by the end of next week and Lynn will work on write-ups during October.

Erin asked about nomination process for awards and how to get greater diversity (female field directors). What can be done to be more strategic and intentional about getting nominations? Lynn replied that Laura (former chair of H&A) used to work with ISAW, but did not get that many nominations. It would be great to find new ways of improving nominations. The number of nominations for book awards is getting there, but service award nominations still need some work, in particular the MacAllister award.

There was discussion of the amount of background research necessary to do a nomination, whether CAP could help with encouraging nominations, and award nominations at the Annual Meeting.

### *CAP*

Steve reported that this is a quiet time for CAP. This year there was a good pool of student scholarships and grants. Three applications for CAP affiliation are currently under review. Steve noted the growth of the affiliated projects to include projects from Spain to Iran. The number of non-north American projects is also increasing. There are not any Shepard grant applications at the moment.

### *CH*

Jane reported that the CH committee met this morning. The committee organized a VAM session this year and they are working on one or two for the next year. Overall, the committee is pleased to see how many cultural heritage sessions there are on the program. The committee is also considering the possibility of another FOA Webinar.

### *COM*

Teddy noted that it is a quiet time for COM. The virtual archaeology project trial happened this summer. Teddy will follow up the subcommittee and Felice and Jared on how things are going on this front.

### *ECS*

Tiffany stated the committee's first meeting will be this Thursday. She also noted that the "Digging up Data" workshop-mentoring cohort will be presenting at the annual meeting this year.

Vanessa reported on the AM brown bag lunch series in Boston. This year's event will be a speed-networking events with different tables with scholars representing a variety of fields. Virtual Brown Bag ahead of the meeting on presenting research and public speaking in October. The committee is interested in ECS table/space where students can ask questions/network, and Vanessa will get in touch in with Arlene, Allison, and Helen about this.

Andy noted that there are funds for ECS to develop resources.

### *DEI*

Erin brought up the conversation about institutional affiliation on name tags. This year ASOR will continue not listing affiliations on name tags (exhibitors will have them). Will review more in January.

The committee is interested in ways to make the AM more accessible and friendly for the widest variety of people. The committee wants to improve the culture of the space, and provide new people with friendly, welcoming environment. Erin also mentioned standards for communication and dialogue in sessions.

Erin also brought up a possible ASOR climate survey to assess demographic and diversity data. This type of survey needs a call from ASOR leadership, not just from one committee or task

force. The goal is to ask AM participants for feedback on how they feel and what would help them feel more comfortable. There was discussion of what would need to happen to put the survey together.

Vanessa and Tiffany noted that ECS has been working on how to be more welcome and ensure diversity amongst the brown bag mentors. ECS will also chat about how to coach mentors on being inclusive when interacting with participants. Allison volunteered PC to help mentor on how put together a session/paper.

Erin mentioned a note to session chairs on providing an engaging, open environment.

*Allison left the meeting.*

Chuck thanked everyone. He mentioned the passing of Mike Homan and Helen asked about possible ideas for memorializing.

*Tiffany left the meeting.*

Andy mentioned the upcoming memorial to Vivian Bull, which will be in News@ASOR.

**5. Matters Arising:** none