



**ASOR Board of Trustees Fall Meeting
November 20, 2022
8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Boston Park Plaza Hotel,
Georgian Room**

Present: Susan Ackerman, Melissa Bailey Kutner, Alex Brooks, Pearce Paul Creasman, Erin Darby, J.P. Dessel, Lynn Swartz Dodd, Jane DeRose Evans, Debra Foran, Paul Flesher, Randy Helm, Sharon Herbert, Chuck Jones, Ann-Marie Knoblauch, Carol Meyers, Eric Meyers, Emily Miller Bonney, Bob Mullins, Ann Sahlman, Joe Seger, Carolyn Midkiff Strange, Andy Vaughn

Guests: Marta Ostovich, Kate Grossman, Katharina Schmidt, Alex Brooks, Sarah Costello, Sheldon Fox

Absent: Lisa Ackerman, Teddy Burgh, Margaret Cohen, Peggy Duly, Michael Hasel, Sue Laden, Mark Lanier, Alex MacAllister, Timothy Potts, B.W. Ruffner, Nancy Serwint, Jason Ur

Preliminary Matters (8:30-8:40)

1. 8:44 AM Call to Order and Introductions (Richard Coffman)
Richard recognized guests and new trustees Kate Grossman, Katharina Schmidt, Alex Brooks (up for election), Sheldon Fox (incoming Board Chair), and Sarah Costello.
2. Introduction of Incoming Chair of the Board, Sheldon Fox (Richard Coffman)

Business Items (8:40-9:00)

3. Approval of Agenda (Richard Coffman):

- a. The posted agenda is approved by unanimous consent; Lynn Welton will be added to #7, and Item #14 appointment to extend Piotr Michaelowski as editor of JCS for a year will be added.
4. Approval of the Minutes from the May 2022 Board Meeting (Richard Coffman): The minutes are accepted with no changes.
5. Trustee Election Results (Jane DeRose Evans)

Elected Institutional Trustees (January 1, 2023-December 31, 2025):

- Michael Hasel (Southern Adventist) to an additional 3-year term.
- Kathryn Grossman (North Carolina State) to an initial 3-year term.

Member-elected Trustees (January 1, 2023-December 31, 2025):

- Sarah Kielt Costello to an initial 3-year term.
- Robert Mullins to an additional 3-year term.

6. Board-Elected Trustee Appointments (Sharon Herbert): For election to an additional three-year term (January 1, 2023-December 31, 2025). Biographical sketches for new Trustee and Committee Chair candidates are at: <http://www.asor.org/hidden/board-info/2020/12-handouts>

Alex Brooks to an initial 3-year term.

Joe Seger moved.

BE IT RESOLVED that on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Board appoints Alex Brooks to a three-year term (January 1, 2023-December 31, 2025) as a Board-Elected Trustee.

Unanimously Approved.

Lisa Ackerman to an additional 3-year term

Emily Miller Bonney moved.

BE IT RESOLVED that on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Board appoints Lisa Ackerman to an additional three-year term (January 1, 2023-December 31, 2025) as a Board-Elected Trustee.

Unanimously Approved.

Alex MacAllister to an additional 3-year term

Carol Meyers moved.

BE IT RESOLVED that on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Board appoints Alex MacAllister to an additional three-year term (January 1, 2023-December 31, 2025) as a Board-Elected Trustee.

Unanimously Approved.

Timothy Potts to an additional 3-year term

Carolyn Strange moved.

BE IT RESOLVED that on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Board appoints Alex Timothy Potts to an additional three-year term (January 1, 2023-December 31, 2025) as a Board-Elected Trustee.

Unanimously Approved.

Thanks to outgoing Trustees Paul Flesher and Debra Foran. Sharon acknowledged their hard work and thanked them both.

7. Committee Chair Appointments (Sharon Herbert)

Kate Larson to an initial 3-year term as co-chair of the DEI Committee.

Randy Helm moved.

BE IT RESOLVED that on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Board appoints Kate Larson to an initial term as co-chair of the DEI Committee.

Unanimously Approved.

Kiersten Neumann to an initial 3-year term as co-chair of the Program Committee.

Emily Miller Bonney moved.

BE IT RESOLVED that on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Board appoints Kiersten Neumann to an initial term as co-chair of the Program Committee.

Unanimously Approved.

Allison Thomason to a second 3-year term as co-chair of the Program Committee.

Eric Meyers moved.

BE IT RESOLVED that on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Board appoints Allison Thomason to a second term as co-chair of the Program Committee.

Unanimously Approved.

Lynn Welton to a second 3-year term as chair of the Honors & Awards Committee.

Emily Miller Bonney moved.

BE IT RESOLVED that on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Board appoints Lynn Welton to a second term as chair of the Honors & Awards Committee.

Unanimously Approved.

Thanks to outgoing co-chair Helen Dixon.

8. Progress Report on ASOR Archives and Artifacts at HMANE (Sharon Herbert):

The Board voted in May 2022 to send the Archives to the American Heritage Center in Wyoming and they are now on their way. Sharon acknowledged the work of Paul and Susan.

There was also resolution of issues surrounding artifacts owned by ASOR (deeded to ASOR in 1930s/40s) from Tell Kheleifeh and stored since at the Harvard Museum of the Ancient Near East (formerly the Harvard Semitic Museum). ASOR does not have the facilities to curate these artifacts. Discussions on how to deed these artifacts to Harvard started in 2018. ASOR has now signed a deed of gift of the artifacts to the HMANE. ASOR retains the right of first refusal in the unlikely event that HMANE decides to deaccession these artifacts at some future time. The artifacts are in a good home and can now be added to the museum's record system.

Budget Matters (9:00-10:15)

9. Treasurer's Report (Emily Miller Bonney): Emily's report was posted on the Board's Document page. ASOR continues to benefit from generosity of donors and also to be successful in securing grants.

There was discussion of grant income, gifts to endowed funds, membership and annual meeting finances, and ASOR's investment strategy.

Note A presents ASOR's accounting policies, which make sure that ASOR operates responsibly. Please review and check in with Emily, Richard (Sheldon), and Sharon with observations.

Note G provides balances of named accounts, which produce funds to support work of members.

Note H includes observations from the auditor has made about what Trustees should know about.

10. Auditors' Report (Emily Miller Bonney):

There was discussion of ASOR's fund for Diversity Initiatives, how these funds will be used, and how office staff can be more involved in DEI programming.

Joe Seger moved.

BE IT RESOLVED that on the recommendation of the Executive Committee that Finance Committee recommends that the Board receive and accept the FY22 audit.

Unanimously Approved.

11. Finance Committee Action Items (Emily Miller Bonney)

Emily thanked everyone who has helped ASOR fiscally. Andy thanked Emily for her work.

12. Development Committee (Lynn Dodd)

Lynn said thanks and provided an update. The Development committee exists to assist the Board to deliver on its responsibilities to achieve ASOR's mission. Lynn thanked Sharon, Susan, and past treasurers.

- a. Update: The Annual Fund (unrestricted) is on par with prior years, and there is much work to be done to reach our \$125,000 goal.
- b. Looking forward: fortunate financial position as an organization. Members see value and impact in ASOR. The Committee is thinking about a proposal to bring to the Spring Board meeting in April for a major comprehensive campaign.

Andy thanked Lynn and the whole Development Committee.

Break 9:53-10:15

Alex Brooks left the meeting.

Committee Reports (10:22-11:30)

13. Chairs Coordinating Council Report (Chuck Jones):

The CCC has been an entity for eight years. It convenes monthly and the chairs of the standing committees meet to communicate with each other. The CCC also handles committee overlap.

The CCC met before the EC meeting yesterday. Written reports from all of the committees giving detail on their work have been submitted. The CCC approved some chairs and co-chairs. All committees are being asked for their rules/guidelines. They can all decide their own processes. ASOR controls the terms, but they can organize themselves as they see fit. Chuck has asked them to make their rules and guidelines available and transparent.

14. COP Report (Kevin McGeough):

The acquisition of *Ma'arav* as an ASOR publication was already agreed to in Spring 2022. The new Editor is a member of faculty at University of Chicago. The publication expands ASOR's influence in West Semitic philology.

There was discussion of the publication schedule of *Ma'arav*. The plan is to publish twice a year. UCP will bring more structure to the publication schedule.

- Appointment of Simeon Chavel for a 3-year term as editor of *Ma'arav*
Emily Bonney moved.
BE IT RESOLVED that on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Board appoints Simeon Chavel to a three-year term as editor of *Ma'arav*

Unanimously Approved.

- Appointment of Bruce Zuckerman as Editor Emeritus of *Ma'arav*
Carol Meyers moved.

BE IT RESOLVED that on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Board appoints Bruce Zuckerman as Editor Emeritus of *Ma'arav*

Unanimously Approved.

- Appointment of Jessica Nitschke as Editor of *The Ancient Near East Today*

BE IT RESOLVED that on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Board appoints Jessica Nitschke as Editor of *The Ancient Near East Today* (January 1, 2023-December 31, 2025)

Chuck noted that *ANE Today* is ASOR's second youngest publication. It had been edited by Alex Joffe since its founding ten years ago. The search for the new editor was a difficult one. This candidate has already begun working with Alex.

Carol Meyers moved.

BE IT RESOLVED the Board extends an expression of commendation and great gratitude to Alex Joffe for his work in successfully developing *The Ancient Near East Today* as an important part of ASOR publications.

Piotr Michalowski to an extended term as Editor of the *Journal of Cuneiform Studies*.

Paul Flesher moved.

BE IT RESOLVED the Board appoints Piotr Michalowski as editor of *JCS* to June 2024.

Unanimously Approved.

Chuck noted that the Committee is already thinking about new editors who will have a chance to shadow Piotr as he puts together the 2023 issue.

Chuck thanked Marta for her work with the CCC.

Carol asked about the *NEA* report. Sharon noted the Editor's difficulties in providing non-English abstracts. COP and CCC do not want to give this up as it is an important part of inclusivity work.

Deb Foran left the meeting.

There was discussion of *NEA* submissions, the journal's mission, and how it relates to *ANE Today*.

15. DEI Committee Progress (Sharon Herbert and Erin Darby):

Sharon stated that the DEI Committee's inaugural meeting happened here in Boston. The Committee would benefit from a co-chair, and Kate Larson (curator at Corning Museum of Glass and has worked on their outreach) is suggested.

The Committee began to talk about guidelines and goals. They will have monthly meetings starting in December.

Negotiations with the Initiative on the Status of Women (led by Beth Alpert Nakhai) are open. ISW needs to be part of the DEI Committee, perhaps as an independent subcommittee of DEI Committee. If this is acceptable, ISW will need guidelines and use ASOR's term and class structure

Erin thanked Chuck and Sharon for their support in advising on the committee. DEI does not just happen in this committee, but rather works with all the other committees. Erin invited questions on the DEI report as well as other concerns.

One of the Committee's goals is improving the atmosphere at the AM and in sessions. Session chairs and moderators need support.

Erin brought up the possibility of a cultural climate survey.

16. Climate Impact Committee Report (Sharon Herbert)

Ad Hoc Climate Impact Committee has been hard at work putting together this massively-researched, advocational report. ASOR leadership is beginning to discuss report, but not yet taking action.

The Committee was not charged with looking at all of ASOR's activities; the focus was on the annual meeting. Discussion is preliminary and the vote will be to receive the report.

Many of ASOR's members think that mitigating climate impact is part of ASOR's mission, and they see a direct connection between climate change and damage to cultural heritage. Nearly 500 members took the survey (1/4 of the membership).

Joe moved, Eric seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board accepts the recommendation of the Executive Committee and receives the final report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Climate Impact and thanks the committee for their exceptional efforts in preparing the report.

Unanimously approved.

There was further discussion of the Climate Impact Report.

- Posting the report on ASOR's website and providing context for the report.
- Meeting jointly with SBL when it is economically and logistically feasible: San Diego for the 2024 Annual Meeting vs. other locations

- Meeting every other year and all of the options presented
- Time of year for the Annual Meeting
- Using universities/schools to host the Annual Meeting
- Committee and CCC discussions of the report

News from Overseas Research Centers (11:30-11:45)

17. AIAR (Katharina Schmidt)

Katharina assumed the directorship in June when the renovations to the library and director's office were just finishing up.

- Library
 - Periodicals room redone.
 - Professional staff.
 - Collection development policy.
 - Exchanges play a major role.
 - Connections with local groups.
- Use of the building by fellows, universities, and the association.
- Outreach events:
 - Shawarma Festival was well attended.
 - Sounding Jerusalem-chamber music with neighborhood attendees.
- Conversations in archaeology and history are popular.
- AIAR webpage revisions.
- Hebrew classes.
- Walking tour of the Albright to show the history of the place and tell the story to different groups of people.

18. ACOR (Pearce Paul Creasman)

Pearce Paul reported that the ACOR building renovations are complete. There has been increased emphasis on ACOR's original vision, which has resulted in new projects and initiatives in Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq. ACOR is experiencing a period of growth. There are now 50+ staff and this growth is expected to continue.

19. CAARI (Kate Grossman):

CAARI was full over the summer and at 50% capacity over the winter. There are ongoing repairs. CAARI's finances are tracking steadily. The call for fellowships is open. CAARI's hybrid lecture series continues, with a steady stream of participants. CAARI helped with the renewal of the MOU between US and Cyprus.

Breakout Discussion Groups (11:45-12:30)

20. Future Annual Meeting Format(s) breakout group discussions and report backs. Please be sure to have read the AdHoc Climate Report and the PC Report posted on line. (Sharon Herbert)

There have been three different AM formats since COVID.

- What formats work?
- Experiment with synchronous?
- 2023 is in person at normal time. Virtual three weeks before-no pre-recorded presentations. 2-hour session slots for presentation and discussion.
- What is next?

Katharina Schmidt, Pearce Paul Creasman, JP Dessel, Lynn Swartz Dodd, Sheldon Fox, Eric Meyers, Carol Meyers left the meeting

Group 1: Jane DeRose Evans, Bob Mullins, Randy Helm, Joe Seger, Susan Ackerman

Group 2: Erin Darby, Carolyn Midkiff Strange, Chuck Jones, Ann Sahlman, Emily Miller Bonney

Group 3: Kate Grossman, Sarah Costello, Paul Flesher, Melissa Bailey Kutner, Ann-Marie Knoblauch

Carolyn Strange left.

Group 1: Randy acknowledged that remote, virtual, and in person all have strengths and weakness and they are not mutually exclusive. The virtual option lacks serendipitous encounters that are so important at the in-person meeting. Can't have convenient attendance at in-person. The group not come up with magical solution. They were concerned about staff burden and time differences. Perhaps some sessions should be recorded. There could be asynchronous sessions in which recorded sessions are played back

Group 2: Chuck stated that a single meeting, both synchronous and hybrid is the best solution.

Group 3: Melissa offered further questions. The in-person option is most valuable is for social and networking, which cannot be replicated in the virtual. What do we need to talk about more? Where is our ethical focus? Climate report might conflict with DEI goals. Importance of climate change, but we're not at the level of corporate travel/private jets. Are we willing to make big sacrifices? Responsibilities vs. bulk of climate change problems. Ethical considerations vs. climate imperatives

Sharon noted the importance of the in-person meeting is very important. Virtual platforms are valuable and a major tool in accessibility.

Paul noted that paper presentations are important for young scholars. Also network in the field, but not everyone can do this. Accessibility is really the issue. The climate report really boils down to what do we do about travel.

Emily Miller Bonney left.

Kate stated that colleagues at the Max Plank Institute are not allowed to travel to conferences anymore. These are long-term issues. Public employees cannot travel to particular states for political reason. Prohibitions on travel will increase in the coming years.

Ann recognized that what people want is choice, and she emphasized to raising funds for a synchronous meeting. The pandemic has showed us that people want to be able to choose for themselves.

Sarah said that a hybrid meeting would solve some of the problems. ASOR can be a leader in this area. Putting money towards this would show ASOR's commitment.

Chuck made a point about meeting in hub cities reduces the carbon impact. Susan noted in 2019, about 15% of ASOR member flew from ASOR to SBL. Andy noted that a hybrid conference for ASOR would cost about \$100K.

Chuck suggested that since AIA is going hybrid this year (January 2023), we might learn and gather data from their experience. Kate suggested hearing from other learned societies and whether a hybrid conference helped DEI initiatives.

Sharon thanked Richard for leading the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35

Respectfully submitted,

Ann-Marie Knoblauch
with assistance from Marta Ostovich