

ASOR Chairs Coordinating Council  
March Conference Call  
Monday March 20, 2023, 2:00-3:00pm

**Present:** Erin Darby, Jane DeRose Evans, Steve Falconer, Sharon Herbert, Chuck Jones, Kate Larson, Kevin McGeough, Kiersten Neumann, Marta Ostovich, Andy Vaughn, Lynn Welton, Vanessa Workman

**Absent:** Teddy Burgh, Tiffany Earley-Spadoni, Allison Thomason

## 1. Introduction

The January and February minutes are approved with the edit sent by Sharon.

## 2. Committee Reports

### *CAP*

Steve discussed the progress with March Madness, and the 8-member fellowship committee is busy! They have received 147 student scholarship applications and 26 project grants (6 to be awarded).

### Shepard Urgent Action Grants

- 2 successful applications (1 is in response to earthquake in Turkey).
- There is funding for additional grants.

Andy wants to let members know that this is one way ASOR is responding to the situation in Turkey.

Kate asked about BIPOC applications, and Steve replied that there are 7 applications with 5 scholarships to award.

### *COP*

Kevin presented the discussions with Baghdad Committee about *JCS*.

- Pushing back on editorship having two three-year terms, which has not been the case with this position in the past.
- Baghdad Committee wants a 7-year editorial run, plus option of 2-year renewal; they need time for the editor to make a mark.

Chuck said that this is a good topic for Ad-Hoc Committee on Governance to discuss and Sharon will pass this along to them.

Andy asked about collecting demographic data with submissions. Kevin has gotten feedback from the DEI Committee who asked why are we collecting data and what would its value be? There was a call for discussion amongst COP. Chuck asked whether other Chicago journals collect this data and Kevin responded yes.

## *PC*

*Allison joined.*

Kiersten announced that there are 573 abstracts and counting.

- 17% (99) are virtual.
- 40 more abstracts than the same time last year.
- 474 registrations, which is on par with previous years.

The CCC reviewed the PC recommendations for the 2024 Plenary Speaker.

Allison voiced that the 2025 AM with SBL plenary address may focus more on biblical studies. Erin asked about extending and bringing people into ASOR by offering membership for the speakers. Sharon noted that this has been discussed in the past, and Andy confirmed that ASOR does offer to pay. Sharon suggested that ASOR offer to pay for registration and hotel in the offer letters.

Sharon mentioned that it would be nice to have a data-driven plenary and asked if anyone knows how the recommended plenary speakers are as speakers.

Chuck asked if a decision could be made today and Sharon responded that it could.

The CCC will review speaker videos and then vote.

## *H&A*

Lynn announced that there will be two new committee members soon. The Book Award deadline is at the end of April and Lynn invited the CCC to nominate books.

Erin asked about diversity of nominees. Lynn responded that there were not many nominations so far, but she is tracking nominees from past years. Erin mentioned that DEI has suggestions for H&A. Lynn will follow up on those suggestions and replied that H&A is also working on making the nomination process easier.

## *ECS*

Vanessa is working on reshuffling subcommittees and will be putting out a call for new members. There is also a new cohort of Digging of Data workshop.

Events:

- Spring: March 31 virtual brown bag on planning for digital data management.
- Fall: public speaking event as a benefit for those presenting at the AM. They plan to have an interactive event with breakout rooms.

ECS is still working on an in-person brown bag at the AM. The theme is teaching. They will work on putting together a panel or round-table discussion. Vanessa wondered how this would be included in the virtual programming.

## *DEI*

Kate circulated the Committee guidelines.

DEI at the AM:

- Land acknowledgement statement.
- Session moderation practices: Give session chairs tools and strategies as well as resources on what to do if there is an issue. This will be included as part of general session chair training.

Andy asked if ASOR can make these trainings required and Kate responded that ASOR can see how it goes with optional to see what works as making the trainings mandatory seems like a big step.

Kiersten wants to add these to the overview for this year and have them in place by the time the new session chairs come in.

Kate noted that the slide at the beginning is required. Allison mentioned that preloaded laptops makes it easy to have this slide up at the start of every session.

Kate asked about building awareness of the DEI committee and how to implement mentorship programming.

Chuck thanked Erin and Kate for the guidelines and suggested that at least parts of it should be made available outside the CCC on the ASOR website.

Jane asked about ISW and Kate responded that the situation was still being figured out. Sharon had long conversation with Beth in January who was very open to combining with DEI. Margaret Cohen will act as a liaison between the two.

*CH*

Jane crafted a draft statement on recommendation of policy on when ASOR should be signing onto petitions.

CH Committee helped in drafting a one-page advocacy briefing sheet. Chuck thanked Jane for providing the draft.

### **3. Other Matters**