

MEMORANDUM

To: ASOR Executive Committee

From: ASOR ad hoc committee on Governance

re: Response to the committee charge

The ASOR ad hoc committee on Governance received the charge from the ASOR Executive to consider the issues immediately following.

1. As it stands now, the President normally serves for two three-year terms. These are followed by two three-year terms on the Executive Committee as Past President. This results in a twelve-year commitment to the governance of ASOR. Might a shorter term result in more and better candidates for the presidency and the shorter rotations result in more effective leadership? The Ad Hoc committee is encouraged to examine the practices of similar societies (AIA, AAA, SAA, SBL) and recommend alternative models if they choose.

2. The methods of choosing the standing committees' members have by and large resulted in vigorous, engaged, and hardworking cadres. We are fortunate our members are willing to serve at the levels they do. There is some sense, however, that the appointment methods of the two groups—the one exclusively in the hands of the executive officers (ASOR Board Standing Committees), and the other largely self-generating (ASOR Standing Committees) —can lead to different types of narrowness. What procedures might we put in place to avoid this?

3. The Board of Trustees as it now stands has six members appointed by Institutional Member Organizations. These organizations include any university, college, seminary, museum, or other institution that pays dues as established by the Board of Trustees. The numbers of dues paying Institutional Member Organizations have been shrinking in recent years—down from over 100 to 60. This seems to be an on-going trend. Should we consider adjusting the numbers of institutional trustees?

Committee Response

The ad hoc committee met several times and exchanged documents. In our discussions we construed our first task - the terms of the president and past president - somewhat more broadly because there seemed inextricable linkage to the term and role of the

vice-president so we looked at all three positions. We reviewed the organization charts for the Archaeological Institute of America, the Society for Biblical Literature, the American Anthropological Association, and Society for American Archaeology. -Those results are set out in the attached chart. Based on that review and our discussions we reached some conclusions.

- The term of the Past President should be shortened to one year irrespective of the length of term of the president.
- The terms of the President and the Vice-President should be shortened to two years each renewable for a second term.
- The position of Vice-President and that of the Chair of the CCC should be separated. The Vice-President could play a role managing the Board Committees and the process for the recruitment and appointment of new members to the ASOR Standing Committees.
- The Vice-President would not be the presumptive president-elect.
- The chair of the CCC would still be a member of the Executive Committee.
- After completing the one-year term as Past President, former presidents will step down for a minimum of one year before standing for re-election to the Board.

As to our second responsibility, reviewing the methods for appointing members to the committees we arrived at the following recommendations.

- There should be a place on the ASOR website where members who are interested in serving on an ASOR standing committee can sign up with a statement of interest.
- The Chair of the CCC in consultation with the VP and the chairs of the ASOR Standing Committees will review the statements of interest and recruit additional committee members as necessary to constitute the committees.

On our third charge regarding the institutional Board Members we concluded that since we have only slightly more than half the number of institutional members we once did we recommend reducing the number of institutional members to three and increasing the number of individual, member elected board members to nine.

Name	ASOR	SBL	AIA	AAA	SAA
Membership	2,200	over 7,000 scholars	6,100	10,000	7,500
Executive Director	3-year renewable	5-year renewable term.	Apptd by Pres - Governing board approves	Apptd by exec board term unknown	must be employee or contractor - ex-officio
Officers	Board chair President Past President Vice-President Secretary Treasurer	President VP Chair of Council Secretary of council Executive Director "who shall also serve as treasurer"	For the Council *President honorary/past presidents *4 VPs *1 st VP *Treasurer Secretary Editor-in chief AJA Presidents affiliated societies Chair managing committee schools Legal Counsel delegates for members at large - meet annually - 30% = quorum	President Pres elect/VP Secretary Executive Secretary Treasurer	President Secretary Treasurer President-elect and Secretary elect in even number years, treasurer elect in odd

	ASOR	SBL	AIA	AAA	SAA
How selected	elected by BOT 3-year terms - Pres, VP and Past Pres limited to two terms	President and VP elected by society for one-year term. VP usually becomes P Chair and secretary of council elected by and from council 1-3 year term - not exceed council term	Officers above with * are members of the Executive Committee along with the Executive Director and four of the trustees Pres/1stVP/T for 3 yrs - Pres and 1 st VP a single 3-year term, everyone else can get re-elected for second term	pres advanced from VP, 2-year term VP 2-year term nominated and elected secretary nom/elect 3- yr term Exec secretary and treasurer apptd by EB	two-year terms. Officers elect 1 year terms President is also chair or board - makes all committee apptmts
Does VP always become pres	No	Apparently	Not necessarily	yes	Apparently
Immediate past president	Yes	N/A	yes	no	no

	ASOR	SBL	AIA	AAA	SAA
Board of Trustees	<p>6 institutionally elected members</p> <p>6 membership elected members</p> <p>up to 12 board-elected trustees</p> <p>1 trustee for each of overseas research centers</p> <p>Officers ex officio and voting and Exec D non-voting</p> <p>Honorary and Life Trustees</p> <p>3-year terms</p>	<p>aka Council - Pres, VP + 12 members. ExD is ex officio. 3-year terms. ExCo = P, VP, Secretary and chair</p>	<p>aka Governing Board</p> <p>Pres, 1st VP, 4 VPs</p> <p>immediate past pres, Treasurer, Exec Director as secretary of the Institute (these 2 ex officio and with voting privileges), 24-30 trustees elected by the council, ex officio w/o voting privileges are editors of journals and publisher of archaeology</p>	<p>17 members, 3-year terms - one is a student</p>	<p>Officers, Officers-elect and six directors-at-large</p>

	ASOR	SBL	AIA	AAA	SAA
Committees	<p>Standing Board Committees - Nominations, Policy on Professional Conduct, Development, Facilities, Finance, Officers Nominations Personnel Trustee Nominations</p> <p>Standing ASOR Committees Archaeological Research and Policy Cultural Heritage Early Career Scholars Honors and Awards Membership & Outreach Program Publications DEI</p> <p>Chairs Coordinating Council and chairs nominations Committee</p>	<p>Committees - 3-yr, renewable for 2nd Annual Meeting Program <u>Development Educational Resources and Review Committee Finance/Audit/Invest ment Committee International Cooperation Initiative (ICI) Committee International Meeting Program Committee Professional Development Committee Research and Publications Committee Status of Women in the Profession Committee Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession Committee</u></p>	<p>30 committees and 17 interest groups</p>	<p>Permanent/Standing Nominations - 9 members - 3-year terms - by area</p> <p>Members Programmatic, Advisory and Advocacy Committee - 23-members with 3- year terms and 1 overall chair, 2 subcommittee chairs one of which is pres- elect - 10 elected members and 8 apptd by - EB liaison - chair appointed by president</p>	<p>Standing Committees Nominating Committee Bylaws Committee Publications Committee Committee on ethics</p> <p>Board Committees are advisory - President's Advisory Board appears to be permanent - all past presidents who are willing to serve</p> <p>Add'l task forces and subcommittees as needed</p>

SBL

Other Committees		<p><u>Nominating Committee</u> (“The Nominating Committee nominates the President, Vice-President, and Council members for election by the Society, and members of standing committees and other representatives for election by Council. Members of this committee serve one four-year term.”)</p> <p><u>Professional Conduct Committee</u> (“Members of the Professional Conduct Committee are appointed by Council from other standing committees of SBL: two from the Status of Women in the Profession Committee, two from the Committee of Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession, one from the Professional Development Committee, one from</p>			
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