

ASOR Publications Committee (COP) Minutes

Kevin McGeough, Presiding
Thursday, November 17, 2022
8:20–10:25 am, Boston MA
Minutes taken by Mara Horowitz

Present: Andrea Berlin, Jana Mynářová, Marwan Kilani, Stephanie Budin, Gary Arbino, Alex Joffe, Jessica Nitschke, Jeff Howry, Jacob Lauinger, Sharon Herbert, Regine Pruzsinszky, Jennie Ebeling, Susan Cohen, William Caraher, Marta Ostovich, Mara Horowitz, Andy Vaughn, Hanan Charaf, Jay Crisostomo (on behalf of Baghdad Committee and JCS)

Absent: Sam Wolff, Charlotte Cable, Piotr Michalowski

BASOR (Susan Cohen, Marwan Kilani, Jana Mynářová, Regine Pruzsinszky)
NEA (Stephanie Budin)
Annual (Bill Caraher)
Archaeological Report Series (Jennie Ebeling)
Levantine Ceramics Project (Andrea Berlin)
Ancient Near East Today (Alex Joffe)
Journal of Cuneiform Studies (Piotr Michalowski)

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Jessica Nitschke was welcomed and Alex Joffe was thanked for his service as ANEToday editor.

2. Approval of Minutes of 2021 Meeting

3. Motion to accept the agenda was passed.

4. Nominations to fill Class of 2025

Eric Kansa and Gary Arbino agreed to stay on for another three-year term. Motion for renewal was made and passed. Committee discussed a need for diversity of COP membership in relation to research expertise (specifically region and time period). Due to this, Jimmy Schryver, who had previously expressed interest in service, was suggested. Kevin agreed to contact him and ask if he was still willing to serve.

4. Report from sub-committee on Standardization of Treatment of Numismatics

The sub-committee had been unable to meet. However, Stephanie and Eric agreed to serve on the committee going forward. Kevin reported that Jane DeRose Evans had also agreed to serve.

5. Report from University of Chicago Press

Kevin summarized key issues from the UCP report that was included in the larger report to COP. Circulation figures were good for all journals, showing either stability or slight, but normal decline, with online usage up 51-114% depending on the journal.

6. Report on Non-English Language Abstract Initiative

Stephanie reported that she had begun a trial of this for NEA but had abandoned it due to lack of ability to find trustworthy translators willing to work for limited compensation. COP agreed to make a formal request to the Board for financial and logistical support in order to re-initiate the beta test.

7. Discussion of NEA Formats

Stephanie requested COP's advice on various issues related to the format of NEA. Part of the issue was a lack of submissions to NEA, and a concomitant increase in pages expected for each journal as now published through UCP. Furthermore, there is disagreement on whether or not "special topics" issues are desirable or problematic and Stephanie asked for advice. Andy informed that the page limit established with UCP needs to be maintained. Discussion ensued on how to increase submissions for NEA. COP was unanimous in agreeing that a balance between special topics issues and regular issues was desirable.

8. Discussion of NEA authorial signatures

Stephanie asked for advice on how to deal with the increasing number of authors of NEA articles. Previously, multi-author articles were unusual, but they have become increasingly more common. This is a problem because of the extended bios and photos of authors included in every issue. COP suggested putting a limit of three images with the bios or asking for group images. No hard and fast rules were suggested and COP advised Stephanie to simply maintain the practice "as is" for now.

9. Maarav acquisition

Andy reported on the acquisition of Maarav as an ASOR journal. COP reviewed the recommended editorial board. A motion was made to approve it, which was passed.

10. Discussion of Data Management

Kevin reported that our policy on data management had been sent to CAP for discussion, but that no feedback had yet been offered. In the interim, Eric agreed to write up some guidelines for managing digital data that could be hosted on the ASOR publications webpage.

11. New Business

Stephanie asked if there is a different way to get monthly tokens for access to ASOR journals through UCP.

Bill mentioned that authors are really behind schedule and asked people to be enthusiastic to authors. He also asked people to encourage submissions to AASOR.

The issue of the JCS transition was brought up. Jay Chrisostomo, Chair of the Baghdad Committee and a guest at the COP meeting, reported that the Baghdad Committee had agreed to renew Piotr's editorship for one more year but to begin a transition plan. The motion was made to COP to renew Piotr's term for one more year and that was passed. Plans for striking a joint search committee between COP and the Baghdad Committee were discussed. Sharon asserted that editors should be compensated going forward.

Meeting adjourned