



**ASOR Executive Committee Fall Meeting
November 23, 2024, 2:00-5:30 PM EST
Boston, MA Park Plaza (Hancock Room)**

Present: Susan Ackerman, Emily Miller Bonney, Lynn Swartz Dodd, Jane DeRose Evans, Sheldon Fox, Kate Grossman, Sharon Herbert, Chuck Jones, Ann-Marie Knoblauch, Eric Meyers, Andy Vaughn
Guest: Marta Ostovich

**Preliminary Matters (2:00-2:15, Sheldon Fox)
2:00 PM call to order**

1. Approval of Agenda
Marta noted corrections to the financial document exhibit lettering.
2. Approval of the Minutes from the Spring 2023 Board Meeting

Eric moved. Chuck seconded. Minutes and agenda (with change) approved.

Changes to ASOR Bylaws

Sheldon stated that the proposed changes would add the President Elect as a member of the Executive Committee, Officers Nominating Committee, and Personnel Committee. Chuck noted that if the President Elect has not been a part of the CCC it would be good to invite them to attend CCC meetings for their year of service.

Susan brought up the duration of terms and the duties of the President Elect. She cautioned against over-burdening the President Elect.

Sharon confirmed that the President Elect is a voting member of the committees.

Chuck moved. Emily seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee recommends that the Board approve the changes to the Bylaws that create the position of President Elect and the consequent emendations to other bylaws provisions necessitated by the inclusion of a President Elect. Unanimously approved.

Officer Elections (2:15-2:30, Sharon Herbert)

1. Jane DeRose Evans to a term as President Elect (1-year term January 1, 2025–December 31, 2025)

Sharon noted that there were three strong candidates who were interviewed. Jane's cultural heritage experience is very important. She has both the skills and time to devote to the position.

Sheldon noted that candidates were not asked whether they were interested in one or two terms.

Eric seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee accepts the recommendation of the Officers Nominations Committee and recommends that the Board appoint Jane DeRose Evans to a one-year term as President-Elect (January 1, 2025–December 31, 2025). Unanimously approved.

Lynn asked that the Executive Committee thank the Officers Nominating Committee.

2. Sarah Scott to an initial term as Secretary (3-year term January 1, 2025–December 31, 2027)

Sarah was recommended by a Board colleague. Emily spoke to Sarah's qualifications.

Ann-Marie seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee accepts the recommendation of the Officers Nominations Committee and recommends that the Board appoint Sarah Scott to an initial three-year term as Secretary (January 1, 2025-December 31, 2027) Unanimously approved.

Sharon thanked Ann-Marie for her service as Secretary.

Financial Matters Part 1 (2:30–3:15)

1. Treasurer's Report (Emily Miller Bonney)
2. Discussion of Budget to Actual (Exhibit C), Notes to Budget to Actual (Exhibit D), Net Investment Report (Exhibits A & B), and Audited Financials for FY2024 (Emily Miller Bonny and Andy Vaughn)

Emily reported that the Finance Committee had a good meeting today and reviewed spreadsheets and budget to actual. She invited questions.

There was discussion of the growth of investments, disbursements to be made for fellowships/grants and operations, and ASOR's total assets.

Emily noted changes to nomenclature in the Budget to Actual. Britta and Emily will make a separate spreadsheet to further illuminate the Temporary Restricted account.

Emily commented that the Annual Meeting numbers were not great.

Donations have increased and the Annual Fund was very successful last year. Sharon recognized the hard work of Andy and the Development Committee.

Andy noted that he, Emily, and Britta are working on a separate budget to actual for total assets.

3. Finance Committee Action Items (Emily Miller Bonney and Andy Vaughn)
 - a. Action: vote to receive audited financials

Chuck seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee on recommendation of the Finance Committee accepts the audited financial statements.
Unanimously approved.

- b. Discussion of Draft 990: Report to federal government on why we should be a non-profit.
- c. Review of Conflict of Interest forms: most conflicts were not issues.
 - Eric & Carol Meyers as spouses on the Board. The Finance committee decided that this is not an issue.
 - Bob Mullins (trustee) married to Hanan Charaf (employee). Finance Committee determined that Bob should not participate in discussions of CHI. Susan said that Bob should not be involved in tomorrow's discussion of the CHC motion. Bob is in his second term of service and the Board and ASOR leadership were aware of the conflict when Hanan was hired.

ASOR 2025 and Development (3:15-3:30, Lynn Swartz Dodd and Sheldon Fox)

Lynn stated that this year's Annual Fund goal of \$140,000 and we are currently at \$25,333. A year-end-letter is in the works.

The ASOR 2025 initiative is at \$4.3 million. This has been made possible by generous gifts, pledges, legacy gifts, including two recent legacy gifts.

Push for last \$700,000. Ideas for development committee and Andy?

Lynn: Eric's role in the 100th anniversary. Work on how to celebrate the 125th. Putting together steering committee. Staff handle logistics, committee handles concept. Someone to be there with us for this celebration. Sheldon: should dev. Committee just focus on raising money. Going to ask for volunteers to be on planning committee.

Lynn asked for input on EC and mid-career scholars who might be good candidates for Legacy Giving.

Kate joined.

Board Elections (Kate Grossman)

Kate reported that all nominees came from the Board. While there were lots of suggestions,

many were for people who have already served or are rotating off.

Kate noted that some of the institutional representatives are someone in administration or who controls the library. The bylaws do not require the institutional representative to be the one who can run for office. The EC and Board need to think more broadly about where to draw institutional trustees from.

Susan noted that women have been more successful in trustee election.

Chuck reported on conversations with people interested in the Vice President role.

Kate reported that 10-12 names were sent to the committee. A committee vote determined which 3-4 were nominees. She noted the initial group was 50-50, men and women.

Lynn asked about how many people voted and Marta responded 18-19% (ca. 300/400 people). There was discussion of analyzing data on nominations from the past 10–15 years and figuring out if there are patterns. The EC also discussed how to get members more involved in the nomination process and the DEI committee's role.

Kate noted two members of the Trustee Nominations Committee are cycling off of the Board and she will work with Sheldon and Sharon on this. The committee will start thinking about nominations earlier in the year.

1. Institutional-Elected Trustees

- a. Andrea Berlin (initial 3-year term January 1, 2025–December 31, 2027)
- b. Lynn Swartz Dodd (additional 3-year term January 1, 2025–December 31, 2027)

2. Member-Elected Trustees

- a. Helen Dixon (initial 3-year term January 1, 2025–December 31, 2027)
- b. Emily Hammer (initial 3-year term January 1, 2025–December 31, 2027)

Lynn and Jane thanked the Nominations Committee.

Break (3:30-3:45)

Committee Reports, and Discussion/Action Items (4:00-5:30)

1. CCC Activities (Chuck Jones)

Chuck reported that the CCC is very healthy, and the conversations are productive. Sharon agreed. The three-hour meeting in Boston was useful. Chuck and Sharon have been on CCC since the start. The CCC is a place to discuss difficult issues, as well as an incubator for leadership.

2. Publications (Chuck Jones)

Appointment of *NEA* Editor

Chuck noted that the number of applicants (7) points to the health of the organization and the Publications Committee.

Susan asked whether special-themed issues were a topic of conversation in the Publications Committee. There was discussion of NEA's audience and whether it should be more popular as well as types of publications and their influence on academic progress/tenure. Chuck mentioned the report on the most popular articles from UCP.

(return to elections)

Board-Elected Trustee

Jane moved. Emily seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee recommends that the Board appoint Ann Sahlman as a Board-Elected Trustee for an additional 3-year term (January 1, 2025–December 31, 2027).

Unanimously approved

3. Cultural Heritage Committee Activities (Jane DeRose Evans and Andy Vaughn) *Motion for affiliation status for Civil Society Organizations and Conservation Projects*

The EC received the report from the CHC and put forth the following motion.

Kate moved. Jane seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee recommends that the Board approve the motion from the Cultural Heritage Committee that ASOR create a mechanism for Civil Society Organizations and Conservation Projects to be affiliated with ASOR.

Unanimously approved.

Kate asked about whether this affiliation comes with funding opportunities like CAP affiliation does. Jane replied that it does not, but rather this affiliation is something that has been requested by organizations. Susan and Kate noted that these projects could apply for Shepard Urgent Action grants (run by CAP).

There was discussion of the new affiliation process.

4. Brief Report on Renovation Plans for James F. Strange Center (Andy Vaughn, see Supplemental Materials PDF)

Andy reported that the renovation is set to start for March/April. There was discussion of the plans and relocating staff during renovation.

5. ASOR and the Political Landscape Update (Sharon Herbert)

Sharon commented on international/national situations and challenges ASOR could face. Chuck asked that ASOR make sure that to include Sudan in these conversations.

6. Planning for the Next Strategic Plan (Sharon Herbert)

The current plan is for 2021–2025 and was adopted in November 2021.

Sharon noted that this will be a topic for breakout session discussion.

EC Retreat: Feb. 15-16, 2025

Spring EC & Board Meeting: May 2-4, 2025

- EC Dinner Friday
- EC Meeting Saturday morning
- Board Meeting Saturday afternoon
- Dinner Saturday night
- Board Meeting Sunday morning.

Both meetings are in-person, in Alexandria, VA.

Sharon shared some thoughts on directions for the strategic plan.

Sheldon noted that this is Susan's and Ann-Marie's last Executive Committee meeting. The Executive Committee will have one open spot following Jane's move to President-Elect.