

American Schools of Oriental Research
Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda
Westin Waterfront Hotel, Boston
November 23, 2008
DRAFT MINUTES

PRESENT: Susan Ackerman, Beth Alpert Nakhai, Gary Arbino, Bill Arnold, Jeffrey Blakely, VP for COP, Elizabeth Bloch-Smith, Jeffrey R. Chadwick, Eric H. Cline, Jennie Ebeling, Gus Feissel, Nili S. Fox, Sheldon Fox, Treasurer, Lawrence T. Geraty, Past President, Barry Gittlen, Jimmy Hardin, Tim Harrison, President, Michael Homan, Co-VP for CAMP, Morag Kersel, Co-VP for CAMP, Ann Killebrew, Outgoing VP for CAP, Øystein LaBianca, ACOR rep. and incoming VP for CAP, P.E. MacAllister, Chairman, Eric Meyers, Past President, Bob Mullins, Tammi Schneider, VP for Membership, Sue Sheridan, Lydie Shufro, James F. Strange, Secretary, Stuart Swiny, Andy Vaughn, Executive Director, Lawson Younger, Randy Younker.

ABSENT: Mark Chavalas, Carol Meyers, Austin Ritterspach, B.W. Ruffner, Joe Seger

VISITORS: Vivian Bull, Tom Davis for CAARI; Barbara A. Porter for ACOR; Sy Gitin for AIAR

- 1. Call to Order.** P.E. MacAllister, 8:00 am.

Statements to the Board of Trustees of the American Schools of Oriental Research,
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BE IT RESOLVED that the board of trustees approves the election of Øysten LaBianca for a three year term beginning Jan 1, but extending back to this meeting. Moved and seconded by the Nominating Committee. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. Report of Items approved by the Executive Committee (A. Vaughn). There were none brought forward for the Board.

10. Treasurer's Report (Sheldon Fox).

- a. Sheldon Fox called attention to the assets figure in the Auditor's report. Most of the investments are invested in equities. There is also deferred income as journals are delivered or from memberships. Our net worth has increased. Three years ago our net worth was a negative number. In our net Assets, that available for operations is about \$64,292. The Opportunity Fund is part of the book funds. The question was raised whether the office staff time has been allocated appropriately to Journals and books rather than Annual Meeting.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Audit of Romeo, Wiggins & Company, L.L.P. be approved. Moved and seconded by the Finance Committee. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. There were two policies to be adopted by the Board, namely, the Whistleblowers' policies and the Conflict of Interest Policy. These are recommended to the Board by the Finance Committee because the IRS recommends that non-profits have such policies. A disclosure questionnaire appears in the Conflict of Interest Policy that Board members will fill out and sign.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Conflict of Interest Policy and the Whistleblower policy be approved with slight changes in language, such as spelling. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- c. Update on the current financial status. The declines in the equities markets of about

BE IT RESOLVED that the three recommendations be accepted, to wit, that \$14,000 of endowment not be distributed for FY 2009, that income from the Harris Fellowship Fund not be distributed for FY 2009, and that 5% be targeted from grants from the Jan 1 status of the Platt Endowment. Moved and Seconded by the Finance Committee. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. Strategic Planning Process and Development Update (T. Harrison, President).

Contributions are encouraging thus far into the fiscal year. We are slightly less than last year. (Last year we received 4000001000 1r F ET Q q 02400000 0 0 0.2400000 283.29 cm802.32 cm B

BE IT RESOLVED that ASOR affirms reappointment of M. Allen to COP (class of 2011), of C. Rollston, J. Cahill West, and W. Schniedewind to the BASOR Editorial Board (2009-2012); and of G. Fassbeck and J. Ebeling as Assistant Editors of *Near Eastern Archaeology*. Moved and seconded by the COP Committee. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

15. CAP Report (A. Killebrew). We will have about 60 projects affiliated. The CAP met

Can we do that? CAORC has a very small amount of money to help with archives abroad. Rachel is working towards the publication of photographs we have acquired several years ago, perhaps as an *Annual*. The PEF would like to join with us in one archive. Harvard Semitic Museum was the repository of some of these ASOR items. Should an opportunity or a donor emerge to combine these archives, perhaps we should mention the possibility.

The Chairman ruled that there was a consensus that there should be immediate appropriate actions taken about the archives in the Boston office.

19. Discussion Items.

- a. **'Libel Tourism' Issue.** Andy Vaughn reports that libel cases are taken elsewhere for a better hearing. For example, one may take a case to the UK rather than the USA. Two learned societies in the past year have been sued this way. We need policies in place. The publications committee is studying this phenomenon.
- b. **Record Retention Policy.** Andy Vaughn asks that the Board help in this area, to the extent that Board members have experience in this area.

20. ACOR Report. Barbara Porter announced that it is the 40th anniversary of ACOR. There are about 20 fellowships this year. Kress decided its fellowship would be two years, which means it will no longer be offered at ACOR. The Mellon Fellowship will also end. The fellowships are mainly for North Americans, but also for Jordanians and others. There will be a new web site with PDFs of old newsletters and other materials. Hostel revenue funds

23. Baghdad Committee Report—Tim Harrison reports that the Baghdad Committee has been meeting and has drafted a preliminary statement about publication of unprovenanced cuneiform tablets. It will require more work before it is submitted. BE IT RESOLVED that new Committee members be added to the Baghdad Committee, namely, Steven Garfinkle, Jason Ur, Seth Richardson, Michael Danti.

24. Damascus Committee Report—Tim Harrison.

BE IT RESOLVED that new Committee members be added to the Damascus Committee, namely, Jesse Casana, Glenn Schwartz, Rudy Dornemann, Clemens Reichel, Lauren Ristvet, Mike Danti, Lidewijde de Jong, Alexia Smith, and Giorgia Buccelati (provisional until he becomes an ASOR member).

25. Executive Director's Report: Andy Vaughn stressed that the spring Board meeting will be April 17-19, 2009. Please make reservations for the Annual Meeting in New Orleans before Thanksgiving.

26. President's Report. Tim Harrison thanked Andy Vaughn and the ASOR staff . Steep learning curve for the job. Wants to stay in close contact with Committee chairs. Wants to meet with each Board member and define everyone's role on the Board.

27. Chair's Report P.E. MacAllister reports that he spends time communicating with many. Read a prepared MS on motivation.

28. Old Business—none.

29. New Business—none.

30. Announcements. P.E. MacAllister received the Michael A. Carroll Award for Community Service in Indianapolis. The award emphasizes the following for qualities: determination, devotion, humility and community. Carol Meyers received a Festschrift at the AIAR reception.

31. Adjourn. 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

James F. Strange, Secretary