

ASOR Board of Trustees Meeting  
Lanier Theological Library, Houston, TX  
April 18, 2015

Present:

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## 6. Proposed By-Laws Emendation (Susan Ackerman)

Electronic voting for ASOR Institutional and Individual Trustees, administered through INFORMZ, our system that we use for the \_\_\_\_\_, etc., shall be enabled by an emendation to the By-Laws.

Larry Gerarty: Chair of Trustee Nominations Committee. Supports a move to make this change as it facilitates a more democratic process and greater participation. It will necessitate a slightly earlier window for the nominations, earlier in the Fall.

Carol Meyers wonders whether attendance at the Annual Meeting might signal a greater involvement in ASOR and thus closer engagement with the issues facing ASOR. Joe Greene says that disenfranchisement may be slightly redressed by giving people a greater chance for engagement and involvement, which might yield an ASOR that is more in line with their interests.

Ann Marie Knoblauch mentions the need to prompt people to ensure that they vote prior to the deadline.

Andy Vaughn: module is confidential regarding one's vote, but ASOR will be able to track who votes. Other societies have seen a change from 5% to 40-60% voting rate. All felt that the increase in participation is a positive move.

Susan Ackerman: we will provide paper ballots for anyone who requests this; however, we will not put this in the Bylaws, so that we can provide this service for the dozen people for whom a special arrangement is being made, an accommodation that will be phased out eventually when no longer needed.

**BE IT RESOLVED:** the Board endorses the election by the Honors and Awards committee Gabrielle Borenstein for a three-year term on the Honors and Awards Committee (January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2017). Passed unanimously.

In the future, a short bio will be presented to the Board prior to voting, at the request of Sharon Herbert, Vice President.

8. Committee Proposals (from the Honors and Awards Committee)
  - a. Naming the new (inaugurated 2014) “Best Poster” award and the new (inaugurated 2014) “Best Popular Book” award

President Susan Ackerman presented a summary of the proposal for Committee Chair Laura Mazow. She explained that the Committee has desired to attach names to the awards, and the committee has been engaged in conversations about possible names for more than a year. The committee concluded that it would be good to name the awards for women because all ASOR awards to date have been named after men. The CCC endorsed the concept of naming the awards after women, and the CCC suggested that the Honors and Awards Committee considers women who were active ASOR members.

Ed Wright asked if the families of the person being honored or the person herself had been contacted. Susan replied that we were waiting to contact families until the board has voted.

**BE IT RESOLVED:** the Board establishes a new name for the Popular Book Award, which shall henceforth be called “The Nancy Lapp Popular Book Award.”

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Joe Greene: Sees two issues: 1 – the calamity itself; 2 – how ASOR participates in this. This requires that we build a profile as a reputable source of information, and we are learning as babes in the woods.

Eric Meyers: ASOR should have a professional journalist who could be our spokesperson or writer who could put our case forward in the best light. Our current staff is doing as well as possible, but a targeted staff acquisition to write would facilitate this, and a budget item might be warranted.

Catherine Duff: she is a former journalist; says that releases could get noticed now in view of the context.

Rami Arav: vandalism is not new, Khirbet Shema, Bethsaida (replica); but the press does

Treasurer.

- a. ASOR is projected to generate a modest FY 2015 increase in unrestricted assets

- b. Creation of permanently restricted funds for the P.E. MacAllister Fellowships, the Carol and Eric Meyers Fellowships, and the Strange/Midkiff Families Fellowships.

**The Board endorses the establishment of the MacAllister Fund, in consideration of the following:**

Whereas ASOR instituted a campaign in 2013 to raise funds to establish a permanently restricted endowment account known as the P. E. MacAllister Endowed Scholarship Fund for Archaeological Volunteers; and

Whereas multiple donors contributed amounts, ranging from \$10 to \$25,000, to establish the account; and

Whereas the aggregate contributions to the P. E. MacAllister Endowed Scholarship Fund for Archaeological Volunteers now exceed \$50,000; and

Whereas the funds contributed to date have been invested according to the ASOR “Investment and Spending Policy” (posted on the ASOR website), the policy that governs the investment and disbursement of funds in permanently restricted accounts;

**Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED:** the ASOR Board of Trustees formally designates all funds contributed by multiple donors to the P. E. MacAllister Endowed Scholarship Fund for Archaeological Volunteers (both prior to and after this resolution) as the permanently designated corpus amount (or historic dollar amount) of the P. E. MacAllister Fund. The P. E. MacAllister Endowed Scholarship Fund for Archaeological Volunteers will be invested and disbursed according to ASOR’s “Investment and Spending Policy,” which the Board of Trustees

all funds contributed by

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the authority to vet and select the CPA firm for the FY 2015, 2016, and 2017 audits and tax returns. Pending further negotiations with the State Department, we have not commenced the competitive bidding process. The Executive Director, Treasurer, and the Finance Committee recommend that the process be postponed an additional four to six weeks until a signed renewal of the SHI cooperative agreement is in hand. At that point, we will have a better idea of our audit needs for the next three years, and be in a better position to draft a more precise request for proposal.

**BE IT RESOLVED:** the Treasurer and Finance Committee be authorized to take a decision about the FY 2015 auditors

d. Emendation of the Conflict-of-Interest Form

**BE IT RESOLVED:** the EC endorses the emendation of the Conflict-of-Interest Form for Question 9 as follows:

“9. Are you aware of any other events, transactions, arrangements, or other situations that you believe should be examined by ASOR’s board or the executive committee in accordance with the terms and intent of ASOR’s conflict of interest policy? **If you are a board member, trustee, or officer of a competing or affinity organization, please describe any potential conflicts.** Yes ( ) No ( )

In closing, ASOR is financially healthy, on track to meet (or exceed) the FY 2015 budget.

#### 11. ASOR Policy on Professional Conduct

Susan Ackerman provided an Introduction: The process of developing a comprehensive professional conduct policy for ASOR was begun in 2010, when then-President Tim Harrison convened an ad hoc Ethics Working Group, with members Lynn Swartz Dodd (chair), Thomas Davis, Jane Evans, Larry Herr, and Marian Feldman. The Working Group then engaged in a multi-faceted process in order to develop a proposal for an ASOR Policy on Professional Conduct. For example, they researched the policies of peer organizations, as well as consulting broadly with ASOR leaders past and present (trustees, officers, committee chairs, and other committee members). The Working Group also reached out to individual ASOR members: in private conversations, through our e-newsletter, and at various sessions organized at the ASOR Annual Meeting (e.g., the “speed ethics” session hosted by the Working Group at the 2013 meeting and the discussion forum held during the Friday lunch hour of the 2014 meeting). The Board has also regularly reviewed the work of the Ethics Working Group as it has gone forward, at each Board meeting since November 2012. In addition, the proposed ASOR Policy on Professional Conduct has been discussed several times by the Executive Committee and by the Chairs Coordinating Council, as well as by various of ASOR’s standing committees (especially CAP, COP, and the Program Committee). During the past year, moreover (during Fall 2014 and again during Winter 2015), a draft of the proposed policy was

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posted on ASOR's website in order to s

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Moved by Tim Harrison and seconded by Hanan Charaf. Passed unanimously.

Susan Ackerman expressed her thanks to Lynn Dodd and the committee for their work on this policy over the past years.

### **New Business**

#### 12. Wendell Weir Legacy Gift (Susan Ackerman)

Wendell Weir was a Congregationalist Minister and son of a notable Congregationalist minister in Los Angeles. 11% of assets of the estate are being donated to ASOR, roughly \$80-90K. Susan Ackerman presented the options discussed by the EC, which is that we either put the money into the endowment or into the Harris Fund. Sharon Herbert put it succinctly by saying that “it isn’t sexy, but that is the best move we can make, putting it to the endowment.” She says:

Small group breakouts were organized to consider and report back on the topics assigned.

Group #1: Tim (Teddy, Lynn, Carol) – Topics II, III, VI

II: By developing robust programs for the general public.

Cultural heritage issue captured by “by maintaining the highest ethical standards of scholarship and public discourse” so discourages a separate cultural heritage bullet: we don’t want historically contingent events to be driving the mission and so favors a more general wording.

Geography: SW Asia and Mediterranean Basin rather than Near East.

possibilities to the future and is authentic to ASOR's history which is focused to Levant and Mesopotamia.

"ASOR is an international organization whose mission is to initiate....."

5<sup>th</sup> bullet, p.2: higher educational institutions "around the world"

III: AM: varied viewpoints, suggests a task force. 20% of membership is involved in SBL actively. Requires some study.

IV: concurred with the committee recommendations that oversight of outreach publications' editors go to Membership and Outreach.

Group #5: Ann Marie Knoblauch (Richard, Rami, Vivian) – Topics II, V, VI

II: re the name ASOR: is there another "O" word? Geographic designation: Mediterranean basin, wants to be driven by what we are doing, rather than what we want to do.

To be inclusive: define archaeology in a way that applies to related disciplines (e.g. digital technology; scientific disciplines).

This is Ray's last meeting as CAARI President, after 5 years. See the latest issue of CAARI news. Big hole for the library expansion project, for the underground extension; the rehab of the current library is already done. Hope to be done will full project by Summer, 2016 and will enable the CAARI Board to meet in Cyprus for the dedication (which means that potentially, there will be nobody from CAARI at the ASOR Spring Board meeting in 2016). Ray asked for early establishment of the date of the Spring Board Meeting. Going forward: Focus on maintenance, upkeep on hostel rooms; building façade. Received a grant from CAORC to restore the building façade. Ray's successor to be