

Chairs Coordinating Council
Conference Call
January 26, 2017 3:00 PM EST

Present: Andy Vaughn, Heather Parker, Chuck Jones, Cynthia Rufo, Susan Ackerman, Sharon Herbert, Laura Mazow, Tom Levy, Helen Dixon, Geoff Emberling

Absent: Randy Younker

1. Approval of November Minutes

Minutes were a

The Junior Scholars chair said that this made Bahrani her top choice. She has heard rumblings from membership that it is good that we take care of monuments, but we neglect including language about the people in conflict zones in the regions in which ASOR members work. She thought that this is something that needs to be addressed. It would be useful to hear the sort of language someone who works with material culture uses when speaking about material culture and the people. A lot of us do not have the vocabulary to talk about both of these things at once.

Sharon asked what we know about El Hassan.

The Programs Committee co-chair said she is very dynamic, charismatic, and sometimes funny.

The CAP chair said he is partial to Princess Sumaya. Her English is beautiful. She is not going to be an edgy speaker. She has been very involved with the archaeology of Jordan. The issues of grappling with people and antiquities are very familiar to her. She knows a lot about ASOR and ACOR. She is a kind of diplomat for Jordan and would provide an elegant way of hearing about archaeology from the perspective of a country in the Middle East.

The Programs Committee co-chair said he had some concerns, not knowing anything about whether she would give a conceptually vacant talk about how we all need to work together. Does she have any ability to be analytical or critical?

The CAP chair said he believes so. He once organized a conference on radiocarbon dating and the bible and she came to it. I think if someone could coach her on the big issues, she would be open to enhancing her talk.

Susan asked what the committee thought about Irene Winter?

The CAP chair heard her speak recently and thought she was great. The Programs Committee co-chair agreed.

Susan said Winter has a ton of scholarly heft and wondered if it would be a slap in the face if we were in her home city for the meeting

The Programs Committee co-chair said that it sounds like the first choice is Sumaya and second choice is Irene?

Sharon pointed out that we are not going to have Irene around forever. Someone who has been so formative in the field and is still at the top of her game - we don't have that very often. In this instance, Susan thinks

4. Plan to Revise Speaker Attribution in Program Book

The Program Committee co-chair said they are waiting to have all comments from the Annual Meeting collated before discussing this. Once the committee has those comments, they will

Susan said that the other proposals announced on Tuesday included an order about the Mexican border, and an order regarding Syrian refugees. Those were signed on Wednesday. This order has not been signed yet, so we are hoping cooler heads have prevailed and that is the reason for why this one hasn't been signed.

The Junior Scholars chair asked whether it is cooler heads prevailing, or is it testing the waters? A strong immediate statement is something that might be very important right now. Could we at least state that we stand in solidarity with our colleagues who might be affected by this?

The Programs Committee co-chair asked if a statement be more forceful if it was a joint statement with other organizations?

Susan asked if she should draft an email to the membership to tell them we are closely monitoring this proposed order, and also that we are considering what could happen with the NEH. Do people want to get email like that?

Agreements all around that this is an emergency situation and a message from Susan about it would be well received.

Sharon said that we may not have much power, but that does not mean we should not speak up. It is better to say something as Trump is running it up the flagpole instead of waiting to deplore it after he does it.

The Programs Committee co-chair suggested that someone from our organizations need to get in front of these issues sooner rather than later.

Susan said it would be productive to ask other organizations how we can become allies in their lobbying efforts.

The Junior Scholars chair felt conflicted about what the best timing for a statement would be. If we say something too soon, we run the risk of being watered down. Someone suggested seeing what statements have already been made. If people are searching around for statements, we want people to find ASOR's statement.

The Programs Committee co-chair wondered if it would be better to band together with other archaeologists, or if we should cross academic borders and make a general argument in behalf of academic study.

The CAP chair pointed out that the administration would look at us like a bunch of elitist, left wing professors. If we want them to relate to us, we need to present ourselves as part of what America is and give them a way to relate on a personal level.

Susan decided that a good place to start would be to make a statement to the membership, and then move on to statements we could make beyond the membership.