

The American Schools of Oriental Research  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
Washington, DC  
April 13, 2000  
Minutes

**Present:** Chairman P.E. MacAllister, President Joe Seger, Vice-President Holly Hendrix, Treasurer Ingrid Wood, Al Leonard, Bill Dever, Victor Matthews, Lydie Shufro, Øystein LaBianca, Gough Thompson, Tom Schaub, B.W. Ruffner, Randy Younker, John Spencer, Ernest Frerichs, Tammi Schneider, Jeffrey Blakely, Sy Gitin, Nan Frederick, Dave McCreery, Kyle McCarter, Oded Borowski, John Camp, Tim Harrison, Ex-officio: Rudy Dornemann, Billie Jean Collins, Holly Andrews (Absent Jerry Vincent, Ed Gilbert, Charles Harris, Dick Scheuer, Stuart Swiny, Julie Hansen, James Strange, Bruce Routledge.)

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman MacAllister at 10:05am.

Resolved, the minutes from the Board meeting of November 20, 1999 in Cambridge, MA are approved by the Board. The motion was seconded and voted.

2. Report from the **Nominations Committee**

The Chairman suggested that this agenda item be advanced to allow for election of new Trustee candidates so that they might formally participate in the meeting. Resolved, candidates to the Board elected Trustee Class of 2003: Jerry Vincent (continuing) and B. W. Ruffner and Austin Ritterspach (new members vitae circulated) be elected as recommended by Randy Younker, Chairman and the Nominations Committee.

The motion was seconded and voted.

3. **Chairman's Report** – P.E. MacAllister (see attached)

4. **President's Report** – Joe Seger

President Seger held a moment of silence for Janet Harris who passed away in January, and for Jim Sauer who passed away in November, 1999.

President Seger thanked Deborah Stern and Julie Hansen for their service to the Board. Both complete their terms in June of this year. He also noted that Ed Gilbert, President of CAARI and Patty Gerstenblith, president of AIAR will both be completing their terms and their successors will replace them on the ASOR board as representatives of those two centers.

He then reported on another new institutional membership application. The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor of Belton, TX (representative – Stephen Von Wyrick) was earlier accepted into the ASOR Consortium by the Executive Committee.

President Seger indicated that he needs help and support from the Board on reconstituting the existing committees.

5. **Report from AIAR** – deferred till arrival of P. Gerstenblith.

6. **Report from ACOR** – Nan Frederick (for Anne Ogilvy)

ACOR continues to do well overall. Major projects such as Petra, Madaba and Aqaba continue to be active. The Mosaics of Jordan publication is still very popular and going strong.

First Lady Hillary Clinton and Chelsea Clinton visited ACOR in November and presented the center with a USAID award of \$185,000 for the Petra endowment. The ACOR endowment now stands at \$1.1 million dollars.

Other new initiatives are underway at ACOR. A new digital mapping project is underway thanks to a grant from the USAID and 152 Petra Church Scrolls have now been processed.

7. **Report from CAARI** – Joe Seger (for Ed Gilbert)

President Joe Seger noted that there is an important vote on officers taking place at the concurrent meeting of the CAARI Board along with other important business. This explains the absence of Ed Gilbert and other CAARI/ASOR dual Trustees. He reported that the CAARI center is functioning well under the directorship of Robert Merrillees and thanks to support from Janet and Charles Harris, endowment is strong and activities are thriving.

8. **Centennial Report** – Joe Seger

The Centennial Committee has worked diligently on putting together the ASOR Centennial Program. ASOR wishes to express appreciation to Under Secretary Tom Pickering and Mrs. Alice Pickering who have given much help and advice on many details, especially the Gala at the State Department.

At this juncture Patty Gerstenblith joined the meeting and provided the Report on AIAR activities.

Dr. Gerstenblith indicated that everything is going very well at AIAR. They recently received a substantial Kershaw Grant for their Centennial. The Garden at the Albright will be named the “Kershaw Garden” in recognition of this gift. The Albright endowment is now passing the \$3 million dollar mark and they have balanced their budget for the year. The AIAR fellowship program is full and thriving. She encourages all to try and come to the Centennial celebration in Jerusalem as it should be a wonderful program.

President Seger then announced that the Honors and Awards Committee is recognizing Patty this year with the W.F. Albright Award and he followed this by reading the citation in her honor. She graciously accepted and thanked all at ASOR in return.

#### **9. Financial Reports – Ingrid Wood (see attached report)**

In response to our financial obligations, Bill Dever started a discussion on the need to help young scholars; the next generation of ASOR. We need to address the issue of young people. They need help from ASOR to secure jobs, receive grant money to start projects and do research. If we do not help them the field will erode. Younger scholars did not grow up with ASOR as the senior scholars have and do not have the same support network. If nothing else the senior scholars can go out and “beat ASOR’s drum” by speaking and tapping into the interest and excitement of young people and raise money to help this next generation. Many of the younger members feel like ASOR doesn’t do anything for them and we should respond to that and see that we do.

#### **10. Report from the Executive Director – Rudy Dornemann (see attached report)**

The Boston office has worked long and hard on the Centennial Program. Now that it is over, we need to tend to new responsibilities and development efforts.

Dr. Dornemann covered the proposed By-Laws amendment which was circulated earlier. (copy appended)

Resolved, that the proposed By-Laws amendment is accepted by the Board.

The motion was seconded and voted.

Dr. Dornemann next provided an update on the Saudi Arabia initiative. President Seger commented that it is a great opportunity for ASOR and we should pursue it. It was agreed that ASOR will go forward with a delegation to Saudi Arabia when this seems appropriate and to assess the prospects there before making any commitments.

#### **11. Report from Nominations Committee (See above!)**

#### **12. Brief new Trustee Orientation (deferred)**

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need to respond to those changes and be pragmatic in our focus regarding religion and its significance in the world in both the East and the West.

**15. Report from the Committee on Archaeological Policy – Dave McCreery**

Dr. McCreery reported that as CAP Chairman he has taken the liberty of writing to many of the project directors' deans, administrators and presidents regarding the importance of the work CAP affiliated project members are doing. He has had some positive response. This is one way in which CAP can provide support for ASOR members and can serve to help, especially young scholars.

17. **Old Business** – P.E. MacAllister is seeking help to promot