



ASOR Board of Trustees Meeting
Minutes
Westin Boston Waterfront Hotel
8:30AM – 12:30PM EDT
April 29, 2017

Present: Fred Winter, Bryan Wilkins, Rami Arav, Joe Seger, Randy Helm, Jeff Blakely, Ann-Marie Knoblauch, Selma Omerefendic, Sharon Herbert, Susan Ackerman, Richard Coffman, Joe Greene, Elizabeth Macauley-Lewis, Debra Foran, Heather Dana Parker, Theodore Burgh, Andrew Vaughn, J. Edward Wright, Peggy Duly. Guest: Charles Jones (COP, Chair)

The Chair called the meeting Order at 8:35AM

1. Approval of Agenda.

BE IT RESOLVED: The agenda is approved by unanimous consent.

2. Approval of the Minutes from the November 2016 Board Meeting (November 20, 2016)

Peggy Duly: top of page 11 – Junior Scholars “if” to “it”

BE IT RESOLVED: The Minutes of the November, 2016 Board Meeting are approved as revised by unanimous consent.

3. Committee Appointments (Sharon Herbert)

Standing committees have 3 year term limited memberships with one term of renewal. The nominees to our committees are:

4a. Committee

staff/academicfaculty/department-of-maritime-civilizations/--17
and <http://haifa.academia.edu/AssafYasurLandau>.

BE IT RESOLVED: the appointment of the foregoing persons to the Editorial Board with the terms as noted in the entries above is approved by unanimous consent.

6. Editor Appointments (Sharon Herbert)

- Eric H. Cline and Christopher H. Rollston, for a second three-year term as the co-editors of (July 1, 2017- June 30, 2019) --
<https://cnelc.columbian.gwu.edu/eric-h-cline> and
<https://cnelc.columbian.gwu.edu/christopher-rollston>.

Randy Helm asks whether there should be development of a junior editor in order to ensure smooth transition. Sharon Herbert commends Randy Helm for bringing this issue forward. She remarked that the former BASOR editor was in his position for a long time, including a transition when Eric and Chris served as associate editors before taking on the editor positions. Yields floor to Chuck Jones.

Chuck Jones: In the past, there was overlap with our past long-serving editor, to enable the new editor to learn the system. Now they use the publication management system, which facilitates things. Chuck recommends the idea of overlap among editors. Nine to ten years is about as long as you want an editor to be in place, from the perspective of publishers.

Andy Vaughn: in the contract for the editors, we have included compensation for a 6 month period of overlap, and we try to identify a replacement 6-9 months in advance of the contract expiration for an editor. The last editor's contract had 6 months of additional compensation (for Jim Weinstein) to facilitate this. NEA will have a new contract developed as well, and likely we will introduce a similar clause for the editor as well.

Chuck Jones mentioned the process that the committee followed in creating its slate of candidates.

BE IT RESOLVED: the motion proposed by the Committee on Publications that the Board approve the appointments of Eric H. Cline and Christopher H. Rollston as Editors of BASOR is approved with the terms as noted in the entries above.

7. Treasurer's Report (Andy Vaughn, for Chris White)

We are on track to do about as well as we did in the past three years, with a note of a 5-7% dip in subscriptions. Exhibit B is the investment report. Non-profits this year are benefitting from a healthy, even robust securities market. 11.7%

return is slightly above our benchmark. This helps our temporary restricted assets. Endowments have risen from \$800,000 to \$1.75M in the last decade. We have made progress in past 10 years, because of generous contributions to endowed funds and because of the rising equities markets.

7a. Adoption of the FY 2018 budget

The budget before the Board of Trustees for approval is built on assumption that ASOR will sign US Department of State and Whiting Foundation grants. If there are any substantive changes, then a revised budget will be brought to the Executive Committee.

Richard Coffman: What is the status of the Annual Fund?

Andy Vaughn: Note 15 has a forecast of \$80,000 and to date we have \$50,000 roughly. We are about \$30,000 behind,

BE IT RESOLVED: the Finance Committee made a motion that the Executive Committee recommend that the Board approve ASOR's FY 2018 Budget. The motion was approved unanimously.

Susan Ackerman: we have received notification that ASOR will receive a grant from the Whiting Foundation in the amount of \$244,000 to stabilize and document manuscripts in the Mosul Library. It is an opportunity to move into an area of recent conflict to contribute work we have the professional capacity and expertise to do. Much of the funding goes to identifying and training Iraqis. ASOR is doing the work of cultural heritage preservation and providing real money to people who have suffered hardship. She expressed her gratitude to Andy who spearheaded the efforts.

Andy Vaughn acknowledged Michael Danti for his exceptional work on the grant proposal.

Sten LaBianca: We are facing an opportunity and a threat. Opportunity: we have incredible capacity and this is attractive to donors who want to know how ASOR is making an impact. Concern: transforming the work of ASOR from serving its members and publications to doing projects. This is happening at ACOR, but the full time personnel need support. Ensuring benefits to, and sustaining support for, the core mission requires careful strategic thinking.

Heather Parker: Mentions a feeling of paralysis on the individual and institutional level about these big issues for which individual response is difficult. She asserted that she feels served as a member of ASOR because she is empowered to participate in a project that she could not take on an individual basis.

Susan Ackerman responded that ASOR exists to serve and in service of its members. The US State Department cooperative agreement felt like a big investment. As our members largely are people whose work is grounded in this region torn apart by conflict, not only the places themselves, but our friends and colleagues and their families, we felt a sense that

Members of the Board shared their ideas for language to encourage all ASOR members to give a donation to the organization.

11. Trustee Roles and Responsibilities and the ASOR Trustee Pledge (Richard Coffman, Susan Ackerman)

The Trustees broke up into discussion groups to discuss the Trustees Manual, which had been handed out in draft form. Comments were made by each group were recorded by the President in order to inform revisions. Susan Ackerman promised to bring the Trustees Pledge in a revised form for consideration prior to the

16. ACOR (Øystein LaBianca)

Glenn Corbett, who has been Assistant Director is moving to the US, so a search will take place. USAID cooperation has encouraged community engagement to preserve sites. This worthy activity is taking considerable staff time. It will be the 50th anniversary for ACOR in 2018 and an event will be planned to coincide with the ASOR meeting in Denver. As always, we welcome people to make a visit to ACOR.

The Board of ACOR thanks ASOR for the help in keeping ACOR together with ASOR in the move. ACOR is very concerned about funding for humanities and social sciences. It is essential to mobilize lawmaker support. Please, g