

ASOR Executive Committee Meeting
James F. Strange Center
209 Commerce Street
Alexandria, VA
February 8, 2020
9:00am-5:00pm

Cohen and Regine Pruzsinszky (co-editors) and Marwan Kjlani and Jana Mynářová (associate editors) of BASOR.

Discussion focused on the range of range of research interests of the proposed team (both geographically and chronologically), and the need for diversity in BASOR's articles.

Lynn Swartz Dodd moved, Joe Seger seconded:

BE IT RESOLVED: The Executive Committee affirms the unanimous recommendation of the Publications Committee of the appointment of the Cohen team as editors of BASOR for a term of three years (January 1, 2021-December 31, 2024).

8 in favor; 0 opposed; 2 abstentions.

Lynn Swartz Dodd moved, Jane DeRose Evans seconded:

BE IT RESOLVED:

2. A summary of the committee chair evaluations of the Executive Director,
3. A recommendation from the Personnel Committee as to whether to extend the contract of the Executive Director,
4. A recommendation regarding salary that includes amount and when appropriate percentage of change from previous year.

10 in favor; 0 opposed.

6. Nomination of Timothy Potts for Board (SCH.)

The agenda adopted through a confidential meeting

1. Strategic Plan, Part 1 (SCH) Appendix 1
Strategic Plan Appendix 1. See below.
2. Financial Items (AV.)

Andy began the discussion by noting that ASOR had received a bequest from P.E. MacAllister in the amount of \$500,000, unrestricted. The gift should arrive in April or May.

- a. Review of ASOR Investments (see distributed handout)

Andy reviewed several numbers on the distributed handout to show that since August 1, 2019, ASOR's management of its funds has yielded a 9.4-9.3% return, compared with Scott and Stringfellow which, in the accounts they have been managing for ASOR in the same time, has yielded 8.4% since they charge almost 1% as a management fee. Andy suggested caution and careful oversight with the accounts managed by Scott and Stringfellow.

Andy also noted that we had a positive balance sheet last year because our line of credit has been paid off because of market performance and gifts.

- b. Recommendation to engage Clearview Fiduciary Alliance

(<https://clearviewfiduciary.com/>) to provide bench-marking data.

Andy raised discussion of engaging an advisory company, Clearview Fiduciary Alliance, a company that provide investment advice to non-profits. Clearview is a subsidiary of KDI Capital Partners, of which former trustee Sheldon Fox is a partner.

CFA would charge \$1500/year for their services, half of their common annual fee for non-profits our size. For this fee ASOR, would have access to their suite of expertise and services. They also provide (limited) advice on hiring auditing firms, hiring a financial administrator, etc.

Andy noted he believes it is prudent to hire Clearview Fiduciary Alliance, but seeks feedback from the EC. CFA can provide custom benchmarks, and review the investments and work of Scott and Stringfellow.

Andy's suggestion will be discussed by the Finance Committee and they will make a recommendation.

A brief conversation ensued about building the endowment through P.E. MacAllister's gift, as well as ways we might honor P.E. and Jim Strange with a photograph in the James F. Strange Center.

- c. Discuss ASOR Budget to Forecast spreadsheet for FY 2020 (see distributed handout)
Deferred to Sunday
- d. Discuss Spending Policy (i.e., distribution rate) for ASOR Endowment for Operations
Deferred to Sunday

1. Strategic Plan, Part 1 (SCH.)

5 minutes were to be spent discussing each goal of the Strategic Plan for 2016-2020, highlighting accomplishments and areas where more work can be done.

Sharon noted that the plan is to present a new Strategic Plan to the Board in April 2021

The goals are divided into two categories, programmatic and aspirational. Below is a list of the goals and a brief summary of the discussion.

Programmatic Goals (Strategic Goals numbers 1-4)

1. ASOR's Annual Meeting. This is seen as one of the most important things that ASOR does. ASOR has successfully navigated a challenging project to review the time and place of the Annual Meeting. Discussion focused on increasing the number of papers while maintaining high quality and the intimate feel that attendees appreciate. It will be important to work with the Program Committee to determine the advisability of increasing the number of concurrent sessions to ten, and allowing, as much as possible, for attendees to "session hop." This becomes problematic as conflicts arise, but it may be possible to alleviate some of this burden through an enhanced abstract submission process that parses more carefully the schedules of paper presenters and so allows more flexibility in scheduling.
2. Publications. Discussion here centered mostly on the opportunities to do more with open access to ASOR publications, including dig reports (current and past). ASOR could be a leader in offering this type of information. Other topics that came up included consistent and careful oversight of the website and News@ASOR.
3. ASOR's International Affiliations. Discussion here focused on the relationship between ASOR and the ORCS (CAARI, ACOR and the Albright) and where those relationships stand now, including how they might be improved. It was suggested that we might reach out the Centers to "check in" and remind them of the services that ASOR has to offer. Another discussion topic included other centers that align with ASOR's interests where (stronger) relationships might be built. (ARCE, ARIT, AIMS, PARC). Finally, the effectiveness of overseas committees was discussed. Currently there are committees for Baghdad, Syria, and Saudi Arabia.

4. Fellowships, Grants, and Other Forms of Support for ASOR Members. Discussion included the success ASOR has achieved in this area, as well as the potential for more. Andy noted some statistics: last year we gave away \$86,000; this year we hope to give away \$120,000; this year we had 135 applications for 25/26 awards. Eric suggested the timeframe of fellowships could be expanded for upper level graduate students to work on projects when an excavation is not in the field, Susan noted that the timing of the awards might be adjusted to make it possible for non- summer projects to benefit. Sharon noted that donors love to fund these kinds of student experiences. We currently have several named endowed fellowships; one major goal should be to create a permanently endowed account for non-endowed fellowships as opposed to current gift use. Not much has been done to develop in-house resources for archaeological fieldwork, but given unforeseen areas where ASOR has evolved, this is understandable. Many positive things were said about the generosity of all ASOR members, and this culture of giving makes ASOR unique among its peers.

Aspirational Goals (Strategic Goals numbers 5-8)

5. Fostering the Field. Susan noted that the move to Alexandria Susan noted that the move to Alexandria has helped ASOR reach out and strengthen relationships with the government and other local learned societies and local universities (GWU, etc.). "We punch above our weight" in terms of

A suggestion was made to adopt language similar to the ASOR gift

