

**ASOR Board of Trustees Spring Meeting
May 8, 2022, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM EDT
By Zoom and Conference Room in the James F. Strange Center**

Present: Richard Coffman (Chair of the Board), Andy Vaughn (Executive Director), Sharon Herbert (President), Chuck Jones (Vice President), Emily Bonney Miller (Treasurer), Ann-Marie Knoblauch (Secretary), Susan Ackerman (Past President), Margaret Cohen, Pearce Paul Creasman, Erin Darby, JP Dessel, Lynn Swartz Dodd, Peggy Duly, Jane DeRose Evans, P

Carolyn Strange moved.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Executive Committee to grant Life Trustee status to Eric Meyers and Joe Seger.

Unanimously Approved.

Joe and Eric rejoined the meeting.

2.

served two, three-year terms, this would mean they could serve 18 years overall (six years as Vice-President, six years as President, and six years as Past President). Is there a better way to establish continuity, perhaps by staggering terms? Chuck has let Sharon and Bob know that he is not interested in serving as President. The EC recommends that Sharon appoint an ad hoc committee to look at governance and term length. Paul acknowledged the benefits of continuity by having the President add a second term, but also stated that most Vice President-to-President organizations do not allow for a second term. Bob asked whether a Past President who has served two terms could return as President in the future. Sharon concluded by saying the ad hoc committee will address these questions.

Committee Reports and Discussion/Action Items (9:40-10:35)

1. Ad Hoc Committee on Climate Impact (Andy Vaughn): Andy invited comments and feedback on the committee's posted report.

Ann-Marie asked what are the next steps or actions that the committee asks the Board to take?

Andy replied that these can be found at the bottom of page 4, and end of page 5. The committee will monitor different options over the next months before making a recommendation. The charge was to look at the Annual Meeting and whether it can be carbon neutral in the next couple of years. While the Annual Meeting may not be the only way ASOR impacts our climate, it is a visible/public event that ASOR can control. It is harder to control what people do on their own excavations.

What meeting format strikes the optimal balance between carbon emission reduction and sustaining the in-person meeting?

What carbon-offset strategy to close the gap will be most sustainable? What carbon-offsets will be recommended to ASOR members and ASOR attendees? Not all carbon-offset programs are equal. Two airlines claim to be carbon-neutral (United and Delta).

What budget allocations besides member contributions will be needed to achieve these goals?

The Committee thinks carbon neutrality is feasible and attainable. This marks a culture change for ASOR members, and it is essential for attracting a new generation.

The Committee is looking for guidance on the level of commitment from the Board. Allocation of \$30-40K for carbon-offsets.

There was discussion about whether the Board should comment now or wait to see the full

Other organizations within the ACLS and how/whether they are addressing climate change
Cost of offsetting in-person versus virtual meetings. Virtual meetings still have a carbon impact.

The Climate Committee's work also needs to be discussed within standing committees and the CCC.

The Board would like to see more information on costs and budget before acting on recommendations from the ad hoc committee.

Sharon invited the Board to think about whether the spring meeting needs to be in-person.

2. Ad Hoc Committee on the ASOR Archives (Susan Ackerman)

Richard noted there is a recommendation about the proposal from the American Heritage Center from the EC to consider.

Susan reviewed the proposal from Paul Flesher about housing ASOR's archives at American Heritage Center (University of Wyoming) and the process the committee has gone through. There were reservations about location and accessibility for members and researchers. The solution to this problem is digitization, and there were concerns about the rate and scale of digitization and how it would go forward. Currently, 30-50% of the ASOR Archives are digitized, but they are not easy to access/use. Once deed of gift is signed, it is a permanent move. AHC is world-class institution with the requisite skills to handle the ASOR archives.

The Committee and EC recommend that the ASOR Archives be sent to the AHC as their new and permanent home.

Randy asked whether there a timetable for the digitization process. Susan responded that the committee has not negotiated a strategy or timetable. Paul responded that the AHC has a large staff of 20 archive professionals to handle materials, both physical and those already digitized. The alternative is sending them to the Strange Center, and ASOR would absorb all of cost. AHC would make it part of their ongoing daily process. Paul discussed what types of materials are the highest priority. Paul is also confident in pulling in donor funds to help with digitizing and curating the ASOR Archives.

There was discussion of the upfront cost to ship archives to Wyoming, the timeline, logistics of the move, and cost. Paul suggested that for \$3,000 (to be split between ASOR and AHC) the archives could be transported via a rental van from Harvard to the AHC.

Erin asked about the relationship between the AHC and University of Wyoming. Paul responded that while Wyoming is experiencing some financial pressure, the AHC has sizable endowments that are growing.

Chuck asked about international collections at the AHC. Paul replied that the biggest collections are western, economic geology, and entertainment. It is a national collection, not

4. ASOR connection with American Excavations in the Tophet at Carthage Exhibition (Sharon Herbert): The EC discussed this and is supportive of the idea, but it did not think the Board was the appropriate starting or ending point. It should go through CAP. The project was started before CAP was formed. Joe Greene is willing to apply for CAP status for this purpose.

5.

b. Establishment of Stevan B. Dana Endowment Fund #3

Chuck moved.

BE IT RESOLVED that the ASOR Board, acting on the recommendation of the Finance Committee and the subsequent recommendation of the Executive Committee, recommends that the Board of Trustees formally establish the Stevan B. Dana Endowment Fund #3 using the language provided in Exhibit E.

Discussion: Discussion clarified that the precise language was requested by the donor, and that the funds had to be used in the “State of Israel.”

All in favor with one abstention.

c.

Unanimously approved.

- e. Motion to amend the Investment and Spending Policy

Ann-Marie moved.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee, acting on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, recommends that the Board of Trustees amend the Investment and Spending Policy to modify the investment strategy for the Board-Designated Opportunity Fund and the spending provisions for the Building Fund and to include newly created endowments and funds using language provided in Exhibit F.

Unanimously approved.

- f. Motion to amend the second paragraph of the Travel and Entertainment Policy (the amendment marked below): Andy noted that this comes at the recommendation of the auditor.

Jane moved.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee, acting on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, recommends that the Board of Trustees amend the second paragraph of the Travel and Reimbursement Policy as indicated below (by adding the sentence found below (with a blue font and underlining)):

“The ASOR Board of Trustees further recognizes that from time to time, the Executive Director must travel and entertain prospective donors, government representatives, and other persons critical to ASOR’s business and mission. In doing so, the Board of Trustees imposes the business judgment rule on the Executive Director; to wit, in deciding whether to incur a travel or entertainment expense, the Executive Director must act on an informed basis, in good faith and in the honest belief that the action taken is in the best interests of ASOR. The Executive Director’s travel and entertainment is subject to review by the President or Board Chair at any time upon request. Requests by the Executive Director for reimbursement under this policy should be reviewed and approved by the Treasurer or the President.”

Unanimously approved.

- g. Motion for selecting External Auditors:

Jane moved.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee, acting on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, recommends that the Board of Trustees authorize the Treasurer and Executive Director to review proposals (bids) for ASOR’s external

