



**ASOR Board of Trustees Fall Meeting
November 20, 2022
8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Boston Park Plaza Hotel,
Georgian Room**

Present: Susan Ackerman, Melissa Bailey Kutner, Alex Brooks, Pearce Paul Creasman, Erin Darby, J.P. Dessel, Lynn Swartz Dodd, Jane DeRose Evans, Debra Foran, Paul Flesher, Randy Helm, Sharon Herbert, Chuck Jones, Ann-Marie Knoblauch, Carol Meyers, Eric Meyers, Emily Miller Bonney, Bob Mullins, Ann Sahlman, Joe Seger, Carolyn Midkiff Strange, Andy Vaughn

Guests: Marta Ostovich, Kate Grossman, Katharina Schmidt, Alex Brooks, Sarah Costello, Sheldon Fox

Absent: Lisa Ackerman, Teddy Burgh, Margaret Cohen, Peggy Duly, Michael Hasel, Sue Laden, Mark Lanier, Alex MacAllister, Timothy Potts, B.W. Ruffner, Nancy Serwint, Jason Ur

Preliminary Matters (8:30-8:40)

1. 8:44 AM Call to Order and Introductions (Richard Coffman)
Richard recognized guests and new trustees Kate Grossman, Katharina Schmidt, Alex Brooks (up for election), Sheldon Fox (incoming Board Chair), and Sarah Costello.
2. Introduction of Incoming Chair of the Board, Sheldon Fox (Richard Coffman)

Business Items (8:40-9:00)

3. Approval of Agenda (Richard Coffman):

- a. The posted agenda is approved by unanimous consent; Lynn Welton will be added to #7, and Item #14 appointment to extend Piotr Michaelowski as editor of JCS for a year will be added.

4. Approval of the Minutes from the May 2022 Board Meeting (Richard Coffman): The

There was also resolution of issues surrounding artifacts owned by ASOR (deeded to ASOR in 1930s/40s) from Tell Kheleifeh and stored since at the Harvard Museum of the Ancient Near East (formerly the Harvard Semitic Museum). ASOR does not have the facilities to curate these artifacts. Discussions on how to deed these artifacts to Harvard started in 2018. ASOR has now signed a deed of gift of the artifacts to the HMANE. ASOR retains the right of first refusal in the unlikely event that HMANE decides to deaccession these artifacts at some future time. The artifacts are in a good home and can now be added to the museum's record system.

Budget Matters (9:00-10:15)

9. Treasurer's Report (Emily Miller Bonney): Emily's report was posted on the Board's Document page. ASOR continues to benefit from generosity of donors and also to be successful in securing grants.

There was discussion of grant income, gifts to endowed funds, membership and

12. Development Committee (Lynn Dodd)

Unanimously Approved.

Appointment of Bruce Zuckerman as Editor Emeritus of
Carol Meyers moved.

BE IT RESOLVED that on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Board appoints Bruce Zuckerman as Editor Emeritus of *Ma arav*

Unanimously Approved.

Appointment of Jessica Nitschke as Editor of *The Ancient Near East Today*

BE IT RESOLVED that on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Board appoints Jessica Nitschke as Editor of *The Ancient Near East Today* (January 1, 2023-December 31, 2025)

Chuck noted that *ANE Today* is ASOR's second youngest publication. It had been edited by Alex Joffe since its founding ten years ago. The search for the new editor was a difficult one. This candidate has already begun working with Alex.

Carol Meyers moved.

Meeting every other year and all of the options presented
Time of year for the Annual Meeting
Using universities/schools to host the Annual Meeting
Committee and CCC discussions of the report

News from Overseas Research Centers (11:30-11:45)

17. AIAR (Katharina Schmidt)

Katharina assumed the directorship in June when the renovations to the library and director's office were just finishing up.

Library

- Periodicals room redone.
- Professional staff.
- Collection development policy.
- Exchanges play a major role.
- Connections with local groups.

Use of the building by fellows, universities, and the association.

Outreach events:

- Shawarma Festival was well attended.
- Sounding Jerusalem-chamber music with neighborhood attendees.

Conversations in archaeology and history are popular.

AIAR webpage revisions.

Hebrew classes.

Walking tour of the Albright to show the history of the place and tell the story to different groups of people.

18. ACOR (Pearce Paul Creasman)

Pearce Paul reported that the ACOR building renovations are complete. There has

20. Future Annual Meeting Format(s) breakout group discussions and report backs. Please be sure to have read the AdHoc Climate Report and the PC Report posted on line. (Sharon Herbert)

There have been three different AM formats since COVID.

What formats work?

Experiment with synchronous?

2023 is in person at normal time. Virtual three weeks before-no pre-recorded presentations. 2-hour session slots for presentation and discussion.

What is next?

Katharina Schmidt, Pearce Paul Creasman, JP Dessel, Lynn Swartz Dodd, Sheldon Fox, Eric Meyers, Carol Meyers left the meeting

Group 1: Jane DeRose Evans, Bob Mullins, Randy Helm, Joe Seger, Susan Ackerman

Group 2: Erin Darby, Carolyn Midkiff Strange, Chuck Jones, Ann Sahlman, Emily Miller Bonney

Group 3: Kate Grossman, Sarah Costello, Paul Flesher, Melissa Bailey Kutner, Ann-Marie Knoblauch

Carolyn Strange left.

Group 1: Randy acknowledged that remote, virtual, and in person all have strengths and weakness and they are not mutually exclusive. The virtual option lacks serendipitous encounters that are so important at the in-person meeting. Can't have convenient attendance at in-person. The group not come up with magical solution. They were concerned about

Paul noted that paper presentations are important for young scholars. Also network in the field, but not everyone can do this. Accessibility is really the issue. The climate report really boils down to what do we do about travel.

Emily Miller Bonney left.

Kate stated that colleagues at the Max Plank Institute are not allowed to travel to conferences anymore. These are long-term issues. Public employees cannot travel to particular states for political reason. Prohibitions on travel will increase in the coming years.

Ann recognized that what people want is choice, and she emphasized to raising funds for a synchronous meeting. The pandemic has showed us that people want to be able to choose for themselves.

Sarah said that a hybrid meeting would solve some of the problems. ASOR can be a leader in this area. Putting money towards this would show ASOR's commitment.

Chuck made a point about meeting in hub cities reduces the carbon impact. Susan noted in 2019, about 15% of ASOR member flew from ASOR to SBL. Andy noted that a hybrid conference for ASOR would cost about \$100K.

Chuck suggested that since AIA is going hybrid this year (January 2023), we might learn and gather data from their experience. Kate suggested hearing from other learned societies and whether a hybrid conference helped DEI initiatives.

Sharon thanked Richard for leading the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35

Respectfully submitted,

Ann-Marie Knoblauch
with assistance from Marta Ostovich