

American Schools of Oriental Research  
Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda  
Westin Waterfront Hotel, Boston  
November 23, 2008  
DRAFT MINUTES

PRESENT: Susan Ackerman, Beth Alpert Nakhai, Gary Arbino, Bill Arnold, Jeffrey Blakely, VP for COP, Elizabeth Bloch-Smith, Jeffrey R. Chadwick, Eric H. Cline, Jennie Ebeling, Gus Feissel, Nili S. Fox, Sheldon Fox, Treasurer, Lawrence T. Geraty, Past President, Barry Gittlen, Jimmy Hardin, Tim Harrison, President, Michael Homan, Co-VP for CAMP, Morag Kersel, Co-VP for CAMP, Ann Killebrew, Outgoing VP for CAP, Øystein LaBianca, ACOR rep. and incoming VP for CAP, P.E. MacAllister, Chairman, Eric Meyers, Past President, Bob Mullins, Tammi Schneider, VP for Membership, Sue Sheridan, Lydie Shufro, James F. Strange, Secretary, Stuart Swiny, Andy Vaughn, Executive Director, Lawson Younger, Randy Younker.

ABSENT: Mark Chavalas, Carol Meyers, Austin Ritterspach, B.W. Ruffner, Joe Seger

VISITORS: Vivian Bull, Tom Davis for CAARI; Barbara A. Porter for ACOR; Sy Gitin for AIAR

- 1. Call to Order.** P.E. MacAllister, 8:00 am.
- 2. Approval of Minutes** from the Spring Meeting, May 3, 2008. Moved to approve as distributed. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
- 3. Approval of Agenda.** Agenda Passed UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE, moving a few items earlier than announced.
- 4. Memorial Moments.** The President asked for a moment of silence in memory of those members who have passed away in the past year.

Avraham Biran	Dick Scheuer
David Noel Friedman	Lawrence Toombs
Victor Gold	John Strugnell
Phil Hammond	Fr. Piccarillo
Moshe Kochavi	Douglas Edwards
Brian Peckham	Paul Åström (not a member)

Eric Meyers gave a memorial statement on Dick Scheuer, a main supporter of ASOR. Dick was very active in the Jewish Reform movement and the building of Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem. The city of Jerusalem honored Dick as “Yakir Yerushalayim” (Worthy Citizen of Jerusalem). He was a Harvard graduate and a major donor to Harvard, and built Hillel at Harvard U. He pursued an M.A. in Ancient Near East at NYU. He was an avid sailor and sportsman. He loved ASOR and the Jerusalem school, which he saw as beacons of light. He was a pillar of support for both ASOR and AIAR.
- 5. MacAllister Book Presentation (Orlyn Nelson).** Orlyn Nelson spoke of his admiration of P.E. MacAllister’s reports to the Board of Trustees of ASOR. Orlyn asked P.E. for permission to publish them. The result is a handsomely bound book by P.E. MacAllister,

*Statements to the Board of Trustees of the American Schools of Oriental Research, Presented to the Members of the Board on November 22, 2008 on the occasion of P.E. MacAllister's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday*, n.p., 2008. Orlyn presented the volume to P.E. and to each member of the Board of Trustees. P.E. MacAllister responded with thanks.

6. **By-Law Amendments (T. Harrison).** The amendments are to bring our current governance By-Laws to our current practice.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee approve the Amendments as distributed. Moved and Seconded. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. **New Board Appointments.** The President recommends re-appointment of the following Trustees:

Class of 2011: Orlyn Nelson  
Class of 2011: Joe Seger  
Honorary Trustee: Lydie Shufro

BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee approve the appointments as presented. Øysten LaBianca moved; Sheldon Fox seconded. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. **Nominations Report (J. Blakely).**

- a. **Elections Announced:** The Nominations Committee held the election Nov. 23, 2008 at the Membership Meeting and announced the results of the elections as follows:

**i. Institutional Trustees**

1. Joseph Greene (new)
2. Carol Meyers
3. Gary Arbino

**ii. Individual Trustees**

1. Jennie Ebeling
2. Beth Alpert Nakhai
3. Suzanne Richard (new)

- b. **Officers Nominations Committee: Election of VP for CAP.** The Officers Nominations Committee sought nominees for the VP of CAP through the *ASOR Newsletter* and through emails to the membership. There were three self-nominations. One withdrew. Subsequently there were telephone interviews of both candidates, then deliberations. The Committee was impressed with both, but recommends unanimously Øysten LaBianca for a three year term beginning Jan 1, but extending back to this meeting. The President apologized for announcing the nominee at the membership meeting. His intent was decidedly not to pre-empt the nomination process. Some members of the EC were concerned that there were no accompanying cvs or other data for the EC to consider. Jeff Blakely pointed out that the officers' nominating committee followed the same procedures as in 2007.

BE IT RESOLVED that the board of trustees approves the election of Øysten LaBianca for a three year term beginning Jan 1, but extending back to this meeting. Moved and seconded by the Nominating Committee. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 9. Report of Items approved by the Executive Committee (A. Vaughn).** There were none brought forward for the Board.

**10. Treasurer's Report (Sheldon Fox).**

- a. Sheldon Fox called attention to the assets figure in the Auditor's report. Most of the investments are invested in equities. There is also deferred income as journals are delivered or from memberships. Our net worth has increased. Three years ago our net worth was a negative number. In our net Assets, that available for operations is about \$64,292. The Opportunity Fund is part of the book funds. The question was raised whether the office staff time has been allocated appropriately to Journals and books rather than Annual Meeting.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Audit of Romeo, Wiggins & Company, L.L.P. be approved. Moved and seconded by the Finance Committee. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. There were two policies to be adopted by the Board, namely, the Whistleblowers' policies and the Conflict of Interest Policy. These are recommended to the Board by the Finance Committee because the IRS recommends that non-profits have such policies. A disclosure questionnaire appears in the Conflict of Interest Policy that Board members will fill out and sign.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Conflict of Interest Policy and the Whistleblower policy be approved with slight changes in language, such as spelling. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- c. Update on the current financial status. The declines in the equities markets of about 19% cost ASOR a decline in our investment. As of Oct 31 these accounts are below the corpus figure, down to \$320,000. We had budgeted for \$14,000 of distributions from the income for the operating budget. The Finance Committee recommended not doing so. We can reevaluate that at the end of the year.

The Harris Fellowship Fund has no income as of Oct 31, 2008, though we have given out about \$6,000 last year. That account is likely below \$80,000 now. The Finance Committee recommended that we not take distributions from the Harris Fund for FY 2009.

The Platt endowment is \$239,000, only \$20,000 of which is restricted. The Finance Committee recommends a target of 5% distribution for grants from the Jan 1 total available.

BE IT RESOLVED that the three recommendations be accepted, to wit, that \$14,000 of endowment not be distributed for FY 2009, that income from the Harris Fellowship Fund not be distributed for FY 2009, and that 5% be targeted from grants from the Jan 1 status of the Platt Endowment. Moved and Seconded by the Finance Committee. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**11. Strategic Planning Process and Development Update (T. Harrison, President).**

Contributions are encouraging thus far into the fiscal year. We are slightly less than last year. (Last year we received the James F. Ross Bequest in addition to Board contributions.) The Board's contribution last fiscal year was nearly 100%, if we count two late contributions. We exceeded substantially the Annual Fund goal. He reminded all Board members to contribute. Furthermore, Board members should give early. He distributed pledge form for July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009.

The Board is developing a Strategic Planning process beginning with the committees, where they identify their priorities for funding. These data will be combined with other feedback and create a narrative for a strategic plan to circulate to the Board. We can have more discussion at the spring board meeting.

**12. Executive Director's Report, including Legacy Fund/Planned Giving Initiative (A. Vaughn).**

Andy Vaughn pointed out that we are not pressed at the moment by the economic downturn, though we must remain vigilant. The major way to keep things in balance is with staff. We had cut back several staff positions. We planned to replace one position, but that is on hold. Everyone in the office is having to work more. If Heritage donors increase (of which \$500 goes to operations and \$2000 to scholarships) then that will positively affect the fellowship programs. Staffing situation: full time staff members include Kelly Bazydlo (the newest staff member planning the Annual Meeting), Selma Omerefendic (accountant), and Sarah Deon (Publications Coordinator). Andy Vaughn works as executive director at 4/5s time. Graduate assistants include Brian Jenkin (publications), Kyle Tipping (Programs), and Sophie Mpunzwana. Student workers include Herson Castilo, Shari Rabin, and Yi Yang. At the Sept EC meeting Tim and Andy presented an idea for a Legacy fund. This is for planned giving to ASOR as a remainder trust, a will, etc. with a minimum of \$5,000. They have talked to six people so far who have agreed to do that. We provide "boiler plate" language, but each person must go to their own attorney. The goal is to recruit 50 people.

**13. CAMP Report (M. Homan/M. Kersel).** The number of enrollees for the Annual Meeting is at least 730. We had a first-time student rate, which helped measurably.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the ASOR Board affirms the appointment of Elise Friedland and Andrew Smith as Co-Chairs of the Program Committee. Moved and seconded by CAMP and PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**14. COP Report (J. Blakely).** (Submitted) Two of our long term editors are retiring, Joe Greene and Nancy Serwint, after completing terms and doing a very good job. By the end of the fiscal year the journals should be up to date. COP is starting the process to get procedures in line with the By-Laws. A major goal is to move publications into the electronic age.

BE IT RESOLVED that ASOR affirms reappointment of M. Allen to COP (class of 2011), of C. Rollston, J. Cahill West, and W. Schniedewind to the BASOR Editorial Board (2009-2012); and of G. Fassbeck and J. Ebeling as Assistant Editors of *Near Eastern Archaeology*. Moved and seconded by the COP Committee. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**15. CAP Report (A. Killebrew).** We will have about 60 projects affiliated. The CAP met online and saved money for travel, etc. The President thanked Ann Killebrew for her quality work, time, and effort on behalf of ASOR with the Committee on Archaeological Policy. He also thanked her for serving as an officer and as a trustee.

**16. Membership Report (T. Schneider).** There was a good institutional membership meeting. The committee set a goal of 93 institutional members, which is now exceeded at 94 current institutional members. Most turned her down this year when approached, but several may help reach that goal of 98. The Membership Committee hopes to get museums involved. Committee notes that the ability to bring in non-North Americans members institutional members has been thwarted by the CAP policy to limit affiliation to North American Citizens. If there are topics of concern that Institutional reps should address, please send to Tammi Schneider. The committee plans a survey of membership to find out why people join or do not join. Another way to build membership is to recruit members from historians, conservators, museum studies people, etc. Sten LaBianca suggested that we find out which universities and other historians already subscribe to our journals and use that to show that we have numbers who already subscribed. CAP is already reaching out to museums and plans museum-related publications. We should reach out to museums for ads in *NEA*. Lawson Younger made some supportive comments for the Individual Membership Committee.

BE IT RESOLVED that the ASOR Board make a commitment as board members to recruit preferably a contributing member to join ASOR. This includes a tax-deductible gift to ASOR. They can serve on the Board, but cannot deliver a paper. It was mentioned that there are people who would like to learn more about archaeology. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**17. OEANE Initiative Update (E. Meyers).** Oxford U. Press was interested in publishing a supplementary volume. Since then they have suggested a re-print with extensive expansions to bring it up date. They have committed orally to add 2 volumes worth of new entries. EMM with Jeff Blakely and others is working on a contract with them. They have other electronic projects that they would like ASOR to work with them. The contract must pass the Oxford Syndics and the New York office of Oxford U. Press.

**18. Archival Project Update (E. Meyers).** Resubmitted the NEH grant for BU office, Harvard U. Semitic Museum, and the Albright Institute where these archives are located. Rachel and Eric are optimistic about the grant submission. In the event that the grant is not granted, we are at a critical turn in this project. The materials in Jerusalem and at BU are in need of conservation and re-organization. Suggests that we add to the budget for next year so that we can do something about some of these items. Should there be a sub-committee to get started. Wooster Antiquarian society has retired professional archivists as volunteers.

Can we do that? CAORC has a very small amount of money to help with archives abroad. Rachel is working towards the publication of photographs we have acquired several years ago, perhaps as an *Annual*. The PEF would like to join with us in one archive. Harvard Semitic Museum was the repository of some of these ASOR items. Should an opportunity or a donor emerge to combine these archives, perhaps we should mention the possibility.

The Chairman ruled that there was a consensus that there should be immediate appropriate actions taken about the archives in the Boston office.

#### **19. Discussion Items.**

- a. **'Libel Tourism' Issue.** Andy Vaughn reports that libel cases are taken elsewhere for a better hearing. For example, one may take a case to the UK rather than the USA. Two learned societies in the past year have been sued this way. We need policies in place. The publications committee is studying this phenomenon.
- b. **Record Retention Policy.** Andy Vaughn asks that the Board help in this area, to the extent that Board members have experience in this area.

**20. ACOR Report.** Barbara Porter announced that it is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ACOR. There are about 20 fellowships this year. Kress decided its fellowship would be two years, which means it will no longer be offered at ACOR. The Mellon Fellowship will also end. The fellowships are mainly for North Americans, but also for Jordanians and others. There will be a new web site with PDFs of old newsletters and other materials. Hostel revenue funds most of operations. The Arabic Language program also helps very much, but it depends on a State Department grant. ACOR publications include *Megalithic Jordan* by the former Dutch Ambassador to Jordan.

**21. AIAR Report.** Sy Gittin recounted that there have been problems caused by the fall of the Shekel against the dollar. Fellowship money will be reduced next year, including the loss of two Kress fellowships. The emphasis on European Art has reduced participants. The Mellon Fellowship will also come to an end. A special committee is working with CAORC to find more funds. NEH fellowships will increase in the amount. A Carol and Eric Meyers Fellowship is starting this year. This year there were 64 fellows, including Israelis and Palestinians. The ASOR lecture exchange with ACOR and CAARI has been extremely successful with 18 lectures. The video conference lecture program has allowed purchase of equipment and translators to offer lectures for Al-Quds University with an open question and answer session after each lecture. AIAR proposes that ASOR take advantage of this program to extend the broadcast capability to other sites outside Jerusalem. AIAR is finishing a library survey that allowed creation of a bibliographic resource on the web at libraries and archival institutions in and around Jerusalem. CAORC is considering extending this to all Israel. (Publications include the 9<sup>th</sup> field report from Mikne in three volumes.) The pottery volume continues to move forward. The Wright Lab has been converted into two offices. Other renovations have been finished as well, including stacking shelving for the library.

**22. CAARI Report.** Tom Davis adds to the distributed report that as of Jan 1, 2008, Cyprus joined the European exchange system. CAARI has 100% of funds in hands for renovation and anticipates reception of the building permit soon.

**23. Baghdad Committee Report**—Tim Harrison reports that the Baghdad Committee has been meeting and has drafted a preliminary statement about publication of unprovenanced cuneiform tablets. It will require more work before it is submitted. BE IT RESOLVED that new Committee members be added to the Baghdad Committee, namely, Steven Garfinkle, Jason Ur, Seth Richardson, Michael Danti.

**24. Damascus Committee Report**—Tim Harrison.

BE IT RESOLVED that new Committee members be added to the Damascus Committee, namely, Jesse Casana, Glenn Schwartz, Rudy Dornemann, Clemens Reichel, Lauren Ristvet, Mike Danti, Lidewijde de Jong, Alexia Smith, and Giorgia Buccelati (provisional until he becomes an ASOR member).

**25. Executive Director's Report:** Andy Vaughn stressed that the spring Board meeting will be April 17-19, 2009. Please make reservations for the Annual Meeting in New Orleans before Thanksgiving.

**26. President's Report.** Tim Harrison thanked Andy Vaughn and the ASOR staff . Steep learning curve for the job. Wants to stay in close contact with Committee chairs. Wants to meet with each Board member and define everyone's role on the Board.

**27. Chair's Report** P.E. MacAllister reports that he spends time communicating with many. Read a prepared MS on motivation.

**28. Old Business**—none.

**29. New Business**—none.

**30. Announcements.** P.E. MacAllister received the Michael A. Carroll Award for Community Service in Indianapolis. The award emphasizes the following for qualities: determination, devotion, humility and community. Carol Meyers received a Festschrift at the AIAR reception.

**31. Adjourn.** 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

James F. Strange, Secretary