

American Schools of Oriental Research  
Executive Committee Meeting  
OISE Bldg, 252 Bloor Street W, Rm 3310  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
April 20, 2012

PRESENT: P.E. MacAllister, Chairman, Tim Harrison, President, Sheldon Fox, Treasurer, Eric Meyers, Past President, Andy Vaughn, Executive Director, Joe D. Seger, Ann-Marie Knoblauch, Vice-President for Membership.

ABSENT: B. W. Ruffner, Robert Oden.

VISITORS: Gary Arbino, Officers Nominating Committee; Richard Coffman

**1. Call to Order.** 9:00 am by the Chairman, P.E. MacAllister.

**2. Approval of Minutes from the Executive Committee Meeting of November 19, 2011.**

Sheldon Fox moves approval as distributed. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

**3. Approval of Agenda BY CONSENSUS.**

**4. Officers Nominations Committee Report** (G. Arbino). Report distributed. The Election of the Vice President was on the table. The Vice President nominee was Sharon Herbert, Prof. of Classics at the U. of Michigan. Her CV was distributed.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee endorses the nomination of Sharon Herbert for the office of Vice President and forwards it to the Board of Trustees.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH ONE ABSTENTION.

Election of Assistant Treasurer. Richard Coffman (Assistant Treasurer nominee).

BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee endorses the nomination of Richard Coffman as Assistant Treasurer of ASOR and forwards it to the Board of Trustees.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**5. Board Nominations Committee Report** (B. Alpert Nakhai)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee endorses the election of K. Lawson Younger as Member of Officers Nominating Committee and forwards it to the Board of Trustees. PASSED UNIMOUSLY.

Secretary's note: this motion was not presented to the board because Younger had already been elected to this committee by the full board at its November 2011 meeting.

**6. Proposed Bylaw Revisions** (T. Harrison). The Council of Committee Chairs proposes mostly non-substantive changes to the By-Laws that amount to clean up and clarifications. One substantive change is to make Honorary Trustees non-voting. The rationale is that this is a position created to honor distinguished members of ASOR without an expectation that they necessarily attend board meetings or deliberate and vote.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee endorses the proposed changes to the bylaws and forwards them to the Board. Moved by Joe Seger; seconded by Jennie Ebeling. PASSED UNIMOUSLY.

**7. Treasurer's Report** (S. Fox), posted in advance. The overall Budget increases to about \$1,500,000 because of anticipated revenue connected to the Foundational Campaign. This will not affect the Operating Budget because expenses will not be incurred if funds are not raised. This past year was the last year of the NEH grant. We hope to replace that income from grants from foundations. We have budgeted a 15% increase in the category of memberships and dues.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee adopts the FY2013 Budget and commends it to the Board. PASSED UNIMOUSLY.

**8. Foundational Campaign Report** (Presented by Tim Harrison in the absence of R. Oden). The Campaign is for two years, but we are counting gifts from July 1, 2011 to June 14, 2014. It is a three-year cycle. The campaign presents three challenges: program endowment support (goal \$550,000), support scholarships and field research (goal \$200,000), digital media resources (goal \$250,000). During FY12 we have done an excellent job raising scholarship money. In the brief "March Fellowship Madness" we responded to the explosion of applications for travel fellowships and raised an additional \$9,000 in smaller gifts. ASOR will offer 42 Scholarships (or nine more without March Fellowship Madness). We are already above what we had anticipated in terms of the Annual Funds pledges. All giving comes to \$179,000 so far this year. We are officially four months into our first campaign year. We want to have reached the halfway point of the campaign by November 15. We will go public with the Campaign in the Annual Meeting in November.

**9. Chairs Coordinating Council and Committee Reports** (Tim Harrison). The CCC has met in person twice in the past two years at the Annual Meeting. Since the 2011 Annual Meetings there have been conference calls approximately monthly. The CCC deals with program issues as they arise. One such issue was the lack of coordination between committees and related issues. There is resolve to achieve two goals of services to the professions represented and outreach to a more general population. Minutes of the conference calls are posted in the ASOR web page.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee recommends the appointments of Morag Kersel, April Nowell, and William Caraher to the Annual Meeting Program Committee as new members for the class of 2014. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee recommends the endorsement of the following appointments to CAP: Book review editor: Stephen Russell (Princeton Theological Seminary), Editorial Committee: Class of 2012: Susan Ackerman (Dartmouth College), Lynn Swartz Dodd (University of Southern California), Bethany Walker (Missouri State); Class of 2013: (Brown University), Class of 2014: Michael Harrower (Johns Hopkins); Class of 2015: Richard S. Hess (Denver Seminary), Nadine Moeller (Oriental Institute), Jason Ur (Harvard University). PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**10. Membership Committee Report** (J. Ebeling). We now have 1509 members, a substantial increase compared to one year ago and in comparison to other, smaller academic societies. Facebook and our blog is presenting ASOR to a younger generation. There was discussion of the matter of individual vs. institutional membership. We have moved staff time from institutional members to fundraising. Andy Vaughn recommends that we accept the small decline in

institutional members because there is an opportunity cost if we dedicate staff time to the issue of institutional members. The scholarship programs represent benefits to members. If it is a benefit for institutional members, then it may make the case to a Dean for institutional membership. There was also discussion of the issue of affiliation with CAP not being allowed for digs without a North American director. There was discussion whether this issue and related matters be discussed at the CCC.

BE IT RESOLVED that ASOR Executive Committee approves the combining of the Individual and Institutional subcommittees of the Membership Committee. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

BE IT RESOLVED that the following Membership Committee members be appointed to the Membership Committee: Gary Arbino (Class of 2012), Teddy Burgh (Class of 2013), Britt Hartenberger (Class OF 2012), and Randy Younker (Class of 2013). PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**11. Archives Project Update** (E. Meyers). The NEH grant was not approved. But ASOR continues to have momentum to preserve archives. We are seeking funding from private sources to continue the Archives Project. Meanwhile ASOR uses electronic media such as FACEBOOK for an ASOR webpage with posting about blogs, web page connections, discussions, photographs, and so forth. ASOR employs a grad student to find material to post. There have been as many as 350,000 hits on the ASOR blog in one week. It was noted that archival material is to be found everywhere.

**12. Executive Director's Report.** Andy Vaughn will be reaching out to all EC members to make contacts for the campaign. Andy proposes that we continue to increase members 8% per year over the next several years (the rate of increase for the past 5 years). When we reach 2000 members we should be able to support our core activities with memberships and subscriptions. Subscriptions are achieving the goal of getting many members to renew their memberships with an electronic subscription. We are now looking for private funding so that the archives project can continue. We have moved from a substantial budget shortfall six years ago to a small surplus today. That gives us the freedom to approve a budget with an Archives Project, even if the NEH grant has ended. Grants and Fellowships now number forty-two. Six years ago we gave three. There will be between \$7,000-\$10,000 in research funds available next year. We are poised to be transformative in 2013 in terms of our budget, even without a large infusion of funds. It may allow us to offer 50 scholarships, but we may reach as high as 75 or 100 scholarships. The ASOR office is slowly becoming a research destination. Andy asks each Executive Committee member to distribute the ASOR brochure to two others. He will also be traveling in the next six months and may ask for help making contacts.

**13. Personnel Committee Report** (T. Harrison). The Personnel Committee is not a standing committee, and there has been extensive discussion within the committee on the demands of annual review of employees, policies and procedures. The discussion has lead to interest in making the Personnel Committee a standing committee with a written mandate. Tim Harrison thought that we could forego a full review of the Director this time. Discussion ensued about the

wisest use of staff time and related topics. There was also discussion of the joint ASOR/BAR program January of 2012 and the joint programs planned for the future.

Whereas the Personnel Committee notes that Andy Vaughn, Executive Director, has worked hard and achieved an outstanding success in management of the ASOR budget, and whereas Andy Vaughn is increasing his abilities and grows better at his job every year, BE IT RESOLVED that Executive Committee grant him a pay raise of \$3,000. The Executive Committee acknowledges his access to the flex dollar program, and the Executive Committee also recommends that his contract be extended one year to June 30 of 2015. Moved by Tim Harrison; seconded by Sheldon Fox. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**14. Old Business:** Andy Vaughn reports that the Boston University lease is undergoing negotiation. The lease is under the control of the Provost. We anticipate hearing positively within the next few months.

**15. New Business.** Tim Harrison notes that at the November Annual Meeting he was asked to form a search committee to find a new ASOR Chairman for May 2013 to replace P.E. Macalister, who is transitioning to chairman emeritus on June 30, 2013. There is no process defined in the bylaws, so it must be developed. He has convened Orlyn Nelson, Ann Marie Knoblauch, Jimmy Hardin, and Susan Ackermann as an ad hoc search committee, and they hope to bring a recommendation in November. P.E. Macalister asked whether ASOR in fact needs a chair. The ensuing discussion strongly supported the idea that ASOR needs a Chair.

**16. Announcements--none.**

**17. Adjourn** 1:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

James F. Strange, Secretary