

ASOR Board of Trustees Meeting

Hyatt Regency, Indianapolis

April 20, 2013

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

PRESENT: P. E. MacAllister, Chairman; Tim Harrison, President; Sharon Herbert, Vice President; Lynn Swartz Dodd, Secretary; Susan Ackerman; Jennie Ebeling; Robert Massie; Steve Dana; Gary Arbino; Joe Seger; Sheila T. Bishop; Richard Coffman, Treasurer; Steven Dana; Raymond C. Ewing; Sheldon Fox; Lawrence T. Geraty; Ann-Marie Knoblauch; Øystein [Sten] LaBianca; Jimmy Hardin; Carol Meyers; Eric Meyers; Beth Alpert Nakhai; B. W. Ruffner; Joe Seger; James F. Strange; K. Lawson Younger; Andy Vaughn, Executive Director; Robert Mullins; Catherine Duff; Ray Ewing.

ABSENT: Jane DeRose Evans; Jeffrey Chadwick; Nili Fox; Weston Fields; Laura Mazow; W. Mark Lanier; Robert A. Oden, Jr.; Orlyn Nelson; Barry Gittlen; J.P. Dessell

Call to Order by Chairman P.E. MacAllister—8:03 am.

1. Approval of Minutes from the previous Meeting (November 17, 2012)

It was Moved and Seconded to accept the Minutes as amended by the Secretary.  
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Approval of Agenda—approved by consensus.

3. Officers Nominating Committee—Gary Arbino. Following a robust search process, the nominating committee proposes Susan Ackerman as its nominee for President.

BE IT RESOLVED that Susan Ackerman be elected President for the term January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2016. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Trustee Nominations Committee Report—Beth Alpert Nakhai. The committee is developing guidelines and procedures for vetting candidates. One Trustee from the Class of 2013 is running for re-election. The Board Nominating Committee is currently seeking nominations to fill these Trustee positions. Election will be at the Annual Meeting. By accepting a Trustee position, each Trustee commits to the Trustees' Pledge.

5. ACTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:—Lynn Dodd. At the April meeting of the Executive Committee (EC), several items were passed that did not need to be approved by the larger board. (1) The EC moved to accept the recommendation of the Executive Director with respect to the request regarding severance terms by Kelley Herlihy; and (2) to extend the

Executive Director's current contract for another year with a raise of 3%. Additionally, the EC charged the President with convening an ad hoc personnel committee to work with the Executive Director to develop a job description for the meetings position. Further, the EC charged the President with developing language for a bylaws amendment in order to create a standing personnel committee that will be considered initially at the September EC meeting. Finally, the EC charged the President to develop language to amend the bylaws in order to change the reporting line between the Executive Director and the Executive Committee to be between the Executive Director and the President. Initial consideration of this language will take place at the September meeting.

6. Treasurer's Report--R. Coffman. Income is \$9,000 ahead of last year \$339,000 at this time and ASOR investment accounts are up \$67, 000 over last year. The Endowment Account is \$71,000 higher than last year. We are on target with budget forecasts and a budget for FY 2014 was submitted.

BE IT RESOLVED, to accept the Budget as submitted by the Treasurer. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. This was a motion from the Finance Committee and the Executive Committee, so no second was required.

Chairman MacAllister made a presentation to Sheldon Fox thanking him for his six years of service to ASOR as Treasurer.

7. Foundational Campaign Report—Timothy Harrison. The goals of the Foundational Campaign included expanding the number of contributors and we are on target to meet this goal of 350. We are well positioned to meet the Annual Fund target of \$110,000. The total raised this year for all programs thus far is \$320,500. There are three foci for fundraising (1) general endowment: \$550K; (2) research grants and fellowships: \$200K; (3) online digital media resources/outreach: \$250K. We have reached \$834,000. We need to find additional ways to build the endowment, perhaps by attracting challenge gifts. The President implored the Trustees to keep giving because ASOR's members need to see the board out front on this campaign.

8. Chairs Coordinating Council and Committee Reports--Sharon Herbert. The CCC will meet next weekend for a retreat at the Detroit Airport. The Chair is receiving Action Plans from all committee chairs.

The Program Committee put forward to the EC three nominees for new members to replace those rotating off the committee: Asa Eger, Stephanie Langham Hooper, Geoff Emberling. The CCC will work on rationalizing the committee structures in order to be able to work more effectively on outreach initiatives.

BE IT RESOLVED that following the recommendation of the Program Committee Chairs, Asa Eger, Stephanie Langham Hooper, and Geoff Emberling be elected for three-year terms

on the Program Committee (Class of 2015). Motion from Program Committee. Passed Unanimously.

COP is working on the replacement of longtime editor James Weinstein. The central office is working on marketing efforts on subscriptions. A discussion of the roll of sites such as academia.edu and researchgate and the ASOR publications policy ensued. ASOR efforts to encourage online subscriptions were discussed.

CAP--Directors of affiliated digs no longer have to re-apply every year. Some are now coming up for renewal. CAP is working on web-based snapshots which should be in place by Fall.

9. Membership Committee Report—Jennie Ebeling.

ASOR has 1523 members versus 1511 at this time last year. ASOR has 83 paid up institutional members. The Boston office making remarkable progress on social media and there have been 5,125 “Likes” on Facebook and 12,000 unique visitors to our blog each month. News@ASOR (monthly) and ANE Today (also monthly) both launched. Membership is contributing to this effort by soliciting articles, e.g. from CAP affiliated directors; chairs of standing committees, and by writing features.

10. Status of Women Report—Beth Alpert Nakhai.

A formal steering committee and a presence on the ASOR website have been developed. A lunch is planned for Saturday at the Annual Meeting. Research reveals a desire for mentorship. The committee is working with the Boston office on a mapping and research projects (citation patterns in BASOR; safety in field situations); and is working to create a scholarship in the name of Mary Hussy, an early female ASOR leader.

11. Friends of ASOR Initiative--Andy Vaughn, Steve Dana. Social media initiatives are well underway as described in the Membership Report. This allows us to develop a marketing campaign to sell/trade advertising and to create a category of membership that is called Friends of ASOR, that is free. This and other categories of non-professional membership may provide access to products of interest, such as Ancient Near East Today , News @ ASOR, content on ASOR TV (YouTube) and webinars. All members are encouraged to share Ancient Near East today in order to build the number of registered recipients. The Board thanked an anonymous Board Member for his gift that is helping to launch this effort.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the CCC put into place the structures and functions necessary to get a webinar program up and running by September 10, 2013.

12. CAARI Report--Raymond Ewing. Cyprus has been experiencing some economic difficulty lately but this has had little impact on CAARI. Work on renovation of the center is complete and discussions are underway regarding Phase 2. There are now 8 Cyprus-based or Cypriote Trustees. The CAARI Board Meeting may occur in Cyprus next Spring. The President Elect visited CAARI this Spring.

13. ACOR Report—Sten Labianca. ACOR participated in the recent presidential visit by Obama to Petra. Fellowships continue well, despite cutbacks from CAORC.

14. AIAR Report—Sharon Herbert. AIAR is entering a transition era with Sy Gitin retiring June 30, 2013. Sy's report was read by Sharon Herbert.

15. Executive Director's Report—Andy Vaughn. ASOR has reached a plateau in a variety of domains and we need help to move forward in all the initiatives.

16. President's Report—Tim Harrison. A key issue is the leadership transition. We have new officers and we will have a new board chair. This has been a good transition because we developed a robust process over the past several years. A structural task that remains to be concluded is the development of a personnel committee in the EC.

The President encourages all members and Trustees to continue giving in support of the last stage of the Foundational Campaign. He thanked the Board for all they have done and contributed thus far.

Ethics Policy Task Force-Lynn Dodd. Research has been done to identify policies and comparisons with peer organizations. A process of consultation is underway and a major session at the Annual Meeting is planned for November, which will yield a publication and from which a sketch draft of a holistic policy for all of ASOR will be developed and presented for consideration to the President.

The President expressed his deep appreciation to P.E. MacAllister for his 19 years of service as Chairman of the Board.

The President Elect, Susan Ackerman, made a statement about the state of ASOR and indicated that she took this job based on her confidence in ASOR which is a tremendous tribute to the leadership of our President, Executive Director and Board Chairman.

17. Chair's Report—P.E. MacAllister. The Chair made a presentation of a plaque to Jim Strange in appreciation for his 13 plus years as Secretary.

The Chair presented a gavel to Chair Elect, B.W. Ruffner and made a charge to the new Chair from Ezekiel. The Chair then offered some reflections on his history with ASOR and what it has meant to him these many years.

The Board stood in order to give the outgoing Chair a round of applause.

18. Old Business. None.

19. New Business.

BE IT RESOLVED, that henceforth and forever we shall elect P. E. MacAllister to the status of Board Chairman Emeritus, trusting that his service with us will continue to his 120<sup>th</sup> year and beyond.

This Motion was passed by acclamation, followed by another standing ovation.

The Chair adjourned the meeting.