

**Minutes: PC Phone Call
December 2, 2014 at 1:00pm**

In Attendance: Geoff Emberling, Danielle Fatkin, Susan Ackerman, Casey Elledge, Jonathan Rosenbaum, Bill Caraher, April Nowell, Asa Eger, Arlene Press

Absent: Michael Danti, Morag Kersel, Stephanie Langin-Hooper, Alex Nagel, Andrew Smith

I. Welcome and encouragements

- Geoff opened the call with a quick overview of the meeting's agenda and goals.

II. Brief update on ASOR office support

- For anyone who was not already aware, Geoff announced that Kurt Prescott has accepted a new job and is no longer working for ASOR.
- Geoff introduced Arlene Press, ASOR's Meeting Manager who has been working half-time on Annual Meeting planning and on-site logistics. Starting December 1, 2014, Arlene has added an additional 10 hours a week in order to support the Program Committee.

III. 2015 Plenary Speaker Discussion & Nominations

- Geoff emphasized the importance of coming away from this meeting with a few solid nominations for the 2015 Annual Meeting Plenary Speaker.
- **Suggested names and topics included** Ian Morris, Chuck Jones, Michael McCormick, Marian Feldman, Ian Hodder, Anna Belfer-Cohen, Eric Cline, Sue Alcock, Joan Connelly, a panel, a joint presentation by SHI and the Getty on cultural heritage, and a return of the junior scholar speaker followed by a senior speaker.
- The list of potential speakers was narrowed down by discussion points, such as:
 - Does the Plenary speaker have to be an ASOR member?
 - There is no honorarium for the speaker, rather the Plenary presentation should be viewed as an honor in itself. In lieu of an honorarium, ASOR has assisted with meeting registration and hotel costs
 - East Coast/Atlanta location may pose a problem for enticing certain speakers
 - Diversity and an increase in female Plenary speakers
 - A broad, far-reaching topic that will interest the largest number of attendees and that is not already covered by other sessions or recent Plenary themes.
 - There was discussion of whether we should exclude potential speakers because their research was "too early" or "too late" and agreed not to exclude simply on that basis.

- **Short list of nominees:** Sue Alcock, Joan Connelly, Marian Feldman, Anna Belfer-Cohen, and Ian Morris.

IV. Proposal: Appearance Policy

- The current “appearance policy” states that an individual may only participate 2 times in the program, and a 3rd if one of the appearances includes chairing a session.
- Geoff and Danielle have received significant feedback that the policy is confusing and has resulted in limiting. Someone mentioned the example of Tim Harrison having to step down from co-chairing a session that he had proposed.
- **Decision:** The Program Committee agreed unanimously that the 2 appearance (with exception to session chairs) policy will be changed to a general “3 appearance policy,” only one of which can be as primary author of a paper.

V. Status of joint ASOR sessions with SBL, IQSA, and AIA

- Danielle said that there is a need for a clear description and policy for joint sessions with other groups.
- Important questions and issues need to be asked/addressed: What is the purpose of joint session? What, if any, value do they add to the ASOR program? Will they help to increase ASOR membership? Do we risk diluting our own program by promoting a session at SBL?
 - Susan mentioned that there is value in intellectual collaboration and that we can avoid cannibalizing our own program by manipulating the calendar to make sure we don't have conflicts.
 - In Atlanta & San Antonio the distance between the ASOR and SBL venues will present a challenge.
 - In a future call, the PC will discuss more specific proposals for collaborations.