

Minutes of the Pacific Northwest AAR, SBL and ASOR Annual Meeting

Seattle University May 3-5, 2013

Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order by President Jim Wellman at 12:33

Welcome and Announcements

a. Jim Wellman welcomed the participants, observing that things were going “swimmingly” at the conference thus far. He gave a special welcome to the graduate students in attendance.

b. There were no other announcements

c. attendance figures

Total Attendance	188
AAR	63
SBL	38
AAR/SBL	16
SBL/ASOR	4
Other /non-affiliated	66

Old Business

The Minutes of the 2012 conference was approved and entered into the record

b. Eric Cunningham presented the financial report, noting that our new policy of providing free registration to students and independent scholars had resulted in a major drop in registration receipts. He urged the membership to consider revenue-raising measures in order to bring the treasury to a baseline balance of \$10,000 so that we can both afford our obligations to the national organization, absorb growing conference and continue to do provide resources for our membership in the form of prizes, scholarships, etc.

President Jim Wellman recognized the service of Cunningham, who is stepping down as Treasurer.

c. Rob Hauck gave the Prize committee’s report on student papers. There were three submissions for AAR (1 Graduate and 2 Undergraduate), and five submissions for SBL (2 undergraduate and 3 graduate). Rob Hauck announced that he is stepping down as head of the Prize committee.

SBL Regional Scholarship Award

a. Ardy Bass announced that there is one applicant for the SBL regional scholarship award. Andrew Davis was our winner in 2012. It remains to be seen whether we will forward our applicant to the National chapter. Bass encouraged the SBL membership to spread the word on the scholarship opportunity.

AAR report

a. Regional Coordinator Eric Cunningham introduced our student representative, Raj Balkaran, to the membership.

b. Ardy Bass gave a brief of the National Conference in Chicago, including new guidelines for the Regions. Among them are requirements that all members of the Executive Board have to be members of the AAR.

c. Given the cost of travel to national meetings, Ardy proposed the idea of allocating some of the annual subvention for travel to the national conference, as National pays for two nights' accommodations, but nothing for travel. We also need to save funds for student representative travel to national (and regional) meetings.

d. AAR regional grants—The national chapter is interested in having more people apply for the regional grants. Ardy urged the members to avail themselves of information on these grants on the AAR website. Grants supporting indigenous groups and pedagogy are being given special priority. Up to \$4000 for workshops prior to the regional meetings are available each year. Applications should be submitted to the Regional Secretary (Ardy Bass) who forwards them to National.

SBL Report

a. Ardy Bass announced that there was no particular news to share concerning the SBL.

b. President Jim Wellman recognized Ardy's dedicated and superb service to the Region.

Program Chair Reports

a. Jocelyn Hendrickson (Study of Islam) proposed adding a film series to be held throughout the conference that would overlap the breaks and plenary sessions. In years past films have been held after the presidential address, but the late time tends to suppress attendance. Since not everybody attends the plenary sessions, Jocelyn suggested we run films through the breaks and plenaries. She recommended the format because it would optimize bringing the membership together for conversation.

Ardy Bass responded by saying that she was reluctant to schedule events during our traditionally scheduled addresses and plenaries. She stressed the importance of the presidential addresses and plenaries, and didn't want people to be torn between

attending addresses, business meetings, lunches, etc., and going to films. People should have the opportunity to attend all conference events.

New Business

a. Nominating Committee Report

Dennis Jowers gave the Nominating Committee's Report on new officer nominations

The committee's nominee for President 2014: John R. Levison
Levison was elected unanimously and assumes duties as President for 2013-14.

The committee's nominee for Vice President 2014: Jordan Paper
Susan Carter was nominated from the floor and seconded. Susan Carter was unanimously elected, and assumes duties as Vice President for 2013-14.

Ardy reminded the membership of our traditional priority to have good gender representation and balance on the executive board.

Mari Kim, in support of Paper, suggested that we should have a Canadian institution board member since our 2014 conference will be in Canada.

Raj Balkaran (student representative) reminded the board that he is a Canadian from a Canadian institution and that we have Canadian representation.

Dennis Jowers endorsed Paper's scholarly qualifications

Nick Gier (Asian and Comparative Studies) offered that Paper has not been an active participant in the Asian and Comparative section in many years

President Wellman invited the membership to call the question, and Carter was elected unanimously

Amy Donaldson was nominated, unanimously elected, and now assumes duties as Secretary/Treasurer/Regional Coordinator for 2013-14.

Brenda Ihssen was approved as the new president of nominating committee
Antonio Finitis, Eric Cunningham, and Gloria London will serve on the nominating committee

Timothy Hyun will serve as president of the Student Paper/Prize Committee

President Jim Wellman recognized Dennis Jowers's service as president of the Nominating Committee

b. Registration and Fees structure

Ardy Bass announced that next year's Regional Conference will be at the University of Calgary, May 9-11, tentatively, and she expressed her concern about the fee structure for next year.

This year, our "early bird" registration netted 164 with 66 choosing free (waived fees). Even though we made up some of this with late registration, we need to revisit our fee-tiers.

Some regions have different fees for grad students, members and non-members

We have about 70 unaffiliated registrants; some regions charge \$10 more for non-members. There are a number of ways we might re-structure fees.

At present we charge \$45 and the late is fee is \$65, with free registration for students.

Eric Cunningham, stating that most scholarly associations charge far more than we do, and that while an affordable conference was good, it was undesirable to wonder every year if we were even going to be able to afford our conference. He reminded the membership that universities use conferences as part of their revenue streams and that costs would only increase in the future. Cunningham proposed \$75 for faculty and \$25 for students.

One member urged caution on how we define "faculty" since that term includes everything from independent scholars to faculty *emeriti*. Before we make a leap from \$45 to \$75 we should be careful about deciding who should pay what.

One student, while referencing the hardships of attending the conference, said that \$25 was not unreasonable

Another student also referencing the hardships of attending the conference, agreed that \$25 was a reasonable fee.

Raj Balkaran, student representative agreed that \$25 was reasonable, and was at least comparable to going out for a pint.

Philip Tite raised the matter of why we decided to go to "zero" fees for students last year, saying it was an afterthought to the question of fees for independent scholars. He reminded the membership that to support the low fee for students and independent scholars, we raised regular rates last year. He suggested that an additional \$30 jump (to \$75) was unreasonable. He also reminded the membership of his own proposal of last year which was to have a lower independent scholar rate (close to the existing student rate).

Arby Bass reminded the membership of the 2010 conference in Victoria that nearly bankrupted the Region. We have been in tight straits ever since.

It was moved that we establish three regular categories of registration and a universal late fee of \$90:

\$25 for student

\$55 independent/retiree/adjunct/unemployed partially employed

\$75 fully employed

Ardy Bass talked about starting a scholarship fund for students and struggling scholars. It was proposed that we advertise these options to a wider public. This was offered as an amendment to the motion

Mike Zbaraschuck endorsed the idea of a fund for students, and of trying to raise more funds , and amend the movement to create late fees by adding \$10 per to each category

A proposal was made to amend the categories to:

Fully employed (\$75)

Partially/under (\$50)

Student (\$25)

With a late fee of \$10 per category

Amy Donaldson proposed that we base our categories on income brackets, as the AAR does.

It was moved that we to defer this matter and give it to a committee. It was defeated—the members wanted to adopt a plan now.

Mike Zbaraschuck moved to keep the categories—but turn the names of the designated categories over to the exec committee

Phil Tite urged caution again about raising rates so radically for the second year in a row, and wanted to know how other regions do it.

Ardy explained several of the procedures followed in other regions, and suggested that \$75 is on par with other regions.

President Wellman called the question, and the new fee structure was passed.

c. Compensation for National Conference

Ardy Bass moved to earmark the following amounts from our 2013 subventions (\$2500 (AAR) + \$1500 (SBL) for travel to the national conference:

\$500 to the Secretary/Treasurer/Regional coordinator)

\$500 to Student Representative

\$500 for the Regional Secretary

A clarifying amendment was made that stipulated that these monies would be paid if and only if the officer in question could not receive financial support from their home institution (or had no home institution)

d. Update of Regional Job Descriptions

Ardy Bass asked for a task force to clarify and update our regional job descriptions would like volunteers to update job descriptions

e. Memorial for Katherine Breazille

Michael Zbaraschuck made an announcement about the passing of Katherine Breazille, and announced there would be a memorial lecture for her at Pacific Lutheran University.

f. Film Series

Jocelyn Hendrickson asked if we could spend a few minutes to revisit the film series

Nick Gier argued that we should protect the integrity of the plenaries

Gloria London agreed that we need to support our colleagues by supporting the plenaries)

Hendrickson said that her section doesn't go to the plenaries anyway, and said that the film series could be all inclusive

Fitzman suggested that we were being "bad citizens" when they don't go to the plenaries

Mike Zbaraschuck proposed that "more is more" – and argued on behalf of the film series

Mike Williams stated that presidential and banquet are symbolic we should go to these, as they give us a chance to come together

We always have an ASOR plenary on Saturday at 11:00—maybe that event is negotiable.

Louise Pare suggest that we could hold a film during the reception time

Mike Zbaraschuck agreed with Pare that rather than sacrifice the Plenaries we could possibly sacrifice a session

Brenda Ihssen proposed that we try something and see if it works—

Pare observed that there are plenty of pockets of time that could easily be used to show films, and that we should pursue the possibilities.

Zbaraschuck moved to *pursue* the idea of installing a film series while also protecting the integrity of the plenaries

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:36.