

Association for the Sociology of Religion
Council Meeting Minutes
Park Central Hotel – New York City
August 11, 2019

Paula Nesbitt, 2019 President, Presiding

Present: Holly Folk (Program Chair), Tia Noelle Pratt, (Secretary), Jim Cavendish (President-Elect), Kevin McElmurry (Council Member), Michael Blong (OUP Liaison), Allie Burrow (OUP assistant), Rachel Kraus (ASR Executive Officer), Rebecca Kim (Council), Laurel Kearns (Membership Committee Chair), Jim Spickard (President-Elect 2020), Amy Adamczyk (Council Member), Solange Lefebvre (Council), Dan Olsen (Immediate Past-President/Chair Nominating Committee), Tanice Foltz (Fichter Award Committee Chair), Ruthie Braunstein (Council), Kraig Beyerlein (Council), Gerardo Marti (SoR Editor), Paula Nesbitt (ASR President), Joseph Baker (SoR Editor-Elect), Brian Starks (2020 Program Chair), Jualynne Dodson (Council)

Paula Nesbitt, President calls the meeting to order at 4:10pm

The meeting begins with several announcements

- Ed Lehman – ASR President in 1992 died in July; he will be remembered at a later date
- New attendees will have purple ribbons. Council Members – as ASR leadership – should be welcoming to anyone seen sitting alone or those with new attendee ribbons
- Everyone should be at the business meeting. It is a good opportunity to put names and faces together.

Introductions

Review of minutes from last year

- Amy moves to accept the minutes from the first 2018 council meeting. Solange seconds. Passes unanimously.
- Tia moves to accept minutes from the second 2018 council meeting. Amy seconds. Passes unanimously.

Publishers report – Michael Blong, OUP Liaison/Allie Burrow, OUP Assistant

- Michael refers to the report distributed in advance
- Impact factor, marketing, and usage are among metrics used to evaluate health of *Sociology of Religion*
 - There is detailed discussion on these items. Conclusion: the journal is healthy
- Circulation
 - Who has access?
 - Consortium model
 - Libraries pool resources to buy journals in a bundle
 - Attrition on traditional model and print only
 - More and more consortium and online

- Consortium model is online only
- Open access as a movement – more discussion later
- Gerardo asks about consortium subscriptions in developing countries
 - OUP program used to help institutions in the developing world to access OUP journals
 - Journals are heavily discounted as per the World Bank
 - OUP provides internet access also
 - This program expands the reach of the journal but not necessarily revenue because of the heavy discount; giving institutions access to a bundle of OUP journals whether they use SoR or not (i.e. a science & technology university may not have use for SoR but will get it through the bundle). Bump in subscriptions via this program may have peaked
- Marketing
 - Increase reach of the journal
 - Highlighting usage; librarians look at usage when deciding about subscriptions
 - Marketing is heavy in social media
 - OUP has a number of social media handles
 - A number of articles are promoted accordingly
 - More information is available in the report
 - Usage – Allie
 - 2017 migrated onto a new Oxford Academic platform
 - Full text views have rapidly increased
 - Direct users to HTML instead of .pdf of full text
 - Top articles from 2018 on page 11 of the report
 - Impact factor and citations
 - Always want this to grow
 - Impact factor is one way (not the only way) to measure health and strength of journal
 - Impact factor has increased – very happy! Kudos to Gerardo
 - One or two articles can sway the impact factor in a year. Not the case with SOR
 - Citations are evenly distributed
 - Production
 - Everything is going well from OUP’s perspective
 - Author feedback is positive
 - Online pub is publication of record. Able to move quickly

Paula asks everyone to be brief to allow for everyone to speak

Editor’s report – Gerardo Marti

It’s an honor to have been editor

Joseph Baker will be next editor

- He has served on the editorial board, as a reviewer, and has published consistently in the journal

Grateful to associate editors

Grateful to Book Review Editor, Grace Yukich – Featured Review Essay is innovative
Grateful to OUP – Michael is very responsive

In the last year:

- 179 manuscripts received; quality of manuscripts has increased
- rejection rate went up; only taking approximately 10% (9.5%) this year.
- Does not want to discourage submissions
 - few rejected at the R&R level because higher rejection at desk level
 - 5 – 8 weeks from acceptance to publication online
 - pleased with impact factor
 - impact factor can't be controlled or manipulated by the editor
 - last 2 years of citations are the only ones that matter for impact factor

Transition

- Gerardo will continue through 2020
- Joseph will be editor-elect and learn the processes and select a team during 2020
- Joseph will begin in 2021; Gerardo will become consulting editor for 2021 and will be available

OUP folks depart at conclusion of Gerardo's report

President's report – Paula Nesbitt

- Paula has submitted her report in advance
- Affirm relationship with ASA
- Relationship varies from year to year
- Strong this year; jointly with ASA-Religion – graduate mentoring session; joint reception
- Report from Ad Hoc Graduate committee (Nicole Frame, Chair)
 - Nicole Frame wants to form Ad Hoc committee every few years to assess needs of graduate students
 - Paula recommends the President has a Graduate Student liaison as a visible presence for graduate students; graduate students didn't feel the invitation to propose sessions on their own

Program Chair's report – Holly Folk

- Process was very manageable and rewarding thanks to Paula and Rachel
- No proposals were rejected; some were sent back for R&R
- Observations
 - Website
 - Login page is counter-intuitive
 - Web re-design would make it easier
 - Some papers were sent directly to Holly instead of via the submission portal
 - Consequently, there were a couple of proposals missed until the last minute
 - Recommend: Program chair having access to the registration system would have been helpful
 - Access would let Program chair know if there is a tilt in terms of geography, gender, etc.

- Recommend: continuing the practice of \$1,000 to the program chair to hire a student
- Recommend: fixed budget for accessibility (sign language interpreter and other ADA accommodations)
 - Fixed budget will establish at the outset if cost for accommodation is cost prohibitive
 - Set an amount for accommodation; if a request comes that's over budget, a good-faith effort can be made; provides more solid legal footing for ASR regarding the ADA
 - Understand ADA requirements so as to set an appropriate
- A number of cancellations over the last few days
 - Requests for virtual presentations
 - Holly says it's a very, very, very bad idea
 - Damages collegiality of meeting
 - Doesn't help graduate students on the market be competitive
 - Could lead to large segment of meeting participants presenting virtually
 - Suggest: Conference delivery fee for virtual presentations
 - Suggest: Create some avenue for virtual presentations separate from ASR
- Robust discussion follows over the availability and consequences of presenting remotely
 - Ruthie says sometimes remote presentations are necessary; spoke of someone who presented remotely while 9 months pregnant and doesn't be punitive; Joseph presented remotely with a week old baby; Holly says she was senior in college when her first child was born and had kids all through grad school
 - Rachel says that Skype is extra cost from hotel
 - Gerardo suggests a committee to investigate this
 - Jualynne suggests consulting other organizations for best practices
 - Paula asks for a motion to create a committee to examine these issues and make recommendations to Council; Ruthie moves; Kraig seconds; motion carries unanimously
 - Rachel asks to be on the committee or at least kept in the loop on the accommodation issue as this pertains to budget and finances – especially with comparable organizations
 - Ad Hoc committee will include: President, Program Chair, EO, and others to investigate best practices related to the issues in the Program Chair's report related to accessibility and remote presenting and make a recommendation to council

Nominating Committee – Dan Olsen

- As immediate past president, Dan is chair of nominating committee
- Report is on file
- Nominees were asked to affirm five statements regarding membership, ASA code of ethics
 - This action was taken to be proactive on issues of harassment
- Tried hard to have a diverse, inclusive slate of candidates

- A number of folks declined due to budget, childcare, etc. and not wanting to attend the second council meeting after conference ends
- Recommends that Council consider the need for the second meeting on Wednesday morning as it hindered some perspective candidates agreeing to be nominated
- Jualynne Dodson asks about Global South representation for slate of candidates
 - Dan says that while international representation among the membership is robust, global south representation is not. Consequently, there is not measurable global south representation on slate of candidates

Ad Hoc Committee on Professionalism – Dan Olsen, Chair

- Committee created to address issues from last summer; Committee’s mandate was to:
 - Clarify ASR position on sexual harassment, sexual assault, additional steps for officers and council members
 - Insurance for ASR, Council members, and Officers in case of a lawsuit
- Committee decided ASR should follow the lead of ASA since ASA code of ethics is affirmed in ASR constitution
- 5 possible motions
 - Extend Ad Hoc committee for at least one year because the work isn’t done; Dan moves, Kevin seconds, passes unanimously
 - Affirm ASA anti-harassment language
 - Make this affirmation publicly available to membership
 - Jim C. seconds Dan’s motion; motion carries unanimously
 - ASAP after meeting; make affirmation of ASA code of ethics a requirement for new or renewing membership; make special note of harassment section; Amy seconds Dan’s motion; passes unanimously
 - These three motions put ASR on firmer legal ground
 - Following precedent of ASA annual meeting code of conduct
 - Anti-harassment policy must be affirmed in order to be on the program – one has to affirm the anti-harassment at the meeting not just in professional conduct generally
 - ASA policy includes designated reporters for harassment complaints
 - Q: What kind of training did Nancy Kidd (ASA, Executive Dir) receive?
 - Tia asks for clarification about the difference between motion 4 and motion 2
 - i.e. if motion 2 covers professional behavior, wouldn’t that include behavior at the annual meeting?
 - Jim S. says motion 4 is really 2 things and only one requires further action by the committee
 - There is robust discussion between Jim S. and Dan
 - Dan says Council needs to think through steps that we will take such as: Will all members of Council be required to report to the designated persons?

- Holly says that ASR is not covered by Title IX mandatory reporter law
 - **Conclusion of the discussion: Motion 4 is not really a “motion” but more of a matter for the Ad Hoc Committee on Professionalism to address and for Council to act on later**
- Should people who are: elected to office, appointed (editor of SOR), being considered for awards (whether or not they know they are nominated) need to affirm anti-harassment policy and declare if they know of any instance in the past that would violate the policy
 - ASA has decided it is not an investigative body and will not take up this issue
 - What will ASR do if someone was convicted of sexual assault, served their time, and wants to run for office?
 - Awards: Do people making the nomination know of bad acts in the person’s past?
 - ASA’s lawyers have said it’s not a problem to prevent someone from competing for an award because of prior bad acts; it is a problem to withdraw an award because the person could sue for Defamation of Character
 - Solange brings up the difference between accusation, allegation, and charges
 - Dan recommends ASR doesn’t take this up until ASA comes to a conclusion so that there is a precedent
 - Motion that the Ad Hoc committee gets more information related to Proposals 5a, 5b, and 5c in the Ad Hoc committee’s report and report back to council.
 - Jualynne moves; Kevin seconds; passes unanimously.

6pm Dinner Break

6:30pm meeting resumes

- Nancy Kidd (ASA, ED) says when reports have been made against a person on the program
 - ASA is not an investigative body so they did not make inquiries
 - In all cases except one, the person withdrew
 - In the other case, the accused requested an investigation. ASA determined the charge was “frivolous”
 - Jualynne asks if looking at American Anthropological Association (AAA) might be helpful
 - Dan says possibly
 - ASR focuses on ASA because they have done the legwork and ASR affirms the code of ethics of ASA
 - Jualynne says that if ASA has talked to AAA that is sufficient; if ASA hasn’t, it might be worthwhile because there is a lot going on with AAA

Executive Officer Report – Rachel Kraus

Rachel thanks everyone for being wonderful and active Council members

Increased food and beverage costs

- Minimum doesn't get a lot of food and beverages
- Decreased food items at events; severely paired down this year
- Should we continue the Welcome Breakfast?
 - What is a minimum for F&B?
 - Council's dinner was \$110/person
 - Welcome reception is open bar as per hotel policy; price is per person
 - No carving stations this year
 - Jualynne makes a motion amended by Jim C. to eliminate the welcome breakfast and find alternative ways to welcome new members; Tanice moves Amy seconds; passes unanimously
 - Holly says food at the reception is key to keep people at the reception
 - Suggestion from Gerardo: targeted welcome – international, new, grad students
 - Jim C. says that targeted welcome could be seen as creating inequality
 - Membership committee will consider alternatives and direct to Jim C.

Recommend increase for the Gallagher Grant

- San Francisco hotel – cheapest hotel option is \$279+tax/night
- Recommendation: \$10,000 total for Gallagher Grant in 2020
 - Up from \$7,000 allocated this year; \$4,500 was spent
 - Tia moves; Amy seconds; motion passes unanimously
 - ASA-Religion gets funds to support graduate student hotel rooms; Melissa Wilde (ASA-Religion Chair) and Rachel have discussed putting those rooms in ASR hotel
 - Rachel would like to hire a conference consultant instead of working with HelmsBriscoe; saving the commission paid to HelmsBriscoe would save ASR a lot of money
 - Dan makes a motion to this effect; Jim C. amends the motion to do this on a trial basis and have a review in 2 years
 - Motion passes unanimously

Rachel proposes increasing budget for the website to address ongoing issues

- Wants to hire a website consultant at a cost of \$2,500 to make it more user friendly
 - Tia makes a motion; Dan seconds – passes unanimously

Insurance

- General liability and Directors & Officers insurance have been acquired for ASR
 - General liability
 - Protects if someone gets hurt at the annual meeting
 - Directors & Officers
 - In case ASR gets sued
 - Comes with legal service that does not require a retainer

Solange moves to approve the budget, Amy second the motion; motion passes with one abstention (Dan)

7:20pm Rachel leaves as well as meeting participants who are not council members to create an executive session

Those remaining are: Rebecca Kim, Kevin McElmurry, Jim Cavendish, Tia Pratt, Jualynne Dodson, Paula Nesbitt, Gerardo Marti (non-voting member of Council), Kraig Beyerlein, Ruthie Braunstein, Dan Olsen, Solange Lefebvre, Amy Adamczyk

Jim Cavendish, Chair AdHoc Executive Officer Review Committee

- Members of Council were asked to review Rachel's performance; Rachel was asked to provide a self-assessment; Council members were overwhelmingly positive
- Jualynne moves approve a second term for Rachel; Kraig seconds; motion passes unanimously
- Second motion: Rachel be placed on ballot as sole candidate: Dan seconds; passes unanimously
- Third motion: Ad Hoc committee to continue as long as it takes to renegotiate/modify her contract; negotiations will occur by email; vote will occur by email; Paula asks if the negotiators are pro-forma; Jim C. says yes. Final version of the motion: Ad Hoc review committee will continue as long as needed to renegotiate contract and will conclude its work coterminous with voting on Rachel's contract; Jim C. makes motion; Tia seconds; Motion passes unanimously
- Fourth motion: Regular process to review EO: at the end of first year of the first term and at the end the third year of every term; Jim C. makes motion; Ruthie seconds; passes unanimously

Full meeting resumes at 7:35pm

Tia brings up the need for contingency plan in case there is an emergency and the EO is not available to manage the annual meeting

- Postponed to second council meeting
- Everyone recognizes the needs
- Jim C. takes it under advisement for second meeting

Development Committee – Jim Cavendish

- Sponsorship money received from USC's Institute for Religion and Civic Culture

Membership Committee – Laurel Kearns

- Committee made efforts to get call for papers in new hands
 - Sociology and sociology related departments
 - 23 AAR units
 - Universities in the NYC area that have PhD programs
 - Maureen Day reached out to Franciscan and Jesuit universities in the area
 - Graduate student committee chair and international liaison were utilized

International Liaison – Nazanin Shahrokni

- No information beyond report

Fichter Grant Committee – Tanice Foltz

- Full \$12,000 allocated was dispersed
 - Details in report
- Action item
 - Portal on website to submit proposals rather than email the committee chair
 - Rachel says that's not a problem

Article Award Committee – Adair Lummis

- 18 articles published in Sociology of Religion that go through peer-review are automatically nominated
- “Make America Christian Again” won – Whitehead, Perry, and Baker authors

Lifetime Achievement Award Committee – Peter Beyer

- Nothing beyond the submitted report

President-Elect Report – Jim Cavendish

- Joint session proposals to ASA for 2020 were rejected
 - 4 proposals were sent; 2 thematic
 - Jim C. sent a letter in response
 - Dan suggests taking this up with ASR members who are members of ASA Council
 - Laurel says that the joint session at 2019 ASA was not well attended and presentations were uneven
- Theme for ASR 2020 is: “Communicating Religion’s Relevance”

Paula Nesbitt thanks everyone for their work in getting through the long agenda and thanks outgoing council members for their service.

The motion to adjourn is unanimously made, seconded, and approved at 8pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Association for the Sociology of Religion
Business Meeting Minutes
Park Central Hotel – New York, NY
August 13, 2019

Present: Rachel Kraus (ASR Executive Officer), Rebecca Kim (Council), Jualynne Dodson (Council), Solange Lefebvre (Council), Tia Noelle Pratt (ASR Secretary), Jim Spickard (President-Elect 2020), Paula Nesbitt (President 2019), Holly Folk (2019 Program Chair) Jim Cavendish (President-Elect 2019/President 2020), Dan Olsen (Immediate Past-President/Nominations Committee Chair), Brian Starks (2020 Program Chair), Laurel Kearns (Chair, Membership Committee), Various Members of ASR (approximately 20)

Tia Noelle Pratt calls the meeting to order at 11:40am

Rachel Kraus opens the meeting saying the health of ASR is strong

- There are approximately 400 members of ASR; membership is down slightly but is comparable to sister-organizations
- Total assets of ASR: \$750,000
- More funds will be allocated for Gallagher Travel for San Francisco; Please encourage graduate students to apply

Remarks from 2019 President Paula Nesbitt

- Pleasure to have served as president
- Growth of participation from international scholars benefits everyone
- ASR has strong graduate student constituency doing cutting edge work
- Special collaboration with ASA-Religion for welcome reception was well received
- Professional Development mentoring session – joint with ASA-Religion – was well received

Dan Olson, Chair of Nominations Committee and Ad Hoc Committee on Professionalism

- Nominations Committee: Dan announces newly elected council members
 - Jim Spickard, President-Elect for 2020
 - Besheer Mohamed, Rachel Rinaldo, Geneviève Zubrzycki – Council Members
 - Tia Noelle Pratt, Secretary
- Ad Hoc Committee on Professionalism
 - Committee was formed to address issues of harassment and sexual harassment
 - ASA Council is addressing these issues
 - ASR Ad Hoc Committee will follow the lead of ASA in keeping with the ASR Constitution
 - Motions passed in first council meeting:
 - Extend Ad Hoc committee for a year
 - Nominees must affirm anti-harassment language in ASA code of ethics
 - Memberships for new and renewing members to include affirming the ASA code of ethics
 - Upcoming issues:

- Behavior at annual meeting.
- What position/policies should ASR have if misconduct of council members, council nominees, and award nominees comes to light

Jim Cavendish, Chair, reports on the Ad Hoc Committee to Review the Executive Officer

- Council mandated the committee conduct an Executive Officer Review as Rachel Kraus comes to the end of her term as EO
- Rachel provided a self-reflection on her work as EO
- Members of council, editor of *Sociology of Religion*, and Chairs of Committees, were asked to reflect on their interactions with Rachel as EO
 - Council is overwhelmingly supportive of Rachel and recommended her for a second term
 - Recommendation will be ratified by the membership in the next election

Nicole Frame chaired the Ad Hoc Graduate Student Committee

- Appx. 13 graduate students attended the meet up on Monday night
- Professional development session on developing professional identity will be held on Tuesday

Laurel Kearns, Chair, speaks about membership committee

- Intentional efforts were made to send call for papers to different/new entities
- Travel grants to international scholars is valuable and key to their attendance
- New attendee ribbon is very important as it helps returning attendees extend intentional welcome

Paula Nesbitt discusses Gallagher and Fichter Grants

- Everyone who applied for a Gallagher travel grant received an award
- Fichter Grant: 18 applications and 5 awardees; \$12,000 was awarded

Suzie Macaluso chaired McNamara Award Committee

- 28 submissions
- One paper stood out

Adair Lummis, Chair, Distinguished *Sociology of Religion* Article Award

- 18 papers were published through peer-review in *Sociology of Religion* are automatically nominated
- Winner: “Make America Christian Again” by Andrew Whitehead, Sam Perry, and Joseph Baker

Paula Nesbitt reports that Peter Beyer chaired the Lifetime Achievement Award Committee

- N.J. Demerath III received the award

Paula Nesbitt thanks Holly Folk for her work as program chair

Holly Folk offers remarks about the program

- Holly thanks everyone for the trust and opportunity. Holly acknowledges the learning curve. Appreciates the support from the organization. Holly acknowledges the conceptual diversity on the program and hopes it continues.

Gerardo Marti, Editor of *Sociology of Religion*

- Its an honor to be the editor; wants to look to the past and the future
- Past
 - Impact factor as gone up again (number of citations in the last 2 years divided by number of publications)
 - Impact factor could go down
 - If it does, it is not a measure of the work of the new editor
 - Whatever we can do to expose our work to a broader audience will increase impact factor
 - Years ago, scholars had to make the case for publishing in SoR – that is no longer the case
 - SoR is the top journal in sociology of religion
 - Higher impact factor than JSSR
 - There is a need to emphasize more recently published articles
 - Worked with Oxford University Press to use their platform for marketing
 - Dan Winchester as Associate Editor focused on Social Media and dissemination
 - Hosts a podcast
 - Work with OUP on Marketing
 - Really good work is being submitted
 - SoR has become the first choice for publications for many authors
 - This contributes to the high quality of the work in the journal
 - Lag time is acceptable
 - 5 to 8 weeks from acceptance to online publication
 - Decisions back from reviewers in 3 months
 - Averaging 4 reviews per paper
 - Move toward rigor in review process
 - Efficiency is a strength to the journal
- Future
 - Joseph Baker will be the new editor
 - Has a plan for the journal
 - Has a student who is going to help
 - Has secured university release time to do the work
 - Will continue Gerardo's initiatives
 - Will continue having a 3rd Associate editor on dissemination
 - Is already working closely with OUP
 - 2020 will be a year of transition; Gerardo will still be the official editor; Joseph will learn the processes
 - Mid-2020 Joseph will begin to work with manuscripts on his own
 - Gerardo will become Consulting Editor for 2021 in order to be available to answer questions
 - At Jim Spickard's prompting, Gerardo discusses SoR's role in OUP's efforts to reach the global south/developing countries
 - SoR is getting more exposure but not more money as a result

- Could influence citations; which could grow impact factor

Jim Cavendish, 2020 ASR President

- Theme for 2020 Annual Meeting: “Communicating Religion’s Relevance”
 - Communicating the relevance of the work we are doing to the broader public
- Brian Starks will serve as Program Chair
- Will reach out to ASA, SSSP, SSSI for joint sessions
- Will continue Salons that Paula Nesbitt started
- Encourages members to submit early and often!

Rachel Kraus invites questions from the membership

- Joy Charlton, member, publication committee
 - Echoes support for Joseph Baker
 - Thanks Gerardo for his work as editor
- Holly Folk thanks Paula Nesbitt and Rachel Kraus for all of their support
- Jim Cavendish poses a question to the members: how’s it going?
 - The value of joint sessions with other organizations is affirmed
 - International scholars are affirmed
 - Jualynne Dodson says the number of international scholars has improved for ASR; states that racial, ethnic minorities from the U.S. aren’t well represented at ASR
 - Jualynne Dodson talks about how it’s not just an issue about the program; it’s about the structural fabric of the association
 - Rachel Kraus responds
 - Call for Papers was disseminated to a number of outlets; expresses a desire to disseminate the CFP in a more diverse and inclusive way
 - Jualynne Dodson talks about Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs) and reaching out to them regularly
 - Holly Folk suggests reaching out to Community Colleges/Junior Colleges, and 2nd tier institutions in 2020
 - Jualynne Dodson reiterates the point that this isn’t about *just* a call for papers. She says there was a continuous, intentional effort to have a greater international presence in ASR and it shows. The organization and its members benefit from that effort. Where is that same sustained intentionality in reaching out to racial minorities in the U.S.?
 - i.e., Nominations, Council, Who has been president of ASR?

Paula announces the death of Ed Lehman 1992 president

The meeting ends at 12:39pm

Respectfully Submitted,



**Association for the Sociology of Religion
Council Meeting Minutes
Park Central Hotel – New York, NY
August 14, 2019**

Jim Cavendish, 2020 President, Presiding

Present: Tia Noelle Pratt (Secretary), Besheer Mohamed (Council), Solange Lefebvre (Council, Rebecca Kim (Council), Rachel Kraus (Executive Officer), Geneviève Zubrzycki (Council), Holly Folk (Program Chair), Jim Spickard (President-Elect), Paula Nesbitt (Immediate Past-President/Nominations Committee Chair), Brian Starks (2020 Program Chair), Amy Adamczyk (Council), Kraig Beyerlein (Council), Jim Cavendish (President), Gerardo Marti (Editor SoR), Rachel Rinaldo (Council)

Rachel Kraus, EO, begins with roll sheet at 7:08am

Jim Cavendish, 2020 President invites introductions; Hard copy of agenda is passed around

Jim C reviews items forwarded from the first council meeting on 8/11

- Request for Ad Hoc Committee for Accommodations
 - Committee will review how best to provide ADA accommodations at annual mtg
 - In providing ADA accommodations, the committee and Council must consider the financial health of ASR
- Ad Hoc Committee for the Executive Officer
 - Rachel has great support from Council
 - There will be an informal review of a new executive officer after the first year
 - Moving forward, there will be a review of the EO in the third year of every term
- Ad Hoc Committee for Professionalism
 - Dan Ols~~o~~en is the Chair but is not present
 - Committee will continue for another year
 - ASR will affirm ASA anti-harassment language
 - Council goes over the proposals Dan presented at the first meeting

Paula Nesbitt, 2019 President and Holly Folk, 2019 Program Chair discuss the meeting

- Paula says a highlight was the welcoming reception and the joint sessions and the graduate student/young scholar professionalization
 - Encourages opportunities for continuing that
- Holly said that one of Paula's goals was to bring back people who hadn't attended in a while
 - Wonderful to see that
- Jim Spickard, President-Elect. says the attendance at sessions was odd; some sessions were well attended; others had one or two people
 - Besheer Mohamed talks about a competing session on African-Americans scheduled at the same time as his Pew Salon which was also about African-Americans

- Holly says some people asked to be moved which created some of the competing sessions
- Rachel K. discusses the attendance at sessions
- Holly says that some people gave their paper on Monday and then left on Tuesday
- Jim S. says his discussion salon had 11 people and it was great
- Amy Adamczyk says her salon had 4 people but it was fruitful

General Points Discussed:

- 220 people registered for Annual Meeting; up by about 30 members from Philadelphia
- It was great that the ASA hotel was close
- Complaints about no coffee in the hotel rooms.
- New Attendee and Council Member ribbons were the same color and this created some confusion.
- Affinity group “meet-ups” were well received

Holly Folk initiates discussion about giving a paper via Skype

- Holly recommends not having Skype and only having another attendee read the paper if there is a last minute emergency
- There is general discussion that there should be two Ad Hoc committees relative to the issues Holly brought up at both the first and second meetings: Ad Hoc committee on Skype/Presenting Remotely and Ad Hoc Committee on ADA issues
 - Holly will be on ADA committee
- Besheer points out that there are two points being discussed related to Skype
 - The tech issue of Skype, getting it set up, and who will be responsible
 - Is presenting remotely actually useful
- Jim Spickard says the connection of the conference is missed by presenting remotely
- Jim S.
 - Talks about Dana Fenton (Lehman College, Bronx, NY) and her expertise on these ADA issues
 - Microsoft 365 allows for auto transcribe that will write what the speaker says along the bottom of a PowerPoint presentation
 - There is an android program that Dana used to auto transcribe the Presidential address; Jim S. witnessed the device in action and said it did a great job
 - Jim S. points out these options can be much more affordable than an American Sign Language interpreter
 - Rachel Kraus brings up the organization’s finances
 - Asking the hotel for tech support is a major expense
 - Rachel wants to be kept in the loop on anything that will involve money
 - Holly points out there are lots of ways to meet ADA accommodations
 - Jim Cavendish points out council needs to decide how much money it can spend on ADA accommodations

2020 Annual Meeting in San Francisco

- 8/7/20 – welcome reception and first council meeting
- ASA-Religion section will meet on 8/10
- Food & Beverage minimum is \$10,000 less in San Francisco than in NYC; this year in NYC \$35,000, next year in San Francisco \$25,000

- Room Rate is \$279+tax for all room types
 - Close to the ASA hotel
 - Restaurant in the hotel
- Jim Cavendish says that there was a meeting of all the sister-associations
 - ASA is struggling to fill hotel rooms due to competition from AirBnB
 - ASA didn't meet its room block this year
- ASR met our room block
- Making reservations at the hotel was a problem this year
 - There is robust discussion on hotels

If there is going to be a joint reception – August 9 is the best day. ASR's last day and the day before ASA-Religion day. ASA has changed Religion day in the past to accommodate ASR.

Tia leaves the room because of discussion about the secretary position

Jim: The secretary position is a newly created position and so Tia was elected to the position. It was presented on the ballot ...but the ballot was not specific as to whether it is a voting position or whether there would be any kind of reimbursement for the expenses. So, we need to decide if we need to put forward on the ballot again. And how do we include this position in the constitution? Is this position a voting member position or no? That is not clear. How about financial reimbursement? Travel reimbursement? Room reimbursement?

If elected, they should be able to vote. So, the secretary should be able to vote.

What is the chief task of the secretary? The primary task for the secretary is to take minutes and to present them.

Motion: \$500 for travel money
Second the motion

Vote: All in favor

Tia returns at 8:23am

Jim Spickard talks about his vision for Meeting in Chicago for his presidential year

- There have been requests from other associations for joint meetings; particularly international associations

Jim Cavendish moves to adjourn the meeting at 8:37am; motion carries unanimously.

Thank you to Rebecca Kim for taking notes while I stepped out of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

