

Mid-America American Studies Association
Minutes, Executive Board Meeting
March 26, 2010
Lawrence, KS

[Minutes amended and approved by the Executive Board on October 10, 2010.]

In attendance

Jane Simonsen (Augustana, at large)
Richard Schur (Drury, at large)
Randal Jelks (Journal)
Ben Chappell (Kansas faculty rep)
Michael Krysko (Kansas State, at large)
Milton Wendland (Kansas student rep)
Kim Massa (Iowa faculty rep)
Barrett Gough (Iowa grad rep)
Tom Sarmiento (Minnesota grad rep)
Laura Belmonte (Oklahoma State, at large)
Ben Looker (St. Louis University faculty rep)
Deborah Whaley (guest)
Ora McWilliams (Managing Editor, American Studies journal)
Jaclyn Kirouac-Fram (St. Louis University grad rep)
Kathleen Wells Morgan (Executive Director)

The meeting began at 6:30 pm.

1. Approval of Agenda

Informal approval of agenda

2. Approval of Minutes from Fall 2009 Minutes

Barrett made a motion to approve. Laura seconded the motion. **The motion passes.**

3. Executive Director's Report

Kathleen presented the financial report and noted that our accounts have been reduced, compared to the previous year. Ora reported that there are some additional monies to be deposited in that account. Kathleen reported that there may be additional expenditures related to the conference and will send out a revised report once the conference finance is completed. Kathleen recommended that we might need to revise our strategy of spending some of our funds on meetings and other activities. Given the current state of MAASA finances and the overall financial situation of the country,

Kathleen will provide, via e-mail, additional information about our budget to figure out how to address our financial situation.

4. ***American Studies* Editor's report**

Randall reported that the Hall Center reduced the journal's funding by \$5,000.00. In response, the journal is looking into its expenses. They have identified an extraneous expense related to a telephone that can be cut. The journal is working on getting out the special issue related to Aaron Douglass. The journal has run into delays because their offices have been moved twice, changes in the editors, and some problems getting copyright permissions for images for Douglass issue. The journal might need another reader, related to American religious culture in all its complexity. The journal also needs more scholars to review books. Randall reported that he and Sherrie are planning to develop a proposal about the journal will handle the transition to digital. Randall reminded the board that this change will not likely reduce costs, but change the kind of costs with producing the journal in a digital format.

The journal's contract will end in 2010. Kathleen reported that a committee should be convened to review the journal and call for bids for the editorial offices of the journal. This would include a site visit. We will need to pay their expenses. David Katzman and Cheryl Lester have apparently negotiated a two-year extension with KU. We need to double-check about what other details (office space, student assistantships, course reductions, etc). The visit for this should happen this fall. Randall will need to get from David the nature of the review and the key steps. Related to this, Randall recommended that MAASA should create a guidebook about the job of being an editor. Possible candidates for this review committee might be Jim Farrell, Rich Horowitz and Sue Zschoche. Ben Chappell has volunteered to get this review committee together along with that committee's charge. Our plan is to have the site visit occur before or very near to the Board's Fall meeting. Randall made a motion that the board should approve expenditures up to \$4000.00 plus \$750 for honorariums related to this review. Laura seconded the motion. **The motion passes.**

5. **Committee Reports**

- a. **Regional Representative** - Kim reported about being a regional representative. She reported that our reception in DC for the ASA cost \$1725 (of which \$330 was tax). The other issue was that the representative had to put this charge on their personal credit card. We discussed alternatives to this situation. We discussed that it might be cheaper to pay for a suite in which we could host a party. We informally agreed that we should host an underground party. Perhaps we can invite a deejay and have some alcohol ready for the party. Perhaps we should look into a regional chapters' reception. Barrett moves that the regional chapter representative will reserve a suite for next Fall's ASA; the motion was seconded and approved. In our fall meeting, we will make a budgeting decision about this event.

- b. **Katzman-Yetman prize** – Ben Chappell reported that we initially did not receive enough papers for the prize. We extended the prize deadline through the end of the conference. Michael, Ben Chappell, and Rich will review the submissions after the conference.
- c. **Stone-Suderman Prize** – No action yet because the journal has been delayed in getting to print. Laura is the chair of this committee.
- d. **Nominating Committee** – Ben Chappell noted that all the officer spaces are coming due and we have two open slots to fill. To fill these slots, we need to build a bigger constituency for MAASA. There was discussion about creating a narrative for joining the board. Randall observed that this is a natural time for MAASA to rethink its mission and purpose.

There was discussion about changing the roles of the officer. Laura indicated that she would “more than” willing to prepare an amendment to the Constitution to reflect the changes in the organization, especially how the conference has changed. We need to make sure that the President is NOT the conference chair. Randall made a motion that Jane should remain President for 2010-2011 while the Board revises the office structure and get a broader range of candidates for the Board.

Ben Chappell noted that it might be useful to send out a call for nominations for Board Members and Officers. Please send potential candidates for Board positions to Ben.

Current Officers and Board Terms –

President, Jane Simonsen through 2011

Vice President, unfilled

Secretary, unfulfilled

Institutional Faculty Representatives

Minnesota – unfilled

Iowa – Kim Marra through 2012

Kansas – Ben Chappell through 2012

SLU – Ben Looker through 2014

Institutional Graduate Student Representatives

Minnesota – Tom Sarmiento through 2011

Iowa – Barrett Gough through 2010

Kansas – Milton Wendland through 2011

SLU – Jaclyn Kirouac-Fram through 2011

At-Large members

Jane Simonsen, at large through 2013

Michael Krysko, at large through 2012
Laura Belmonte, at large through 2012
Unfilled, at large through 2013
Unfilled, at large through 2013
Unfilled, at large through 2012

6. **Conference Planning** – We received one proposal for a joint spring conference. The Material Culture Focus Group and the Art History Graduate Forum at the University of Wisconsin-Madison has proposed to partner with us. The budget seemed like it might be too small for a conference. It is not clear how long their conference will be, whether they have additional budget monies, how many participants/presenters, the format, hotel rates, and the exact dates for their conference. There is a general consensus that we like the idea of potentially partnering with this group, but Jane will ask for more details to hone their proposal.

7. **Website/Webmaster Report** - Matt Thomas has applied to stay on as webmaster for one more year. Based on our April 2009 minutes, the annual salary was \$3500 for ongoing maintenance. We also discussed that we will need to advertise the position anew in Spring 2011. Jane made a motion to renew his contract. Randall seconded the motion. **The motion passed.** One item that should be on his agenda is to connect the MAASA and *American Studies* journal.