

**MAASA Board Meeting
April 2, 2009
Iowa City, Iowa**

In attendance

Jane Simonsen (Augustana, at large)
Richard Schur (Drury, at large)
Sherrie Tucker (Journal)
Ben Chappell (Kansas faculty rep)
Michael Krysko (Kansas State, at large)
Michael Sweeney (Kansas student rep)
Kim Marra (Iowa faculty rep)
Jasmine KarTang (Minnesota grad rep)
Laura Belmonte (Oklahoma State, at large)
Barrett Gough (Iowa student rep) –came late

The meeting began at 4:02 pm

1. **Review/approve Minutes from fall meeting** – Ben Chappell made one correction to the minutes. **Do we need to note what this was?** Michael Sweeney made a motion to approve the minutes. Kim seconded. The motion passed.
2. **Constitutional Amendments**

In our last meeting, we had a proposal to change the terms for officers from one-year to two-year terms. This would require a change of Art. III, sec 3. We have already changed this section to indicate that the election begins in the spring.

There is also the question of whether grad students can be officers. There was some discussion that the position of secretary could be filled by a graduate student, but it would seem inappropriate for a graduate student to be either President or Vice-President.

New proposed wording –

“Officers shall be elected at the Spring Executive Board meeting for two-year terms that will begin on June 1 after the spring meeting. The President and the Vice-President must hold a terminal degree. The Secretary can be any member of the organization.”

Ben moved to present this amendment to the membership. Jane seconded. Motions passed.

We also reiterated the hope that the Vice-President would serve the three-year term as Regional Representation to ASA, with that person becoming the President during the third-year as the Regional Representative. The Vice-President will also need to organize the Spring 2010 conference. We have previously discussed having the Spring 2010 conference at KU to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Journal.

3. **Nominate new officers and board members**
 - a. President, Jane Simonsen through 2010
 - b. Vice President, unfilled for 2009-2010
 - c. Secretary, Richard Schur through 2010
 - d. Institutional Representatives
 - Minnesota - Roderick Ferguson
 - Iowa - Kim Marra
 - Kansas - Ben Chappell
 - SLU - unfilled

- e. At-Large members
Unfilled, at large through 2012 ¹
Jane Simonsen, at large through 2012
Michael Krysko, at large through 2011
Laura Belmonte, at large through 2011
Richard Schur, at large through 2010
Jeffrey Miller, at large through 2010
- f. Regional representative, Kim Marra through 2012
(The regional representative typically organizes the MAASA reception at the ASA meeting. Jane has already reserved the room for 2009 ASA. If Kim cannot make it, Rich will represent MAASA for the 2009 ASA meeting.)

Ben moved that we elect the slate. (Jane – President, Rich – Secretary, Kim – Regional Rep)
Michael seconded. Motion is approved.

We also need to identify a nominating committee chair by Fall 2009.

4. Financial update

Jane reported for Kathleen. The organization is still in good financial health and we have \$93,000 in our accounts. The only recent major expenditure has been \$5000 for the grant to CESA for this conference. Given the state of university budgets, we wondered if MAASA could support the travel for board members to the conferences and meetings. Jane will ask Kathleen whether we could expand travel reimbursements for the spring meetings.

We also discussed the possibility of compensating graduate students for their work on the conference.

5. Journal

A. Journal Bidding during 2010

David and Sherrie recommend that the bidding for the journal contract be postponed for two years because the current economic situation means that universities, including KU, may not be in a position to provide the optimal level of support for journals. (See also discussion below for further issues that might affect the bidding).

Laura made a motion that we delay the bidding process until 2012. Jane seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. Other Journal Business

The journal has a new website. The journal will be added to Project Muse with the next issue. The editors recommended that the Board create an ad hoc community to explore the future of publishing hard copies of the journal. The question about digital publication may affect the journal bidding process. We also discussed how tenure committees will view digital publications. There also was a discussion about how subscriptions would work with digital publication. There was the suggestion that the 50th anniversary issue be the first one that goes digital only. There also could be an open forum at the 2010 conference about the future of digital publication for the journal.

Ben, Michael, and Barrett volunteered to serve on this committee.

¹ We will try to fill with a person from Macalester or someone from Wisconsin, Nebraska, or South Dakota.

David and Sherrie recommended four names for three year terms on the editorial board:
Davarian Baldwin, Michelle Habell-Pallan, Nan Estad, **I think it's "Enstad"** and Carolyn de la
Pena

Jane made the motion to approve these names. The motion passed.

6. MAASA Website

Ben reported that the new domain name has been registered for the next five years. Ben asked Tony Clark for the files but what he received did not seem like a complete website. Ben asked what the task will be for the webmaster: build the website, update the website, etc. A number of Board members remembered that a prototype had been built but no one could recall exactly what was done. Laura suggested that it might make the most sense to let the new webmaster should build this site from the ground-floor. She also suggested that it should be created on open source software and portable, if it needs to be hosted at another institution.

Because it appears that the website will need to be re-designed and will be more work than we had originally envisioned, the board discussed raising the first-year stipend to \$5,000.00 (dividing this stipend between creation (during summer 2009), \$1,500.00, and ongoing maintenance (academic year 2009-2010, \$3,500.00) and then reconsider the stipend for 2010-2011.

Rich made a motion to approve the \$5,000 stipend for 2009-2010. Jane seconded. The motion passes.

Ben will announce that a position will be open, revise the position announcement, and then gain approval of the board of the announcement before sending it out to the grad reps. The position should begin in June.

Kim mentioned that it would be a good idea to have someone take pictures at the conference, so they can be added to the new website.

We also might resurrect the newsletter and create a facebook presence.

Kim mentioned that we might need to consider creating a MAASA logo. She cautioned that this could be a time-consuming effort. This might also link the journal and the association more fully. Kim will ask Deborah Whaley if she will be interested in doing this.

7. **2010 Conference** – KU libraries might want to co-sponsor the conference because they have digitized all the back issues of the journal. There also is the possibility that we could hire the Continuing Education unit to handle some of the details. Ben Chappell can help with the organization of the conference if it is in Kansas. There also might be a role for the KU graduate student representative. We will need to put out a call for papers and perhaps solicit papers from outside people. The Vice-President (or some other Board member) will need to coordinate these activities. We could split tasks between the program committee and the on-site committee.

There was a discussion of asking David Katzman to be the program chair for the conference because of his longstanding tenure with the journal. This conference would be a way to look back at American studies and imagination the future. We would also like to invite members of the journal's editorial board to participate in the conference and on the program committee. Jane agreed to co-chair the conference if David would be willing to be the co-chair. We also would want to contact Norm Yetman and Jim Farrell about participating in or speaking at the conference as well.

8. **Award** – We do have a winner, Bess Williamson, of the graduate student prize for her paper, "Technology and Disability Identity: The *Toomey J. Gazette*, 1959-1969." That will be announced at Friday's reception. Honorable mentions went to Alexander Bonus and Emily Laurel Smith. The

Stone-Suderman prize will be awarded once this year's journal issue is completed. The mentoring award, the Elizabeth Kolmer award, has slipped through the cracks. We need to review the award requirements and use the website to advertise this award. Laura recommended that we could use the Nancy Roelker from the AHA as a sample.

9.

We adjourned at 8:25

April 3, 2009 (at 6:17)
General Meeting Minutes

Lauren (Iowa) made the motion to approve the new wording for the Constitution. The motion was seconded and then passed. Michael Krysko and Ben Chappell announced the graduate student prize winners. Jane announced that we are hoping that next year's ASA conference will be in Lawrence and that we hope to have a webmaster position announced soon.