

**Mid-America American Studies Association
Minutes of 20 April 2013 Executive Board Meeting
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and via Skype**

- I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. (CST). In attendance were Matt Calihman, Derrais Carter, Justin Greve, Erica Hannickel, Jeannette Jones, John Kinder, Michael Krysko, Tom Oates, Jane Simonsen, and Sherrie Tucker. Myrl Beam, Adam Kloppe, and Ben Looker participated via Skype.
- II. Approval of Agenda:** The meeting agenda was approved.
- III. Introduction of New Executive Board Members:** Two new members, Erica Hannickel (at-large member) and Tom Oates (U. of Iowa representative), were introduced.
- IV. Approval of Minutes from Fall Meeting:** The minutes from the Fall 2012 meeting were approved.
- V. Committee and Officer Reports:**
- **Stone-Suderman Prize:** The Stone-Suderman Prize Committee reported that it has narrowed its review of essays from *American Studies* 49-51 down to three essays and that it will have a final decision in June 2013.
 - **Katzman-Yetman Prize:** No action is required on the Katzman-Yetman Prize because we did not hold a conference in 2012.
 - **Kolmer Award:** The Elizabeth Kolmer Award Committee said that a call for nominations will be circulated in June 2013.
 - **2012 ASA Reception:** Reporting on MAASA's ASA event, Jeannette said that it was valuable as a networking opportunity.
- VI. Nominating Committee and**
- VII. Election of Executive Board Members and Officers:**
- Several members agreed to continue to serve on the Board. Current President and at-large member John Kinder will be re-appointed for an at-large position at the Spring 2014 meeting; he was approved by the Board. Current Vice President and at-large member Jeannette Jones will become President and be re-appointed as at-large member at the Spring 2014 meeting; she was approved by Board. Current Secretary and at-large member Matt Calihman will be re-appointed as Secretary and at-large member at Spring meeting; he was approved by the Board. Current Treasurer Jane Simonsen decided to

cycle off of the Board. Current Executive Director Kathleen Wells-Morgan intends to step away from her position, as does current Webmaster Matt Thomas.

- The Board voted to approve Joseph Bauerkemper as at-large member (formal approval at Spring 2014 meeting). The Nominating Committee will contact the two other nominees for the open at-large position, Danielle Battisti and Megan Winchell, to tell them that they were not selected (because two current members decided to stay on the Board) and that we are grateful for their willingness to serve.
- At-large member Michael Krysko agreed to serve as Treasurer (will be appointed at Spring 2014 meeting; approved by Board).
- U. of Iowa representative Tom Oates agreed to serve as Vice President (will be appointed at Spring 2014 meeting; approved by Board).

VIII. Financial Report:

- **Discussion of the Report (Appendix A from agenda):** Jane said that, in the future, the roles of the Treasurer, Executive Director, MAASA accountant, and the *American Studies* financial manager will need to be more carefully defined. She offered two more specific ideas: 1. hire an accountant as Executive Director or 2. find someone at KU to serve as Executive Director and to work with an accountant. She also noted that *American Studies* needs a debit card. John and the journal editors will make inquiries and then present more specific proposals in June 2013.
- **Policy on Travel Expenses to ASA Annual Meeting for President, MAASA representative to ASA, *American Studies* representative(s) to ASA:** A proposal was made to pay for 5 people—the President, Regional Representative, the two *American Studies* editors, and an American Studies graduate representative—to the annual ASA Conference but also to review annually (at the spring Board meeting) the feasibility of this policy. This proposal was approved.

IX. *American Studies* Editors' Report:

- The journal representatives proposed organizing this year's ASA reception as a party, to be organized by Randall Jelks, celebrating the journal's upcoming funk issue. This proposal was approved.
- There was further discussion of the idea of allowing graduate students to publish book reviews in *American Studies*; the journal editors said that they had discussed this proposal and decided against it, but Jeannette urged Myrl, who argued against this policy, to submit a formal argument for the journal's consideration.
- The Board approved the journal's addition to its budget of a \$500 line for discretionary funds.

- Members proposed that, in the future, the journal should submit fiscal budgets, to be voted on via email. The proposal was approved.
- Members proposed reimbursing Randall for expenses (with receipts) related to his travel to the OAH Conference and to reimburse the journal representatives for expenses (with receipts) related to their travel to the Spring 2013 Board meeting. The proposal was approved.
- The Board thanked Justine Greve for her work as Managing Editor.

X. Website/Webmaster Report (see **Appendix D** below):

- Matt Thomas suggested (via **Appendix D**) to relocate the MAASA website to an independent domain so that it will be easy to find webmasters in future. This proposal was made formally and approved.
- Matt Thomas also suggested (via **Appendix D**) that the *American Studies* and MAASA sites should be closely linked. This proposal was made formally and approved.
- Members also offered ideas regarding features on the MAASA website: notices about new books by MAASA members, links to documentary projects about the region, highlights from *American Studies*, links to American studies departments in the region, features on graduate students from the region, links to American studies job listings (using aggregator), conference information, and a call for new webmaster.

XI. Meeting and Conference 2014 Planning

- Jeannette volunteered to hold the 2014 conference at UNL. She and Tom will co-organize the event. Jeannette said that she would seek the support of the UNL Institute for Ethnic Studies. She and Tom will propose a topic.
- Members discussed possible meeting dates (and potential scheduling conflicts).

XII. New Business or Initiatives

- Members discussed the need to cultivate MAASA's web presence.
- A motion was made to authorize John to purchase gifts for outgoing officials. The proposal was approved.
- A motion was made to hold the Fall 2013 meeting electronically, via Skype or Hangout. The proposal was approved.

XIII. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.