

Mintues
Mid-America American Studies Association
Spring 2017 Executive Board Meeting
St. Louis University – Saturday, March 4, 9:00-2:00

Present

Faculty Rep (Saint Louis U.)

John Kinder, President (2017)
At-Large Rep (Oklahoma State)

Alan Blair (2017)
Grad Rep (Saint Louis U.)

Tom Oates, Secretary (2018)
Faculty Rep (U-Iowa)

Diane Williams (2017)
Grad Rep (U-Iowa)

Matthew Calihman (2017)
At-Large Rep (Missouri State)

Sarah Atwood-Hoffman, Representative
to ASA (2017/18)
Grad Rep (U-Minnesota Twin Cities)

Erica Hannickel (2017)
At-Large Rep (Northland College)

Ben Schmack (2017)
Grad Rep (Kansas)

Sean Trundle (2018)
*At-Large Rep (University of Nebraska-
Lincoln)*

Randal Jelks, ex officio
American Studies

Kathryn Vaggalis (2018)
At-Large Rep (University of Kansas)

Caleb Lázaro Moreno, ex officio
American Studies

Benjamin Looker (2018)

Not Present

Michael Krysko, Treasurer (2017)
At-Large Rep (Kansas State University)

F. Walter Kihm, ex officio
Executive Director

Joseph Bauerkemper
At-Large Rep (U-Minnesota Duluth)

Sherrie Tucker, ex officio
American Studies Editor

Ruben Flores
Faculty Rep (U-Kansas)

U-Minnesota Faculty Representative -
Vacant

I. Introductions / II. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

Meeting was called to order at 9:03 am. Members of Board were introduced to one another, and the agenda was approved.

III. *American Studies* Editors' Report (Jelks, Moreno)

Randal announced that AMSTJ has placed a moratorium (until June) on new submissions to sort out a backlog of submissions and problems with the system (Open Journal System) used to manage submissions. The journal will explore the possibility of offering the journal to subscribers in digital as well as hard-copy form. The forthcoming issue addresses sport in the university.

Caleb led a discussion of the journal's proposed operating budget. The numbers reported contained some errors and omissions. Randal will meet with Walt to discuss exact numbers for the journal. The journal's budget request will come to roughly the same number as last year, with a possible addendum to cover any discrepancy.

There was a brief discussion about finding an accountant for MAASA who could keep journal and organizational numbers distinct and could join board meetings in person or via Skype and join meetings of the journal.

MOTION #1: Matt moved that the journal staff shop for a new accountant with the understanding that he/she would join the board meetings via Skype or telephone.

Alan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION #2: Sean moved to approve the amount approved last year. Alan seconded. Ben clarified that the journal was requested to resubmit a corrected budget request and that MAASA would still fund KU Graduate Student Assistants up to 18 semester hours per academic year. The motion passed unanimously.

Randal announced that a summer reading issue is planned again.

IV. President's Report (Kinder) / V. Treasurer's Report (Krysko) / VI. Executive Director's Report (Kihm)

Michael Krysko will be stepping down from his position as soon as his replacement can be found. Walt shared his view that MAASA's financial position is strong and that he has no areas of concern.

The board discussed the need for greater transparency and clarity on the MAASA budget.

Kathryn volunteered to assume the duties of the treasurer between today and the end of the fiscal year and then decide whether she will continue.

MOTION #3: Ben made the motion to appoint Kathryn interim treasurer (until June 30, 2017) and Tom seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

TASK #1: John will send an email (cc'ing Randal and Sherrie) to Walt introducing Kathryn as the new treasurer and requesting information and access for the Landmark account in Columbia, Missouri.

VII. Website/Webmaster Report and Planning (Geoff Gimse)

TASK #2: Tom will draft an email to Geoff, asking (1) if he has been paid (Executive Director's report indicated that he had not), (2) if he would like to continue for another fiscal year term. (3) if he could link ASA's page for the regional chapters to the MAASA website and to integrate with the American Studies Journal site. Tom will also inform him of the decision to move the site to a Wordpress platform.

TASK #3: Sarah will contact Geoff with suggestions from the membership and to see some drafts of the new webpage on the Wordpress platform.

TASK #4: Kathryn volunteered to redesign the MAASA logo.

VIII. University of Kansas Representative

KU has not sent a faculty representative to a meeting in two years. According to Article 4 of the Constitution:

- 1. Any member missing two consecutive board meetings may be removed from the Executive Board. The Executive Board will vote upon the removal of any member failing to meet these attendance requirements.*

If a member who is removed for attendance reasons occupies one of the permanent board seats held by the region's graduate programs, the Executive Board may reallocate the seat to a new at-large member or it may leave the seat unfilled. In either case, the graduate program in question will lose its right to appoint a representative to that seat for the remainder of the removed member's term, and it may regain this privilege only by applying to the Executive Board

upon the expiration of the removed member's term.

MOTION #4: Kathryn and Ben agreed to talk to the chair at KU about appointing a faculty representative.

Sean moved and Diane seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Board Membership and Election of New Officers

Terms expire on June 1, 2017 for Kinder, Oates, Bauerkemper, Calihman, Hannickel, Flores, Blair, Willams, Atwood-Hoffman.

The following board members will cycle off the board: Bauerkemper, Hannickel, Kinder, and Krysto.

The following volunteers for board positions were elected:

- Doug Miller, Oklahoma State University <https://history.okstate.edu/people-category/faculty-category/70-miller-doug>
- Brian Hallstoos, University of Dubuque <http://www.dbq.edu/Academics/OfficeofAcademicAffairs/AcademicDepartments/PhilosophyHistoryandReligion/Faculty/>
- Brad Tennant, Presentation College <http://www2.presentation.edu/eportfolios/Brad.Tennant/cv.htm>
- Tom Sarmiento, Kansas State University <https://www.k-state.edu/english/people/sarmiento.html>

MOTION #5: John made the motion to approve all nominees and Erica seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

No faculty member at University of Minnesota Twin-Cities has expressed interest in filling its permanent seat.

Matt was nominated as President.

Sean was nominated as Vice-president.

Tom was nominated as Secretary.

MOTIONS #6-9: All three were elected.

Treasurer position is temporarily filled by Kathryn (see above in IV.) and a more permanent replacement will be sought in the coming months.

X. Discussion of next MAASA Conference (Spring 2018)

TASK #5: Tom will inquire at Iowa about interest in hosting the 2018 spring conference.

TASK #6: John will inquire at the WWI Museum in KC.

TASK #7: Alan will inquire at the Missouri History Museum. We will report back with the possibilities and decide a path forward.

XI. Reports from Award Committees / XII. American Studies Association Annual Meeting (Chicago, November 9-12)

Sean and Matt volunteered for the Stone-Suderman Prize Committee.

John will head the Kolmer Award Committee.

Tom, Alan, and Ben Schmack volunteered for the Katzman-Yetman Committee.

The Stone-Suderman and Kolmer will vote on winners by August 1, 2017 and the winners will be announced at the MAASA's reception at ASA in November.

Sarah mentioned that opportunities for partnerships between MAASA and GLASA might be possible. Ben, Sarah, and John will look into partnerships with GLASA and especially the University of Michigan.

Erica suggested reaching out to ASLE (Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment) for possible collaborations.

XIV. Debit Card

The board discussed the need to have a credit card for securing spaces for receptions and other similar events. The board agreed that the new accountant should help us acquire such a card. In the meantime, however, discussed the need to allocate funds for the 2017 ASA reception.

MOTION #10: Ben moved to allocate \$1500 cap for reimbursable expenses for the MAASA reception. Ben moved to cover travel, lodging and per diem for the ASA representative. Both motions passed.

XV. New Business

Matt suggested a plan for an annual competitive "summer MAASA predoctoral fellowship to Ph.D. student, in the region, who is working on a dissertation project related to American Studies. Perhaps this could be something like \$3000/summer." John proposed an additional, separate grant for doctoral students conducting research on the Midwest (regardless of where the student was studying). Sarah, Ben, and Diane suggested adding an expectation that the research somehow contribute to knowledge-building in MAASA.

MOTION #11: Ben moved that we constitute a committee to produce language on these proposals. Matt, Diane, and Sarah will be on the committee.

TASK #8: Ben suggested a program to offer grants to grow American Studies undergraduate majors and minors in the MAASA region. Ben will circulate a more formal plan in advance of the fall meeting.

MOTION #12: Alan moved to raise the graduate student reimbursement to \$750 and faculty reimbursements to \$500. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION #13: Ben moved that MAASA pay for the catering at the board meeting. The motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 2:08.