Mid-America American Studies Association (MAASA)

Spring 2019 Board Meeting

Saturday, April 6, 2019

Lincoln, NE

Present:

Sean Trundle (Nebraska) President (2019), At-Large Rep (2020)

Tom Sarmiento (Kansas State) Vice President (2019), At-Large Rep (2019)

Kathryn Vaggalis (Kansas) Treasurer (2019), At-Large Rep (2020)

Brian Hallstoos (Dubuque) Secretary (2019), At-Large Rep (2019)

Richard Breaux (UW-La Crosse) At-Large Rep (2020)

David Brodnax (Trinity Christian, Chicago), At-Large Rep (2020)

Bobby Cervantes (Kansas) American Studies Assistant Editor, ex officio

Ben Chappell (Kansas) Faculty Rep (2020)

Ivery Goldstein (Kansas) Grad Rep (2020)

Randal Jelks (Kansas) American Studies Editor, ex officio

Sherrie Tucker (Kansas) American Studies Editor, ex officio

Absent: Elizabeth Eikmann (SLU) Grad Rep (2020)

Naomi Greyser (Iowa) Faculty Rep (2020)

Ben Looker (SLU) Faculty Rep (2020)

Doug Miller (OK State) At-Large Rep (2019)

Kacie Rubalcava (Iowa) ASA Regional Rep (2019), Grad Rep (2020)

Meeting called to order at 10:10 a.m. and members introduce selves.

Sean offers President’s Report: Relayed members’ interest in greater MAASA presence at ASA and possibility of sponsoring separate panel.

Kathryn offered Treasurer’s Report: Budget in good shape and expressed intention to have journal and MAASA accounts in same bank to ease transactions/lessen confusion; Grant Huddin identified as new accountant.

**Action Item #1**: Ben asked if in future account reports could be broken down/further itemized to which Kathryn responded affirmatively; **Action Item #2**: Sherrie requested for setting up of sub-account for journal to ease tracking; Kathryn will speak to Grant about this.

*American Studies* Editors’ Report: Bobby Cervantes, Assistant Editor, introduced; Discussed proposal for undergraduate course on publishing; Sherrie and Randal discussed upcoming external review of journal; Journal in great shape: raise for grad employees secured; Discussed journal Editorial Board and proposal for three additional members (circulated candidates’ CVs)

Elizabeth’s Managing Editor’s Report: journal shipping postage will appear in future list of costs; Allen Press will warehouse extra journals and fulfill Amazon orders; Bobby’s Assistant Editor’s Report: 58:2 should be out before ASA; discussed future journal topics.

Budget Proposal shared with group & discussed: Student tuition at KU increased, so grad pay bumped up accordingly; wish to verify MAASA address list so journal only goes to active members; Randal noted quality of articles keeps going up, excellent reviewer feedback, and upcoming 60th anniversary; Sherrie reported everything up to speed, on time, and working well, full recovery after previous problems with software update.

**MOTION #1**: Ben moved to approve the budget request; first, Kathryn refigured payments for two grad students, which bumped up the total listed on the handout. Identified as friendly amendment. Richard seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION #2**: Tom moved to approve full slate of nominations for new journal Editorial Board members, including Edward K. Chan, Emily Lordi, David Serlin, Nicola Mann, and Astrid Boger. David seconded. Kathryn voted in confidence, and Tom and Sean voiced their approval, noting that the new members represented a great cross-section in American Studies. Motion passed unanimously.

Webmaster’s Report: Jeff’s report a brief list of changes; Discussion on benefits of a proactive webmaster; discussion tabled.

At-Large Board Member and Officer Elections At-Large Board Members: Brian and Doug Miller’s term ends in June (possibly Tom’s, too, since he was appointed); Ben asked about expanding the Board and adding At-Large seats, which met with general approval.

**MOTION #3**: Ben motioned to approve Tom and Brian as At-Large members. Unanimously approved.

Officer Election: needed to vote on President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary; presumption is that Vice President becomes President (but still requires Board approval

**MOTION #4**: Kathryn nominated Tom for President, position to start June 1st. Ben seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION #5**: Tom nominated Brian for Vice President. Some discussion followed re if/when women had served in capacity of VP and President; Two recent women leaders identified, and mention made that no one not present had expressed an interest in period leading up to meeting; Kathryn seconded motion, which was approved unanimously.

**MOTION #6**: Ben nominated Kathryn as Treasurer. David seconded this motion. After discussion, motion passed unanimously. **Action Item #3**: Randal recommends that Sean write a strong recommendation letter for Kathryn that she may add to her portfolio.

**MOTION #7**: Brian nominated David for Secretary. Richard seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussed *American Studies* external review process; Editors identified the purpose and importance of the review re health of the journal. **Action Item #4**: MAASA should identify names of possible reviewers and get the commitment of three to serve on review panel by early fall (no later than September). Sub-Committee for identifying reviewers composed of Ben, Richard, and Sean. Will share suggestions with the Board for approval. Agreement that reviewers’ honorarium should increase from $500 to $750. Randal, Sherrie, and Bobby depart.

2020 MAASA Conference discussion: Three locations identified: University of Missouri-Kansas City; St. Louis University; and Macalester College (St. Paul). **Action Item #5**: Sean will inquire with Ben L. at SLU about their interest in/ability to serve as host for upcoming conference; Ben C. will reach out to UMKC; Tom will reach out to Macalester College. Kathryn suggested that MAASA offer many $500 grants for students to attend conference. Richard and David will make inquiries to schools in Chicago-area (UIC, Chicago State, Roosevelt) regarding the possibility of their serving as host in 2022.

Award committees formed: Stone-Suderman Prize (best journal article) = Sean & Richard; Elizabeth Kolmer Award (teaching/advising excellence) = Tom, Ben, & Ivery; and Katzman-Yetman Graduate Paper Prize = David & Brian. **Action Item #6**: Sean, Richard, Tom, Ben, Ivery, David, and Brian will take care of their responsibilities (e.g., solicit nominations, evaluate articles/papers, give reminders) in a timely fashion.

Constitution Review Committee: Tom shared questions, concerns, and suggestions of Constitution Review Committee (Tom, David, & Brian) in report he composed and submitted prior to the meeting. Discussion over whether/not MAASA needs someone with the title of Executive Director. **Action Item #7**: Ivery and David will look into whether MAASA legally needs or benefits from having someone identified as an Executive Director. Discussion also focused around voting and the desire to increase voting by members. Ben suggested MAASA using an electronic and anonymous voting system and adding two more At-Large seats to increase the size of the Board. Kathryn suggested MAASA takes a more assertive role in defending our programs, especially those threatened of being shut down; suggested creating an emergency fund (re: legal fees, lawyers…) when academic freedom threatened; Ivery noted how this could be known as Standing Committee for Public Policy. **Action Item #8**: Tom, David, and Brian will take suggestions and feedback from discussion and create a list of proposed changes/amendments to the Constitution for Board approval at the next fall meeting.

Discussed travel, faculty, and Program Development Award grants. Kathryn asked to be included on Grant Development Committee (along with Ben L., Matt, and Elizabeth).

**Action Item #9**: Sean will prepare a list of things for the Webmaster to do; Ben will send Sean a list of things for the Webmaster to change regularly.

Meeting adjourned at 3:06 p.m.