AAR WR

Executive Committee

Meeting

Sunday, February 23, 2014

8:00-9:00 a.m. CA

Notes

Participants: Souad Ali, Emily Silverman, Boo Riley, Dirk von der Horst; Conference Manager Sara Frykenberg joined this meeting.

1. Conference Check in (Sara, Emily)

Sara reported that things are looking good and that there is nothing really pressing. LMU has been helpful in setting up conference. She projects we are within our catering budget of $4,000: so far catering expenses (alcohol is not yet included yet [LMU allows organizations to bring their own alcohol])of $3,565. Sara asked the E.C. to look at her e-mail about catering and get back to her with questions or suggestions. She explained that we are not getting the kinds of discounts we received at ASU. She noted that 86 people have registered for the conference so far.She also noted that although the E.C. had not yet formally closed on the recommendation to not use Coca Cola products at our annual conference, she proceeded with it for the conference and found it increased our cost by $28.00.

Boo explained he had invited Jonathan Rothschild, the LMU campus liaison and chair of theological studies there, to introduce Ruether. He will “chair” the plenary, and acknowledge Ruether’s longstanding contributions to scholars of religion in our region (including members of the E.C.).

Registration Fee Discount Request (K. Lee). The E.C. continued the discussion that had begun on e-mails about Prof. Lee’s request for discount on registration fees for one day participation, driven in part by declining institutional support for conference attendance. It was observed that since many graduate students and independent scholars do not get institutional support, fairness or equity requires us to not make exceptions for individuals. On the other hand, Prof. Lee is an active and longtime member of the region who regularly brings students to the conference. The E.C. decided to ask Dirk’s Budget committee to review the registration fee rates in light of our interest in encouraging more tenure stream faculty to participate. Souad, who had been in conversation with Prof. Lee, offered to sponsor him personally, for this one time, but it is not a precedent or policy. She will be in contact with him directly and Sara will prepare a badge for him outside the registration process.

The question of conference scheduling and conflicts with Sunday worship was resolved via e-mail. The E.C. thanked Dirk for handling it so judiciously, and it was agreed that we would include this concern in the future for planning (e.g. the suggestions made over e-mail that unit chairs be reminded to inform participants this is a two day conference as they solicit requests for special considerations, and including that information clearly in the program participant form.)

2. Nomination for Elections Check in (Boo, et al)

The E.C. reviewed the draft slate of candidates that had been circulated. Based on our discussion last meeting it was recommended we add Kahena Viale to the list. Boo agreed to contact Kahena and add her name to the nominees for president if she agrees to run. Emily forwarded another nomination for northern CA graduate student: Kimberly Carfore.

The E.C. turned to two policy questions: 1) can ABD’s, who typically do not have institutional support or standing in their fields, run for election as president? 2) Can individuals run for more than on board position? Regarding the first, we discussed the long-standing interest in making sure presidential nominees had institutional support, noting however that it is not a policy; in fact Emily’s visiting scholar appointment at GTU does not include institutional support. So policy does not prohibit it. Regarding the second, it was determined that although policy does not prohibit it, our practice is not to have people to run for two board positions simultaneously. Boo will communicate with the individuals who had expressed interest in more than one Board position accordingly.

3. Units and Unit Chairs:

Emily spoke about the major concerns she wants to address at the unit chairs meeting (It had been noted in an e-mail circulated prior to our meeting): 1) the need to streamline procedures (templates, calendar), especially for new unit chairs, and 2) the double proposal/one presenter pilot which she judged to result in more disadvantages than advantages. Regarding the latter, Boo recommended we do what we did last year: take it to the Board for discussion and a recommendation, but leave it to the unit chairs to vote on whether or not to drop it.

Regarding Women and Religion, Emily will work with Boo to set up a meeting with the chairs about the future leadership of the unit. We noted that we have no policy for replacing unit chairs; Boo will flag that in the Policy File draft.

The E.C. unanimously approved the unit co-chair nominations Emily submitted for Goddess Studies, which terms will begin after the 2014 conference: Prof. Lauri Ramey, Professor and Director, Center for Contemporary Poetry and Poetics at CSU, Los Angeles (senior scholar) and Angela Sells, a graduate student at Pacifica Graduate Institute.

4. General Membership/Business Meeting Agenda

There were no addition to the draft agenda items Boo had circulated for this meeting (Elections, Financial Report, Tim Helton Recognition). It was noted that this meeting will be only one hour this year.

5. Policy for Grant Proposals that are administered through AAR

John Erickson e-mailed the E.C. a description of the process by which he was awarded a grant this year. Since the grant technically was awarded to AAR/WR and is administered through us, it was recommended that we have a policy in place. Boo will draft something

7. Conference Proceedings (Souad, Emily)

Emily and Souad are proceeding with a publication of conference proceedings. Souad reported that she has had good experience with this publisher and conference proceedings. Emily reported that two people responded to the recent AAR/WR e-blast indicating interest. She and Souad will do a call for papers after the conference, and Emily will contact unit chairs before conference, asking them to keep an eye out during their sessions and to recommend to her and Souad good papers.

8. Date for 2015 Conference (Santa Clara)

AAR/WR typically meets during the host campus’ break. The shift to a Saturday-Sunday format (with Friday pre-conference and board meeting) means we have the potential to schedule the conference while schools are in sessions. What do we want to do for 2015?

The E.C. brainstormed about ways to approach this question. It was observed that the advantage of holding our meeting over the break is that it is easy to get rooms and even make last minute adjustments since we are usually the only game in town. For some campuses obtaining the rooms needed for the pre-conference events may be easy, but for others it could be difficult; and on some campuses competition for rooms on the weekends during session may be heavy. What kind of visibility do we want as an organization? Wouldn’t running the conference while the school was in session help promote the regional conference? To what extent should we be worried about controlling access (e.g. people dropping by sessions and/or the reception where alcohol is served? The E.C. decided we would take this to the Board for discussion and resolution since we want to announce the date for 2015 at the 2014 conference.

9. Papers Submitted for Awards

Boo circulated a list of papers received. To his general query about evaluating papers, it was suggested that the criteria implies that a paper has the potential to be published. Boo noted that this might be an unrealistically high standard. The purpose of the awards is to promote original scholarship that can be published…Although the spirit of the award may be to encourage people early in their career, this is not policy and so awards are not restricted to younger scholars. Dirk and Emily stressed that the awards are merit-based and that it is not necessary to award the full number of awards offered if submissions do not rise to the quality deserving of an award.

10. “Zoom” Conference Call Demonstration

 Postponed due to time constraints.

Attachments:

Nominations

Board Agenda

Paper Awards

Goddess Studies Chair Nominee c.v. (Prof. Ramey)