

American Academy of Religion, Western Region
Minutes of the Business Meeting
Sunday, March 21, 2021, 12:45-2:00pm

PRESENT: In total, approximately 30 members of the AAR/WR were present

PRESIDING: Hester Oberman, 2020-2021 Interim Regional Coordinator

Minutes compiled by Anna Hennessey, 2020-2021 President

1. CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS:

- a. Dr. Oberman called the meeting to order, providing the agenda of the meeting: thanking outgoing members of the board, announcements regarding new business, and elections for open board positions.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Dr. Oberman welcomed American Academy of Religion Regions Director Candidate to AAR/WR's Annual Business Meeting and invited Dr. Pennington the opportunity to discuss news for the regions.
- b. Dr. Pennington discussed new models of scholarly engagement for the American Academy of Religion, including a new virtual symposium that the Northeast Regions of the AAR created and planned for April 2021. Dr. Pennington invited questions from Business Meeting attendees. Several attendees asked questions about accessibility at future conferences of the National AAR, expressing concern that the cost of attendance at the national conferences is large and that the 2020 fees for AAR's virtual conference were out of reach for many students and scholars.
- c. Incoming 2021-2022 President Dr. Emily Silverman stated that AAR/WR's next conference will be held at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, March 18-20, 2022.
- d. Incoming 2021-2022 Vice President and Program Chair John Erickson stated that the theme for AAR/WR's Annual Conference would relate to the topic of Grace and Religion, and that a full theme description would be posted to AAR/WR's website later in the spring.
- e. Dr. Oberman introduced new candidates for board positions and thanked outgoing members of the board.

3. ELECTION RESULTS

The membership voted unanimously by acclamation for the following uncontested positions:

- a. President: Dr. Emily Silverman
- b. Presidential line: Dr. Marie Cartier
- c. Regional Representative – Hawaii/Pacific Islands: Dr. Joseph Paxton
- d. Regional Representative – Nevada: Dr. Roberta Sabbath
- e. Women's Caucus Liaison: Janice Poss
- f. Student Representative – Arizona/Nevada: Larry J. Morris III

For AAR/WR's Regionally Elected Coordinator (REC), 2020-2021 President Anna Hennessey and 2017-2020 Regionally Elected Coordinator Brian Clearwater ran the election. The membership voted:

- a. Jake Nagasawa 13 votes (winner)
- b. Hester Oberman 12 votes

4. PRESENTATION OF SPECIAL AWARD TO DR. SUSAN MALONEY

- a. Dr. Hennessey presented a special award from the 2020-2021 AAR/WR Board of Directors to Dr. Susan Maloney for her service to the AAR/WR Board and Executive Committee (EC) over the past year.

5. ADJOURNMENT

- a. The meeting adjourned at 2:00pm

6. NEXT MEETING

- a. The date for the next meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2022.