

AAR/WR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
10 November 2023, 12:00-2:15pm
Online Zoom Meeting

Present: Souad Ali (Arizona Regional Rep), Marie Cartier (President), John Erickson (Past President), Anjeanette LeBoeuf (Queer Advocate), William Martin (Northern California Student Rep), Jake Nagasawa (Regional Coordinator), Janice Poss (Women's Caucus Liaison), Roberta Sabbath (Vice President-Elect), Sakena Young-Scaggs (Vice President and Program Chair), Jacob Perez (Conference Manager, non-voting), Anna Hennessey (Regional Secretary, non-voting).

Notes: This meeting was originally scheduled for 12-2pm and went 15 minutes overtime.

Minutes compiled by Regional Secretary Anna Hennessey

1. President Marie Cartier begins the meeting with greetings and welcome, followed by a short introduction of board members.
2. Conference Manager Jacob Perez presents a review of AAR/WR's 2023 Annual Conference at UC Davis.
 - a. There was a slight decrease in attendance between 2022 and 2023, though the 2023 conference was AAR/WR's first post pandemic conference (first in-person conference since 2019), and it was expected that attendance might dip.
 - b. Respondents to a post-conference survey overwhelmingly stated that the conference was a very positive experience for them. Some who responded did note having tech problems in hybrid rooms. Jacob Perez noted that although UC Davis provided excellent support and there were adequate volunteers to help maintain the rooms, tech specialists were not readily available. UNLV, the host for AAR/WR's 2024 conference has much more advanced hybrid capabilities and tech support, so the issues with tech will most likely not be as prevalent at the next conference.
 - c. Perez compared the spatial differences between the UC Davis and UNLV campuses, noting a much more accessible campus at UNLV, as well as very abundant, cost effective and attractive hotel options at UNLV. UC Davis was lacking in these options. Similarly, travel to UC Davis was made difficult due to the location of airports and train stations. Located in Las Vegas, a major hub, UNLV will be much easier to access for participants.
 - d. Survey results show that participants do not like very early start times for presentation and participation.
3. Past President John Erickson presented material on old business and new business.
 - a. For old business, Erickson discussed term limits and policy file ratification, stating that although there are no new updates, the Executive Committee will work on these before the March 2024 Board Meeting such that a bullying statement will be reviewed before the meeting and ratified in the Policy File at the meeting.
 - b. For new business, Erickson noted that in September 2023, the EC had unanimously decided to bring on Past President Anna Hennessey as a secretary to help with organization towards conferences, and in particular to help members keep track of timelines and individual duties, as well as to write the minutes at Board and EC meetings.

This was working very well, and Hennessey had quickly helped to put together the region's CFPs for the 2024 Conference.

c. Vice President and Program Chair Sakena Young-Scaggs motioned for a Board vote that a full description of the secretary role to be noted in the Policy File at the March 2024 Board meeting. Queer Advocate Anjeanette LeBoeuf seconded the motion. The Board voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed in support of the motion, with the 2 additional non-voting members also in support.

4. Conference Manager Jacob Perez gave an update on AAR/WR's upcoming annual conference at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) set for March 2024.

a. The region will have access to holding events at UNLV's Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art, which could provide beautiful space for the region's caucus events and possibly for the Board dinner as well.

b. Perez noted that March Madness is happening in Las Vegas the same week of AAR/WR's 2024 conference; thus, participants should be encouraged to reserve hotel rooms soon. He has communicated with Hyatt Place and Embassy Suites about possible block reservations for the region.

c. Student volunteers at UNLV will help with registration and with tech in conference rooms.

d. Secretary Anna Hennessey gave an update on the Unit Chairs, with whom she has been communicating about individual calls for papers and prospective participants. The abstract submission deadline was moved to November 15, 2023, which is later than the usual deadline. The region currently has 25 active units, 24 of which have been very communicative and excited about the 2024 conference. Hennessey noted that only one unit, the Pagan Studies unit, did not create a CFP and has been unresponsive about the conference. President Marie Cartier and Vice President Elect Roberta Sabbath communicated that they would like to help with the Pagan Studies unit and had ideas for how it could remain active at the 2024 conference. Vice President and Program Chair Sakena Young-Scaggs and Women's Caucus Liaison Janice Poss also discussed ideas for galvanizing the Pagan Studies unit.

e. Arizona Regional Rep Souad Ali inquired into whether the 2024 Conference would have hybrid and virtual capabilities. Jacob Perez, Roberta Sabbath, and Anjeanette LeBoeuf talked about the importance of maintaining some hybridity in the conference. Perez and Sabbath have seen conference rooms at UNLV and note the excellent capabilities of the rooms for supporting hybrid presentations.

f. President Marie Cartier stated that she had secured Dr. Jennifer Pharr as the keynote for the conference. Pharr is a professor with UNLV's School of Public Policy and will discuss the importance of LGBTQIA+ rights, as well as the crossroads that we are at in the United States with these rights. The keynote receives a \$500 honorarium for the lecture and her conference fee is waived.

g. Several Board members discussed funding for AAR/WR's caucus events:

i. Regional Coordinator Jake Nagasawa stated that in the budget, the RC typically allots \$250 per caucus per year for each conference (\$750 per year allocated for caucuses).

- ii. The Board agreed that this information about funding for caucus events should be added to AAR/WR's to our Policy File, which can happen at AAR/WR's March 2024 Board Meeting.
- iii. Sakena Young-Scaggs noted that the Black Caucus did not receive \$250 for the 2023 conference at UC Davis.
- iv. Jake Nagasawa stated that he would check out past budgets and checks written out to caucuses.
- v. Multiple Board members suggested that the Black Caucus redeem the \$250 from 2023, in which case that caucus would have \$500 at its disposal for the 2024 conference.
- vi. Funds for caucuses can be used at the caucus leaders' discretion and used for speakers, catering, etc.
- vii. Board members suggested that unused caucus funds should not roll over into future years.
- viii. Marie Cartier and and Sakena Young-Scaggs discussed the possibility of working together with their caucuses or the Black Caucus co-sponsoring the Queer View in 2024.
- ix. Janice Poss discussed using the funds for the Women's Caucus to collaborate with Anna Hennessey and the Religion and the Arts unit in the creation of a rebirth immersive experience at the conference.
- h. Anjeanette LeBoeuf asked about Board position openings coming available at the 2024 Conference Business Meeting. Anna Hennessey stated that in addition to the VP Elect (presidential line), the Southern California Rep position, Hawaii/Pacific Islands rep, and Southern California Student Rep position would all be available. Hennessey also notified the Board that Joseph Paxton, AAR/WR's Hawaii/Pacific Islands Regional Rep, had recently communicated with members of the EC to let them know that he would no longer be able to fulfill that role due to his family moving out of Hawaii.

5. Regional Coordinator Jake Nagasawa presented the 2023/2024 Budget Projections
- a. AAR/WR's bank account is doing very well, and the region received robust support from UNLV, thanks in large part to the work of VP Elect Roberta Sabbath (also the faculty liaison at UNLV).
 - b. The contract with UNLV was signed on March 11, 2023 and Dr. Sabbath raised \$7,917.23. The estimated costs to the region so far are \$2017.12, which includes estimated catering (\$1750) and space/equipment/setup/other services (\$267.12)
 - c. The proposed fee schedule is tiered as such:

PROPOSED FEE SCHEDULE FOR 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

Position	Early Bird	Standard	On-Site
Associate/Full/Emeritus Professor	\$65	\$70	\$75
Assistant Professor	\$55	\$60	\$65
Contingent Faculty/Admin/Independent Scholar	\$45	\$50	\$55
Student	\$35	\$40	\$45
Guest/Other	Don't Offer	\$30	\$35

d. Each caucus typically receives up to \$250 and caucus chairs contact the Regional Coordinator about the funds (see also section 4.g above)

e. John Erickson motioned to vote to approve the fee schedule presented by Jake Nagasawa. Sakena Young-Scaggs seconded the motion. The Board voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed in support of the motion, with the 2 additional non-voting members also in support.

6. Regional Coordinator Jake Nagasawa gave an update on his communications with AAR National about changes planned for organization of the regions.

a. AAR National has proposed a new Operating Agreement for the region and presented it to Jake Nagasawa. The proposed agreement includes significant changes to how the AAR/WR would function, including: the Board would be restructured and include only 5 members, future elections would be centralized through AAR National, the AAR/WR bank account would be centralized through AAR National and AAR/WR's website would be centralized through AAR National. Several other regions of the AAR have signed to approve the new Operating Agreement for their own regions. Some of those regions, which are significantly smaller than the AAR/WR, are being consolidated.

b. After some discussion and in light of the fact that the AAR/WR is about to hit its busiest time of the conference preparation season as it organizes its 2024 conference at UNLV in March, and the fact that most Board members have not read the proposed Operating Agreement presented by AAR National, John Erickson presented the motion to table the vote on the signing of AAR's new Operating Agreement until the entire Board has had time to read the document in full and to discuss the matter, and that AAR/WR's Regional Coordinator Jake Nagasawa should not sign until after the Board has discussed and voted on the matter. Arizona Regional Rep Souad Ali seconded the motion. The Board voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed in support of the motion, with the 2 additional non-voting members also in support.

c. Jake Nagasawa agreed to send the copy of the new proposed Operating Agreement to the entire Board. The Board agreed to read the document in full and prepare to discuss it in detail after successful completion of the 2024 conference at UNLV.

7. President Marie Cartier closed out the session.