

Minutes: AAR/WR Board Meeting
Saturday, Nov. 17, 2018
Location: Little India Restaurant & Bar
1533 Champa St. Denver, CO 80202

1. **Call to Order** of the Regional Meeting of the Western Region Nov. 17 2018 6:12 pm
Quorum Confirmed

Present: Abdullahi Gallab, Yuria Celdinwen, Brian Clearwater, Sakena Young-Skaggs, Souad Ali, Anjeanette LeBoeuf, Joseph Kim Paxton, Marie Cartier, Susan Maloney, Anna Hennessey, Andrew Lee, Jason Sexton

2. **Approval of the Minutes**
Minutes from the Board meeting March 23, 2018 were approved with corrections

3. **Report from the President: Abdullahi Gallab**

Hosting At Arizona State University in negotiations for location: One location is free and another has cost

Catering and Hospitality: issues that need to be resolved because the number that is included seems to be higher than what we typically need. So we need to review those numbers. We must use ASU catering.

Funding Sponsors to date: SHPRS: \$2000

There are a number of hotels in the area; two we are considering are the Marriot and the Graduate Hotel. The Marriot would require us to reserve a minimum of 10 rooms. The Graduate is university affiliated and willing to give the university rates

Key note speaker, Edward Curtis, Purdue University professor in American Religions

Discussion of the ASU graduate student inquiry for a collaboration with AAR Western Region during the conference. They would like to hold a panel or symposium.

Motion was made by Brian Clearwater: We would like to respond with an acceptance of one panel with the caveat that they need to be AAR Members, and registered for the conference, and can that it need to be schedule such that it does not conflict with other sessions. And abide in ordinance AAR National policies. Conference Manager agrees to fit them into the schedule if a proposal is submitted.

Souad Ali Second the motion and the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

4. **Report from the Vice-President and Program Chair: Jason Sexton**

Unit Chair Propositions: Consider term limits for unit chairs. Should we think about having term limits? Current policy requests that they have presented in the unit before running for unit chair.

Marie Cartier: not all units have same resources, term limits might have disparate impact on units with less funding, marginalized identities.

Sakena Young-Skaggs: value in having more experienced unit chairs to attract more scholars, voices, building their units.

Anjeanette LeBoeuf: with our region trying to support inclusion of marginalized groups struggling in their programs, term limits might place more restrictions on their progress.

Souad Ali: should have restriction to only 2 unit chairs per unit

The board will consider this question of term limits and take it up at a later meeting.

5. Report from the Regional Coordinator: Brian Clearwater

Financial status is good. Report accepted by acclamation.

6. Policy File Revisions: Document discussion led by Susan Maloney
problem on p. 19 contradiction between these two paragraphs:

Host Institutions

The Operating Agreement, 4.03, states that the annual conference rotates between three geographical areas: Southern California, Northern California, and Arizona. The EC is responsible for securing a commitment from an institution to host the next year's annual conference. The president (in consultation with the EC) shall take the lead in approaching potential host institutions. The commitment should specify dates (typically during a spring break), access to space (classrooms for panel sessions and suitable spaces for plenary talk(s), reception and registration venues), a campus liaison, and a pledge of financial support (traditionally \$1,500 towards the cost of the reception). Ideally this process is completed two years in advance of the conference, with confirmation regarding the following year obtained in the early spring, ideally in time so that the following year's dates and venue can be announced at the annual conference and/or included in the call for proposals.

In 2011 the AAR/WR Board decided it was desirable to stay with the same institutions in the three year cycle. As of March, 2015, the Board has identified Loyola Marymount University for the Southern California meeting (2017); Santa Clara University for the Northern California meeting (2017) and Arizona State University for the Arizona meeting (2018).

Ensuring that a host institution is secured is the duty of the President. Candidates running for the Presidential line must be able to secure a host institution that volunteers to host the AARWR regional conference preferably free of charge to the AARWR

7. Conference Manager Report: Joseph Paxton

Need to take donations from people to help fund ppl in need

One day registrations? Complications with that. Need to take up with the full board.

215 registrations in Berkeley, highest in last several years. Region is thriving with strong leadership.

Last two years, Queer caucus has been othered, one with lunch location and next with room location. CM will prioritize adequate room for Queer caucus lunch this year in Tempe.

Queer caucus need a room for Friday Night Queer View event (podcast)

8. Diversity Advocate Business: Sakena Young-Scaggs:

Two carry over from the regional meeting.

1. Suggestions for Hawaii and Pacific Islands.

Board voted to approve a travel grant of \$500 for one selected presenter from Hawaii/Pacific Islands. We'll need to specify criteria: a committee will be appointed made up of Sakena, JP, and Marie to select the awardee this year.

2. Black Caucus AAR Western Region.

We'll establish a Black Studies in Religion Unit with one panel at this year's conference.

JP motioned for a Black Caucus, Marie seconded, approved unanimously

Adjournment at 9:40 pm