

Board Meeting Minutes
American Academy of Religion, Western Region
Arizona State University
March 1, 2019 12 PM-5PM

1. Acknowledgements and welcome to new members of the board
 - a. Quorum established: Present were: Abdullahi Gallab, Sakena Young-Skaggs, Andrew Lee, Anjeanette LeBeouf, Jonathan Lee, Anna Hennessey, Marie Cartier, Joseph Kim Paxton, Brian Clearwater. Also in attendance: Zayn Kassam and Matt Vieson as guests from AAR.Called to order 12:15 pm

2. Introductions- board members introduce themselves and share any news
3. Approval of Denver, CO board meeting minutes
 - a. Moved to approve by Sakena, seconded by Marie.
 - b. Passed with 1 abstention

4. President's report
 - a. Secured \$5000 in funding from ASU
 - b. Discussion of some research on factors affecting attendance at academic conferences, indicating that technology offers new possibilities for expanding. Perhaps should we constitute a task force to research how to strengthen our region?
 - i. Our conference attendance has been strong.
 - ii. Highlights of our strengths as a region with active caucuses and strong collegiality, leadership
 - iii. possibly increase travel funding, paper awards, Grad student stipends. Purpose of task force could be to identify funding sources especially for members who don't have institutional funding.
 - iv. Timing of the conference affects lodging availability, summer date would make dorms available. Need to check potential conflicts, such as MLB Spring Training

Jonathan motions to Increase funding for travel awards and paper awards to \$500/each.
Seconded by Souad. Passed unanimous.
Recommendation to post the winners of paper awards to our website and social media.

5. Vice President and Program Chair report
 - a. Recommend to webmaster to make the Program more visible
 - b. Work on securing lodging for next year.
6. Financial report
 - a. The Region is in good financial standing.
7. Conference Manager report
 - a. Great team support and leadership in planning this year's conference.
 - b. Site visit was conducted in November, hope to visit CGU earlier in the process this year
 - c. Intention to plan ahead, facilitate institutional memory, and increase communication between members
8. Report from the Regional Coordinator

- a. proposal to standardize terms used in the Policy File, Regional Coordinator aka REC to replace "Regional Director" and Regional Student Director to replace "Graduate Student Representative elected to AAR National Graduate Student Committee"
 - b. discuss the new Black Caucus: stipend, web space, event format and timing
 - i. ask for a mission statement to go up on their web space.
 - ii. Caucus stipend \$250
 - iii. May establish a board position of Black Caucus Liaison in future by proposal to the board.
 - c. page 13 of document serving as a "guide" on the matter of waiving registration fee for senior scholar respondent
 - i. The Board had a long discussion about this and opted to keep price relatively low with the cycle, to give all members a chance to participate in AARWR.
 - ii. Jason Sexton moved: Should eliminate this point of waving registration fee in this exception. Second by JP, passed unanimously
 - iii. Motion to "allow affiliates of host institution who are guests (i.e. not presenting) to have registration fee waived" moved by Jonathan, seconded by Andrew, passed unanimous.
 - iv. consider Term-limits of unit chairs as a matter of policy, to cultivate younger scholars. Proposed language to be added to the Policy File in the Unit Chairs section:
 - "We expect and encourage new candidates to apply to serve as unit chairs when openings arise, optimally a senior and junior scholar or graduate student. We wish to give due consideration to new candidates and we expect and encourage current chairs to actively recruit new unit chairs, fostering ongoing mentorship."
 - 1. Jason moves, Yuria seconded, passed unanimous.
 - v. Reviewed Nominations
9. Anna Hennessey: remote conference attendance and participation.
- a. Discussion: many people have had problems trying to bring in presenters via videoconference.
 - b. Policy to communicate to unit chairs: The region strongly discourages remote presentations, except in emergency, but is up to chairs to handle all technology needs.
 - c. Brian requested explicit instructions be communicated to Unit Chairs about remote participation.
10. Adjourned at 5:00 PM