

AARWR semi-annual business meeting

Minutes

Nov 23, 2019

McCormick & Schmick's, San Diego

8PM-10PM

Attendees: Jason Sexton, Anna Hennessey, Roy Whitaker, Brian Clearwater, Susan Maloney, Anjeanette LeBoeuf, James Berry, Andrew Lee, Abdullahi Gallab, Souad Ali, Marie Cartier, Sakena Young-Scaggs, Yuria Celidwen

Apologies: Thien-Huong Ninh, John Erickson, Tyler Feezell

Meeting opened at 8:37 pm

Previous meeting's minutes approved James motioned, Marie seconded.

Introductions.

REPORTS:

Regional Coordinator Report (Brian Clearwater)

- Financial Report and Minutes
- Explorative question: getting board members more engaged in the work of the region.

President's report (Jason Sexton)

- Plenary speaker for Spring 2020

VP/Program Chair Report (Anna Hennessey)

- Update on the status of panels
 - Goddess Studies didn't receive any paper submissions. Marie and Anjeanette volunteered to put together a panel within Goddess studies.
 - Marie emphasized that California has the largest Goddess circles in the nation and there are four goddess churches so our region needs to represent that; we don't want to disband the Goddess Studies Unit.
 - 19th Century Unit only received two submissions that were reassigned to other units.
 - Also the Graduate Student Professional Development Unit did not submit any panels, due in part to transition in the leadership of that unit.
- On using technology/skype for presentations. Anna and JP have been working on setting up the tech capabilities to skype in presenters. In general the region has discouraged virtual participation. We are piloting a process to facilitate virtual participation to benefit interested scholars who are disabled, for affordability. Prudent to find ways of incorporating it for diversity, rather than always being the exception. As a board, we need to build policy to address that.
 - We're considering a way to build policy around digital participation.
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- New conference manager needed by Spring 2020

- We need to reach out to our networks to recruit good candidates for both Conference Manager (CM) and Regional Coordinator (RC)

VP-elect report (Roy Whitaker):

- Update on the prospects of AAR/WR at UNLV in 2022
 - Roberta Sabbath has offered to help facilitate as liaison to hold our conference at UNLV. Roy has been in contact with a professor there, Michael Borer, to come to an agreement. That dialogue is still in process. Roy is working on getting more specific logistical information to get a more complete proposal accepted by the Dean at UNLV. Brian and Joe will engage that dialogue with Roy.

Conference Manager (JP Paxton)

- Update on facility for 2020 meeting
 - Site visit to CGU was completed this Fall. Good rooms are available with good tech capability. Some spaces pending final approval.

Meeting adjourned at 9:47 pm.

Addenda:

Action without meeting, as per OA Article 4 §4:

On March 5, 2020 the Board considered a motion by email:

- Cancel the in-person conference scheduled to be held at CGU on March 13-15, 2020 due to public health concerns surrounding an escalating health pandemic of COV-19.
- Work together as a board to salvage as much of the academic content as possible through virtual means yet to be decided.
- Alert unit chairs and members as soon as possible via email.

Directors responded by email:

In favor were Clearwater, Hennessey, LeBoeuf, Berry, Ali, Ninh, Gallab, Lee, Young-Skaggs, and Whitaker

Opposed were: Cartier, Celidwen, and Sexton

No response were: Feezell

The motion carried.

On March 9, 2020 the Board considered another motion by email:

- Due to the cancelation of the in-person conference, refund the entire amount of registration fees that were collected from members during the period of pre-registration.
- The region shall pay the honoraria promised to invited guests and to the caucuses, as requested
- The region shall not be liable for the cost of canceled travel plans of presenters or other attendees

Directors responded by email:

- In favor were Celidwen, Clearwater, Lee, Hennessey, LeBoeuf, Ninh, Young-Skaggs, Sexton, Whitaker, and Cartier
- None opposed
- No response were: Feezell, Gallab, Ali, Berry

The motion carried.