

Western Region, American Academy of Religion Board

Emergency Meeting January 14, 2022

Roll Call – John Erickson, Anjeanette LeBoeuf, Jacob Perez, Jake Nagasawa, Anna Hennessey, Emily Silverman, Sakena Young Scaggs, Susan Maloney, Larry Morris, Janice Poss, Roberta Sababth, James Berry, Janica Poss, Souad Ali, William Martin, Marie Cartier, JP , Thien-Huong Ninh

A. Emotional Check In and Connection

Emily: Decide In-Person or ALL Zoom Conference in March. Have to decide now even though the conference is in March. So we don't get financial penalties and threaten health.

B. Opening to the board on their thoughts.

Emily: Wanted in-person but the normal is this pandemic. Worried about Omicron

John: Conflicted. But has continually lived and practiced safety. He struggles with Zoom Conferences. But whats the best for the region.

Sakena: Virtual – but maybe not zoomisque – Vimeo live. Given Wisdom and where we are today 3:22pm PST Proctor Institute has gone virtual. Interactive Virtual Conference.

Roberta: UNLV wants to party in Vegas with the WR AAR Conference. Next year is still an option. Golf Carts and hotel are still here. Robust non-crazy online conference in 2 months if we switch. This organization is known to handle thin ice – which this is.

John: Thinks about when this conference is held going forward. Potentially moving it in away from March.

Emily: Conference all zoom in 2 months...we could be put on Fall schedule but that might be difficult

Roberta: have it in August

Emily: Indigenous Day – a 3 day weekend potential.

Souad: Thanks Roberta and all of her efforts and UNLV. Vote for virtual. Do not want to expose people to omicron

Sakena: if we keep it virtual this year and potentially getting in-person in UNLV 2023 and then UCDavis for 2024.

John: It is open and could be possibility

Marie: Point of Clarification. Moving to the fall can be quite difficult. To change the date after acceptance of CFP is difficult.

Souad and Sakena: again to the difficulty of dates

Anjeanette: Point of Clarification is virtual, in-person, at UNLV. If in-person at UNLV is still a possibility in 2023. Virtual conference is prudent and wise. Also consider a potential of shooting

out a poll to be sent out to gage the feelings of our members. We have to protect our members, their families, their circles.

William: agree for pressed for time, agree to discussion, have enough responses from unit chairs and board members that this is pressing. How are we looking at it? As a board we have a role as an inspirational position – guaranteeing health and also a meaningful position.

Emily: We have to grieve and zoom exhaustion. This is where we are at.

Anna: Virtual. Changing the dates is an interesting for next year but not for this year. June is a possibility. WR sent National to go virtual and its even more dire now. Preparations for UNLV were impressive and to hopefully keep that.

Susan: Roberta's extraordinary work. Hold on to that with Roberta and UNLV. Go virtual shows respect. Do not cancel or change. John's conversation with UCDavis. Don't change the dates as no one knows about National. Congratulate you all. It does feel like a consensus and not a vote.

Emily: Asking Roberta to roll over the conference. There is understanding, emotional, and also important. Graduate Students welcoming you – but it is online and available if we go virtual.

Jacob: thank you to Roberta and to John for help and Jake and Anna. Grateful to JP. Agree to virtual is the way to go. Do have an Eventbrite page ready to go once decision is made.

Emily: host board members during conference

Huong: virtual, silver lining. Many people have been introduced to the virtual sphere. Prioritize health and safety. Survey to cage during the virtual conference.

Emily: create a subcommittee on mixed medias

Jake: on the fence. A consensus of virtual conference. It won't impact us financially.

Janice: agree to virtual only because we don't know the vulnerability of our members. To keep everyone safe. June is a potential good move

Sakena: makes a motion to close discussion and to motion to vote a virtual conference at the given

Jake: Seconds

Emily: thanks for everyone to share. Wants creative ideas. Putting the vote forward

Vote Agree: 14 yes,

Vote: 1 no,

Vote Abstentions-0

1 nonvoter

Emily: Conference has been changed to ALL Virtual.

Jake: send an email blast to members and UNLV

William: Will be happy to help

Sakena: Will help

Marie and Anjeanette: Queer View was highly successful last year in the virtual sphere and we can do it again. Anjeanette has been in contact with a Vegas Queer filmmaker who just did a virtual film fest in vegas and we can figure it out

Emily: call a meeting in 2 weeks. There are more things to add and how we move forward.  
Commend us for coming out so soon and figuring it out.

Emily: Brings the meeting to an end at 4:17pm wishing blessings and health to all members and the board.