

**AAR-WR Board Meeting  
November 17, 2012, AAR National Conference**

Souad Ali calls the meeting to order. Present: Souad Ali, Emily Silverman, Susan Maloney, Kristy Slominski, Theresa Yugar, Regina Pfeiffer, Sara Frykenberg, Philip Riley, Franz Metcalf, Dirk, Kahena Viale. Joined later in the meeting by Dirk von der Horst and Deborah Minor.

**1. REC Nominations update: Voting on Dirk von der Horst as our next Regionally Elected Coordinator**

Riley: Moves to elect Dirk von der Horst for REC position.

Kahena: Seconds the motion.

Dirk von der Horst elected unanimously by the Board of the AAR-WR as Regionally Elected Coordinator

(Dirk von der Horst is invited to join the Board meeting)

**2. Introducing and welcoming Sara Frykenberg as our new Conference Manager**

Souad: Welcomes Frykenberg and asks to her to explain her position to the board.

Sara: Thanks the board. Summarizes her responsibilities, including working with site representative (Ali), scheduling rooms for sessions, organizing food and conference reception, working with Executive Committee, etc. Expresses excitement for position and personal desire to make the duties of this position very clear for the next Conference Manager.

**3. Financial Report**

Maloney: Explains that because of AAR-WR and SBL separation, revenues were split last year. Reviews the financial report. She suggests that there are areas where the AAR-WR can increase revenues and that the Executive Committee should decide on this. Explains that we are paying for conference calls because other technologies aren't working for meetings. Points out unique expenses within the region, including the two student awards and the independent scholar award. She recommends we keep the plenary speaker fee to \$500.00. She also explains that the Conference Manager position is a contract position and that these checks are signed by the REC, because of the AAR-WR's status now as LLC. The Regionally Elected Coordinator will have an expense account—we will be discussing this later. It is fair and just to pay people (particularly because of decline of institutional support).

Maloney informs the board that the conference next year, March 2014, will be held at Loyola Marymount: Friday through Sunday. Loyola is subsidizing us for \$1500.00.

Explains ways we've been able to keep costs down because of networking and relationships.

**4. Update on the Operating Agreement**

Maloney: Explains the way in which the Operating Agreement protects Board Members as a legal document, allowing Board members to be insured under AAR National. She emphasizes the importance of our status as elected Board members: it is the elections

process that establishes us under the legal protection of the Operating Agreement. Thus, we cannot substitute ourselves with someone else at a Board meeting.

Silverman: If [a Board member] sends an email ahead of time [naming the individual who will sit in for them], might this work?

Maloney: No. We can't do this. You cannot substitute for anyone on the board. This brings to light the idea that... we need a short introduction to what it means to be a Board member, because it does have legal ramifications.

Ali: Thanks Maloney. Ali addresses the fact that Silverman was asked by the Queer Advocate if he could send someone to represent the Queer Caucus in his absence.

Board: Expresses agreement is that this is a good clarification for the future.

Maloney: Explains that the membership of the AAR-WR approved of the Operating Agreement at the Santa Clara meeting, the Executive Committee passed it and so, we're ready to go. Explains to van der Horst that he is now the REC, so he will be responsible for records, signing and corresponding with National from now on.

Slominski: Did they pass it in Santa Clara? Did they even see it?

Metcalf: Explains that the membership passed it, giving the Executive Committee the power to change minor details...

Maloney: Explains that the AAR-WR needs two people on the Bank account. Right now it is Franz and myself. It will be Dirk and someone else. Money explains the REC's compensation and discussion regarding this issue during REC meetings here at the National Conference. As of now the REC is compensated for two nights at the AAR National meeting and food during REC meetings. She argued [at the REC meetings] that this position needs to be paid more. The RECs tried to get money from National; they said no. National told them, "you have money in the bank, so why don't you pay them more?" This needs to go back to the board.

... Relates a horror story to the board, regarding an individual who posed as a Board member, signed a contract and forged everything. As officers, we need to check people's backgrounds. It is not enough that [a potential officer/ employee be] in good standing. So in the to-do list: We need to figure out who is to check people's backgrounds.

Informs van der Horst that Susan Hill, chair of the regions committee, is the person to talk to if anything comes up in the regions. At the Unit Chairs Meeting, encourage the grant line.

#### **5 +6: Preparations for the 2013 Arizona Conference:**

Riley: Reviews current status of the ongoing report that he has been sharing with the Executive Committee. Highlights: we are slowly getting a program together. In the last four years, this program will have the fewest panels. He predicts we will have 30 panels. Our highest was 40 at Whittier... explains that we are now able to assess these numbers because of access to historical data.

There are some issues: the new piece this year is that we're trying a pool of papers. We're in negotiations, trying to get this pool together so we can send it back out to the unit chairs. Other than that it looks good— we have lots of great titles! Sara and I are meeting tomorrow, and I will be handing over the material to her so that she can start scheduling rooms with all the details... every unit needs to have a session because we need people to come.

Silverman: Really appreciates having this in writing. Asks if we have an archive for this, because she would like to be able to review this, so as to critique this in the future. Suggests that we archive these materials: send it over to Sara so she can keep an archive of this material.

Frykenberg: Sounds good.

Yugar: Expresses her concern for the lateness of this notification. Suggests that Unit Chairs should be notified earlier.

Riley: It's a matter of getting materials from people.

Silverman: The VP always comes up with this wonderful discourse on what we should be discussing [at the conference], but I've never received anything.

Ali: Explains the way that Silverman put panels together last year...

Metcalf: This upcoming year for Nationals, there is no theme for Unit Chairs yet...

Ali: Suggests that Riley send something to the Unit Chairs so that they can suggest agenda items for their meeting.

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Riley: The second piece is more substantive and requires the board to take some action. It is regarding conference fees. He distributes a document suggesting fee increases from the Executive Committee.

(Deborah Minor joins the Board meeting)

There is a huge percentage increase but not a huge dollar increase. With the increase we are in the middle of all regions. Explains that separation from SBL necessitates fee increases so that AAR-WR can meet its budget. The Executive Committee has signed off on this, we need the Board to sign off as well and then send this information to the membership.

Slominski: I'm concerned for the grad students—they are really hurting right now. Plus, there are Graduate conferences that are cheaper.

Silverman: Proposes that change fees for everyone but the graduate students.

Metcalf: The problem is this is our largest group; and we are operating at a deficit... he describes different options.

Silverman: Suggests that the AAR-WR market/ advertise to attract more students, and perhaps provide an incentive, like: \$300 for the top paper.

Maloney: This whole thing can crash if we do not have a generous institution. ...She sees this as prudent planning. Disagrees with Slominski.

Ali: As an Executive Committee we have been over this many times. Invites feedback from Deborah Minor.

Minor: Two regions do not have grad students at all... gives examples from other regions. Explains the position of the AAR-WR is a little more volatile: we don't have a guarantee year after year of what we'll have to pay. The regions that charge the highest fees go to hotels. The lowest go to the same place every time.

Maloney: Proposes an idea: charge 35\$ each for grad students, but perhaps, give a discount if they register together. Example: \$90 for three students. Suggests that this may increase volume. She feels Silverman's concerns here. Warns that we also don't want people phoning in, asking for discounts.

Minor: But if you have different options, this will make it very difficult to do.

Franz: Addresses Minor's concerns...

Riley: The difference between raising the fee \$5 instead of \$10 is not a big difference in money—it is more about setting a line and testing out the market;

Silverman: Suggests that it will be difficult to tell where the line is, because area affects attendance greatly.

Riley: Maybe we need to go back to the institutions and let them know that we are doing a service for the institution and look for help there.

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Viale: We're not really reaching the students as far as conference is concerned—this is not on anyone's radar. Suggests that it is important that more people know about the conference and understand how it can affect their long-term careers. How can we make it "sexier?" I would be willing to work on it, if someone would work with me.

Silverman: She's been thinking about this as well... Mentions that is a boon to have a professor from UCLA on her panel.

Ali: ... Raises the issue of needing scholars on Units. Any Unit that does not have a scholar as a Chair will need a scholar. Thanks Maloney for joining Catholic Unit.

Viale: Explains the way in which a Facebook page helped her Pagan (?) conference to move from mostly independent scholars to having mostly professors and scholars. Notes that students have a Facebook page on the National level, suggests that the AAR-WR should do this as well.

Slominski: Agrees to work with Viale on this.

Souad: Explains way in which the Islamic studies panel has been growing and people who will be presenting.

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Riley: We need more people coming to the conference. Let's get back to the fees issue. We've been discussing grad student fees. Any comments on other fees?

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Pfeiffer: It seems that we could vote on the upper three [fees] right now and talk about grad fees afterwards.

Slominski: Notes that fees suggested here won't affect grad students this year, because students have already submitted papers.

Pfeiffer: Moves to accept first three fees.

Ali: Seconds the motion.

Ali: Calls for Vote

The board unanimously approves the first three fee changes (Faculty: Associate and Full Professors, Assistant Professors and Lecturers and Independent Scholars).

Slominski: Moves to adjust the graduate student fee change from \$35 to \$30.

Yugar: Suggests that we move the General Public number to \$40.

Viale: Disagrees with change suggested by Yugar.

Yugar: Seconds Slominski's motion to revise graduate student fee increases.

Ali: Calls for a vote

The Board approves a fee of \$30 in 2013 for Graduate Students. No votes: Riley and Frykenberg. Approved by majority vote.

Pfeiffer: Moves to approve suggested fee increase for the General Public: \$35.

Seconded

Ali: Calls for the vote.

The Board approves a 2013 fee of \$35.00 for the General Public unanimously.

**7&8. Report from Souad on the ASU role as conference host, contributions, etc. & Plenary Address Update**

Ali: Reports that we have a \$1500 contribution from Arizona State University, but explains that the way the check will be spent depends on the rooms we will be using. She is still in conversation with ASU. She would like to have the meeting at the Memorial Union, but these rooms are not free. Explains plenary will be Amina Wadud and Dean Page is paying for her honorarium.

Silverman: Can we charge for Amina Wadud

Riley: They're already paying \$35 as guest.

Ali: Reports A.A.'s travel arrangements and informs the Board that she will speak to ASU regarding paying for Amina Wadud plane ticket back to Portland after the conference.

**9. Thanks to Susan for 6 Years of Excellent Service**

Ali: There are no words to express how grateful we are. She invites other Board members to share, and many, many thanks are expressed.

**10. Suggestions for Susan as Past Regionally-Elected Coordinator: Advisor role recommended by the Executive Committee**

(Maloney leaves the room)

Ali: Suggests we give her an advisor position, not a board position, for now.

Van der Horst: Assents to this.

Metcalf: Institutional memory is the longest in the REC because is the longest term—plus she has served in this role twice... There is no handbook for her position right now; this is being made. Susan has agreed to do this for a year or two.

Viale: We should write into this description that she comes to the dinner!

The Board: Agrees to this position; and expresses further agreement that Maloney's position specify that she should come to the dinner(s).

(Maloney returns)

**11. Website**

Ali: The only thing AAR National can provide is the logo. Tim has been doing a good job; but he's writing dissertation. So we're going to have professional person to design the website. But notes we don't have money for this, so asks for suggestions. Also, notes that will discuss this in Executive Committee.

Silverman: Suggests a friend of hers, who is a student, has the ability to do this; and can ask this friend.

(General agreement on Silverman's suggestion)

Ali: Asks Deborah Minor if she can get Susan Schneider to email her to talk about the website.

Minor: Suggests that we can talk to Susan Schneider here, at the National Meeting.

Ali: Makes plan to meet with Frykenberg and talk to Schneider the next day.

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**12. Additional Items**

Silverman: The Queer caucus would like a couple hundred dollars to have a speaker come and show his film on prop. 8 during their pre-conference event.

Ali: Suggests that this be added to the agenda for the Unit Chairs meeting.

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Frykenberg: Returns to the Viale's idea about the Facebook page. She loves this idea. Notes that the Women's Caucus had wanted to reach out more and would love to be a part of this.

Silverman: Agrees.

Viale: Yes, Kristy has agreed to help with this.

Ali: Any questions for Deborah?

Q: What is attendance like [at the National meeting]?

Minor: Around 10,500. Notes a very positive attitude among exhibitors this year.

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Ali: Invites Deborah to share anything she would like to.

Minor: Expresses her sentiment that the regions are really taking off. She received a suggestion for a panel on alternative careers and was able to bring this to the National meeting: this workshop filled in no time flat. We'd like to see this in the regions. Also notes that the REC from Mid-Atlantic does assessments, and she wants to open this up for other regions as well... Sees regions as on people's radar.

She reports that National is looking to assist student directors with travel funds; and that the legal work is almost done for all the regions.

Maloney: Suggest the idea that we could ask regional officers to be plenary speakers—This could up regional attendance because it would represent a "name" in their region.

Ali: Is \$500 for the plenary speaker the same in every region?

Minor: One paid \$1000—but this a lot.

Ali: How much are they paid at the national level?

Minor: \$1000-1500.

Ali: If there is any way, it would greatly increase attendance if we could interview at the regions as well.

Silverman: Yes, good idea. Suggests a job's workshop would really help as well.

Ali: Emily and Dirk—if you had the opportunity to interview, would you come to regional meeting?

Van der Horst: Oh yes.

Maloney: Would Santa Clara do this?

Riley: Tenure searches are few and far between, but we do searches for adjuncts—they might be willing to do this.

Minor: Cautions Board regarding legal requirements related to interviewing process. You might want to talk to Stephanie Grey about this. There are privacy issues, etc.

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Slominski: Suggests this would be very difficult for graduate students because of the number of conferences they might be required to attend for interview prospects. She sees this as a disservice to students, because it replaces Skype interviews that are cheaper.

Ali: Sees Skype as exclusive.

Silverman: Agrees with Ali. She sees many ways that this could ultimately save money.

Metcalf: I think we're talking about different kinds of jobs...we're talking about adjunct positions....

Van der Horst: I'm on the job market as a recent PhD and I feel like this would be an opportunity...

There is a great deal of discussion regarding this issue.

Pfeiffer: This is something we can discuss again. Maybe it is something we could survey students about at the March meeting... suggests need to wrap up the meeting, because it is approaching 10pm.

Ali: Thanks Deborah and expresses excitement for 2013 meeting.

Maloney: States that the Board meeting is scheduled: Saturday, March 9, 2013 in the afternoon, TBA, dinner to follow.

Ali: Adjourns meeting, 9:58pm (?)

#### Decisions Made:

1. Dirk von der Horst elected unanimously by the Board of the AAR-WR as Regionally Elected Coordinator
2. The Board unanimously approves fee changes for:  
Faculty: Associate, Full Professor, to \$65.00  
Faculty: Assistant Professor, to \$55.00  
Lecturer, Independent Scholar, to \$45.00
3. The Board approves a fee of \$30 in 2013 for Graduate Students. Approved by majority vote.
4. The Board unanimously approves a 2013 fee of \$35.00 for the General Public.