

SAR Board Meeting Minutes
11/30/18

Attending:

Adeline
Simon Coleman
Roberta R.
Steve Selka
Janette Jouli
Mara Leichtman
Jon Bialecki
Belinda Ramirez
Mariella Bacigalupo
Lauren Leve
Brendan Thornton
Rachelle Scott

Welcome to new members—Adeline

Steve Selka
Janette Jouli
Sondra Hausner
Ana Bacigalupo

Treasurer's Report-

Lauren gives report. (Will forward written copy).

[note: I didn't take notes on the conversation that followed the report but I don't recall that is was particularly robust or that we made any decisions other than not to raise dues this year.]

Program Committee – Roberta

AAA Program Committee Report

Thanks John, Simon, Ayala. AAA changed the submission evaluation system this year, which she thinks assures better evaluation of the proposals because of the way that it's organized. We have been receiving increasing numbers of admissions. We received 20 session proposals (but lots of people involved in each session because many were co-authored papers. More than 200 people involved overall.)

This year, we have 18 sessions. 2 cosponsored sessions.

Roberta suggests that we would do well to define our policy related to co-sponsored sessions. So far, we've just accepted invitations to cosponsor from other sections. Roberta suggests that we identify co-sponsored sessions that we're interested in and reach out to other sections proactively. Roberta recommends being active in cosponsoring sessions in order to assure our visibility in AAA (as the number of sessions that AAA allows us to sponsor reduces, with declining membership).

She suggests that we proactively organize "author-meets critic" sessions.

We got a greater number of isolated (individually submitted) papers this year, but were only able to accept a minority of them. I don't understand this conversation fully. Take home: we need to encourage people to join the section so that we have more slots to allocate at AAA so that we don't have to turn away individually submitted papers

Committee formation: Roberta (Chair), Brendan Thornton, Steve Selka, Simon Coleman (Lauren would also be willing)

Spring Meeting Report—Adeline

She notes that she followed the "European model," choosing to hold the conference at Tulane this year, rather than a hotel, to save costs (rather than passing those on to the membership). Suggests this for the future as possible.

Simon seconds this model because it allows you to bring food in from outside. He brings up an issue: last minute cancellations and people who didn't register in advance. Notes that people said that they found it hard to register through AAA, that their web template was poor. We need to attend to this in the future. Make it clear to membership that it's important (and not simpler) to register in advance.

Simon also commends the way we used the Rappaport lecturer to the meet with students, keeping him involved throughout the conference. This is something that we want to continue... perhaps even to organize other events that will work on professionalization... also good, panel that included both faculty and grad students.

Problem – how to increase press presence. At least have them send leaflets and then encourage people to contact them. This is true for both books and journals. Perhaps organize sessions where new books are discussed, which might convince presses to be more involved.

Adeline notes the problem of attendance by folks from outside of the US at the moment when the travel ban was being announced, etc.

Lauren suggests that we start planning earlier than usual so that we can show an exciting program to the membership at AAA in 2018.

Book Series – no report from Don or Tulasi

Tulasi will be ending her term as editor of the Palgrave Series. She is asking to be replaced.

Geertz Prize Committee - Adeline

Hilary cannot attend the Business Meeting. Tim Landry will present the award in her place. Geertz Prize Committee 2018 needs to be constituted.

Volunteers for the 2018 committee: Brendan Thornton, Roberta

Student Paper Prize- Adeline

No prize will be awarded this year. For organizational reasons, the competition did not proceed.

Question: how to create a more robust committee? Adeline suggests faculty oversight. No one is quite sure when the student member became charged with convening the committee. More discussion of how we can make the prize more meaningful. Agreement to follow the APLA model to some degree.

Ana B and ?? will chair this committee and move us in that direction. [maybe ?? was Rachelle – I'm not sure]

Anthropology Newsletter

Roberta has been doing this up to now. John B. agrees to take on this role going forward. If a graduate student appears who would like to do this, he will turn the task over to that grad student.

Webpage/Listserv

Website has been in development. There has been difficulty for Belinda interfacing with the website. John will try to help Belinda get this sorted out. The website is ready to go. It just needs this permission to go live.

Simon: we will need to think about keeping it active and updated in order to be able to use it in the way that we want.

Nominations

Need people to self-nominate or nominate others for positions on the SAR Board. Adeline encourages people to start this process early.

Religion and Society Deal with SAR

Simon: SAR members get discount (20-25%) on individual subscription to Religion and Society. This brings the cost down to \$20-something. Broader question – is there a way that the journal can start to interact with what happens at SAR—for instance, Religion and Society publishing author meets critics sessions from meetings, or publish the Rappaport lecture, etc. There seems to be enthusiasm for this among Board members.

Mentoring

AAA has a program that supports mentoring activities at AAA. Adeline suggests that people look it up on the AAA website, but notes that there are limitations to use that are not necessarily obvious.