

**MAASA Fall 2010 Board Meeting
October 10, 2010, 9:00 a.m. CDT
Kansas City, Missouri**

*****DRAFT MINUTES—TO BE VOTED ON AT APRIL 2011 BOARD MEETING*****

In Attendance

Jane Simonsen (Augustana, at large)
Randal Jelks (*American Studies*)
Kim Massa (Iowa, at large)
Michael Krysko (Kansas State, at large)
Milton Wendland (Kansas grad student rep)
Ben Looker (Saint Louis University faculty rep)
Laura Belmonte (Oklahoma State University, at large – recording)
Michael Sweeney (representing Kansas faculty on behalf of Ben Chappell)
Avery Dame (assistant editor, *American Studies*)
Justine Greve (managing editor, *American Studies*)
Barrett Gough (Iowa grad student rep.)
Stefan Osdene (guest, non-voting)
Kathleen Wells Morgan (MAASA Executive Director)
Truman (Oklahoma Westie Rescue rep)

I.) Call to Order, Agenda, and Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order. The agenda was put to a vote and APPROVED unanimously. The minutes from the Spring 2010 board meeting were put to a vote and APPROVED unanimously.

II.) Report from Joint Conference Director

Stefan Osdene, of the Material Culture Program at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, reported on the upcoming MAASA joint conference, titled “The Life of the Object: An Experimental Workshop and Conference on Production, Consumption, and Creative Reuse in American Culture.” The call for proposals is generating wide interest, and the itinerary is solidifying. The Wisconsin organizing group is seeking ideas for keynote speaker. They are applying for some small grants to help defray those expenses. They are planning a variety of activities including a workshop at the Chipstone Museum in Milwaukee, material culture excursions on State Street, and photo and video displays.

They are considering a \$35 registration fee for graduate students and \$75 for faculty. They will have to cap the conference at 135 attendees due to space issues. Board suggested the addition of early bird discounts and late fees on registration fees. The board also suggested including undergraduates and high school students

as presenters. If possible, the board would like to waive registration fees for these students.

Randal discussed the possibility of a special issue of *American Studies* drawn from papers presented at the material culture conference.

Kim asked about housing. Stefan replied that they are exploring hotels, room shares, and other accommodation options. Rates will be approximately \$75 to \$95 per night.

The board discussed the need to have MAASA representation on the conference committee; this is the precedent for previous joint conferences. Kim moved and Randal seconded that Barrett Gough be MAASA liaison to the conference committee. The board voted and APPROVED unanimously.

Stefan and the board engaged in discussion about whether to add a roundtable on issues relating to casualization, contingency, and academic labor organizing, a topic of extensive discussion at last spring's meeting in Lawrence. Also discussed was the possibility of having roundtable and/or presentations about American Studies. Stefan agreed to explore the possibility of several concurrent Sunday-morning roundtables on professional, workplace, and pedagogical issues; he invited written communications outlining ideas for such sessions.

Potential revenue from the conference will be about \$5,000, with any surplus going to MAASA. Stefan then itemized potential budget items and discussed catering options.

The board engaged in a discussion of potential keynote speakers. [Summary redacted from public web version of the minutes.]

Stefan will run upcoming expenses by Jane, who will then forward invoices on to Kathleen for payment.

III.) Executive Director's Financial Report

Kathleen gave the Executive Director's financial report (see appendix to minutes). MAASA has incurred \$43,818.49 in expenses since the Spring 2010 meeting, current balance is \$53,478.97. General board discussion about expenses, possible cost-saving measures, additional revenue generation.

MAASA has not gotten its 2009 taxes done yet, due to some missing records from the Hall Center at KU.

Jane moved and Ben L. seconded that the board approve the October 2010 financial report. The board voted and APPROVED unanimously.

IV.) American Studies Editors' Report

Randal says that *American Studies* have made agreements with J-STOR and ProQuest and these will generate some revenue. *American Studies* will be going online and now the question is how to generate revenue. Should we have subscriber-only access or be open? Journal is exploring how/if going totally online for *American Studies* will really be cost-saving once need for additional equipment and software is factored in. Randal is slowly consolidating David Katzman's institutional knowledge. *American Studies* got rid of its phones as one measure to offset loss of \$5,000 stipend from the Hall Center. *American Studies* will also be open for bid again soon. *American Studies* publication backlog will soon be closed. 2010 issues will all be out in 2010.

MAASA individual membership rate/*American Studies* subscription is \$35; institutional rates are \$55. Current circulation estimates are hazy. The board used to get detailed journal budgets, haven't for several years. The board has been operating on 3 different fiscal years – calendar year for IRS, academic year, and ASA membership periods.

Michael on behalf of Ben Chappell presented a list of potential reviewers for *American Studies*. The MAASA board is looking for people with interdisciplinary expertise, some familiarity with online publishing trends, and availability. The MAASA board has already approved funds to send a three-person committee to KU to review the journal.

Laura suggested that the review committee include someone with a business operations/fiscal management background. The board suggests that the committee also include someone with a strong American Studies background and someone conversant in academic publishing trends.

Kansas University American Studies is under program review this year. Technically, KU's relationship with *American Studies* is also up for renewal this year. David Katzman and Sherry Tucker negotiated a two-year extension, but we need to know the exact dates this covers.

Historically, we have always put the journal out for institutional bids. The board discussed whether to complete the review first or solicit bids concurrently. Milton asked whether or not the institutions going to want to see financials and a strategic plan before making a bid. Michael asked how the processes of the review and the bids work.

Historically, MAASA – which predates the ASA – has always provided an alternative to *American Quarterly*. We need to adopt a plan for how *American Studies* and

MAASA will adopt to changing trends in academic publishing, economic challenges, and changes in the academy itself.

Randal stressed that one of the board's key mandates is determining how to sell *American Studies* and MAASA.

Board members assembled and discussed the following timeline for review and bids:

- November 1, 2010 – fiscal reports for last 5 years
- November 15, 2010 – call for bids goes out
- December 1, 2010 – reviewer team finalized
- March 15, 2011 – deadline for bids
- March 15, 2011 – completion of review of *American Studies*
- April 1, 2011 – Randal and Ben C.'s written response to reviewers' report submitted to board for discussion at April 11, 2011, board meeting

Ben L. moved and Barrett seconded that the board adopt this timetable. The board voted and APPROVED the motion unanimously.

V.) ASA Conference Activities

Jane will be representing MAASA at the ASA conference in San Antonio. The reception will be in the MAASA suite she will rent for that night. She will purchase alcohol and snacks.

VI.) Changes in Bylaws and Open Officer Positions

Laura proposed some changes in the MAASA Constitution. Milton volunteered to help draft new language and review old minutes in order to incorporate prior discussions. They will present a proposed new draft to the board via email by April 1, 2011, for discussion at the April 11, 2011, board meeting.

Jane points out that we currently have no vice-president or secretary. Her term ends soon, so we need a succession plan. Officers need to be faculty.

Randal recommended Ben Chappell for one of the vacant officer positions. Randal also discussed the creation of a program committee subcommittee. Ben Looker volunteered to fill the Secretary post. Barrett nominated Ben Looker as MAASA Board Secretary and Randal seconded the nomination; the board voted and APPROVED unanimously. Kim nominated Ben Chappell (not in attendance) as MAASA Vice-President and Michael Krysko seconded the nomination; the board voted and APPROVED unanimously. [Update: Ben Chappell respectfully declined the position on 10/20/10.]

Laura suggested that we bring in non-board members to serve on the Program Committee as a way to cultivate future board members.

VII.) Committee Reports and Planning

Michael Sweeney announced that Rachel Vaughn is the 2010 winner of the Katzman-Yetman Award.

The board discussed the need to create a selection committee for the 2011 Katzman-Yetman Award. Randal and Barrett volunteered. Jane will ask Stefan for the name of a Wisconsin person to add as the third committee member.

John Rayburn, winner of the 2010 Kolmer Award, will be asked to enlist another colleague in selecting the 2011 Kolmer Award winner.

Laura serves as chair of the Stone-Suderman Award Committee. The committee has been awaiting the completion of the Volume 49. Laura will figure out who else served on the committee and let the editors of *American Studies* know who needs all the issues of Volume 49 to review.

Ben Chappell is chair of the Nominating Committee. Board members were asked to send him the names of potential new board members. A faculty board member does *not* need to be in American Studies, and faculty board members also could be from community colleges.

Laura asked that all board members be given a board contact list. The contact list and officer list also needs to be updated on the web site.

VIII.) Upcoming Board Meetings and MAASA Conferences

The Fall 2011 MAASA board meeting was tentatively set for Saturday, October 1, 2011. The Spring 2011 board meeting will take place on April 11, 2011, in Madison, Wisconsin.

If he accepts the post of MAASA Vice-President, Ben Chappell will chair the 2012 Program Committee. Michael Krysko agreed to serve on the 2012 Program Committee. Laura nominated John Kinder to serve on the 2012 Program Committee. Tulsa was discussed as potential a site for the 2012 conference.

The KU Arts and Humanities undergraduate conference is interested in possibly pairing with MAASA for a 2013 joint conference.

The meeting was adjourned.