

Mid-America American Studies Association Fall 2015
Executive Board Meeting via Fuze
Saturday, November 14, 2015

Minutes approved in e-mail vote of board members, November 2015.

MINUTES

All voting board members were present except for Ruben Flores and Diane Williams.

Officers: President: Ben Looker [present] Vice President: John Kinder [present]
Treasurer: Michael Krysko [present] Secretary: Tom Oates [present]

Elected Representatives (at-large): Joseph Bauerkemper [present] Matthew Calihman [present] Erica Hannickel [present]

Faculty Representatives from Degree-Granting Institutions: Ruben Flores [absent] Ben Looker [present] Tom Oates [present] (No faculty rep from Minnesota at present)

Graduate Student Representatives: Diane Williams [absent] Sarah Atwood-Hoffman [present] Nicole Price [present] Alan Blair [present]

Editors, American Studies (non-voting): Sherrie Tucker [present] Randal Jelks [absent] Hannah Bailey [absent]

I. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda - Minutes from Spring 2015 meeting were previously approved in electronic vote

9:35am – Ben Looker called the meeting to order. New board members were introduced. The agenda was approved.

II. Treasurer's Report (Krysko) (See attached balance sheets.)

Michael Krysko forwarded the documents on financial matters and reported that finances appear stable. He reissued executive director Walt Kihm's advice that the organization not carry too large a balance.

III. Executive Director's Report (Kihm)

Michael reported that Walt would like clarification as to the per diem rate for international travel, as there are discrepancies between the US State Department guidelines and the Department of Defense guidelines.

IV. American Studies Editors' Report (Tucker)

Sherrie Tucker began by announcing that a full report will be distributed at Spring 2016 board meeting in Lawrence, KS in March.

Sherrie reported that the special issue on Ralph Ellison has done very well and sold many copies at the ASA conference.

Sherrie noted that the journal has had difficulty maintaining stability with its graduate student positions. This is due to the fact that these workers are classified so that they must pay tuition, making jobs with the journal less attractive financially than teaching positions (which include a tuition waiver). Since reclassification is impossible, Sherrie proposed a stipend from MAASA to cover all or part of the tuition cost for student workers at the journal. Such a stipend would make it easier to attract and retain student workers, she argued. After some discussion, it was agreed that John Kinder, Sherrie, and Ben would discuss possibilities and bring a specific measure to the board regarding a stipend for graduate students working on the journal at the spring meeting.

Sherrie also requested an additional equipment expenditure to provide a tablet to facilitate social media outreach by the journal. Sherrie, Ben Looker, and Michael Krysko agreed to discuss that request further, and to submit an email vote to approve it.

Additionally, Ben suggested that the board discuss ways that MAASA could offer support to American Studies initiatives across the region. Possibilities will be discussed at the spring meeting in Lawrence.

V. Website/Webmaster Report (Friefeld)

The board discussed Jake Friefeld's request that MAASA begin the search for a replacement webmaster.

The board discussed the desirability of contacting the directors of American Studies programs and departments outside of the MAASA region to promote attendance at the upcoming MAASA conference in March, 2016.

MOTION #1: MAASA will direct the webmaster to send invitations to the directors of American Studies departments and programs to inform them of the upcoming conference and to encourage them and their colleagues to attend.

Motion carried.

MOTION #2: Tom Oates will contact Jake to compile a list of qualifications and duties for the next webmaster, develop a call for applications, and present it to the board for review.

Motion carried.

VI. 2016 MAASA Conference

Nicole Price, Sarah Atwood-Hoffman, and Alan Blair reported high levels of interest among graduate students at their institutions.

Ben announced plans for a meeting of the general membership at the MAASA conference in March.

Ben also noted the need to carve out a few minutes – perhaps at the opening reception, to announce and present the Kolmer, Stone-Suderman, and Katzman-Yetman awards. The committee for the Katzman-Yetman Prize was assembled, including Matthew Calihman, Alan, and a third person from off the board, to be determined.

Finally, Ben suggested a roundtable for and by graduate students. Sarah, Nicole, and Alan will consult with one another and with Diane Williams and will present a plan for the roundtable.

Due to concerns about the cost of setting up a registration system, Jennifer Hamer requested a sum of up to \$5,500 to cover the cost of implementing such a system.

MOTION #3: The MAASA board authorizes an expenditure of up to \$5,500 in additional support for the 2016 University of Kansas–hosted MAASA conference, to cover the conference organizers’ expenses associated with KU Continuing Ed running an online registration process.

Moved by Matthew, seconded by Alan. Motion carried.

The board discussed the need to clarify and document procedures for the MAASA conference, especially the need to establish (after this year) a standardized registration system that can be implemented year after year.

The board discussed ways to widen representation on the executive board. It was agreed that describing the duties and opportunities involved with board membership should be described at the general membership meeting in the Spring, and that attendees should be encouraged to apply for open positions.

A subcommittee of Sarah, John, and Michael was established to investigate travel funding for board members and to make recommendations for changes to the policy via email.

VII. New Business and Announcements

MOTION #4: To retroactively approve the reimbursement for ASA travel to Toronto and to establish a committee to develop a policy for reimbursements for international travel.

Moved by Ben, seconded by John. Motion carried.

Michael announced that Kansas State is searching for a historian with a specialty in post-1945 U.S. history, with a scholarly focus on gender with an additional emphasis on cultural history preferred.

VIII. Motion to Adjourn

MOTION #5: A motion to adjourn was approved at 12:25 pm.

Moved by Michael, seconded by Alan. Motion carried.

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N.B.: Financial documents and journal report have been omitted from this online copy of the Fall 2015 meeting minutes. To access such documents, please contact a board officer.