

MAASA Board Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2008
UMKC

In attendance:

Jane Simonsen (Augustana, at large)
Richard Schur (Drury, at large)
David Katzman (Journal)
Ben Chappell (Kansas faculty rep)
Michael Krysko (Kansas State, at large)
Barrett Gough (Iowa grad student)
Michael Sweeney (Kansas student rep)
Kim Mara (Iowa faculty rep)
Mary-Ann Wynkoop (host)
Kathleen Wells-Morgan (executive director)

The meeting came gradually to order at 9:10

Spring 2008 Minutes

Spring Minutes approved

President's Report

Jane presented the day's agenda.

Discussed development of website. Journal will work on registering a domain name. We discussed whether the website should be located at a particular institution. We determined that a faculty member/Board Member should supervise the grad student who is serving as the webmaster. David noted that we would want to hire the individual an independent contractor. We discussed that we might want one institution to house both the journal and the web-master for the site. Ben Chappell will get the files from Tony Clark and will look into see if KU can host the website. Ben will report back to the Board by Nov 1, 2008 via the listserv. We can then make a decision through the listserv about moving forward. It was suggested that this might fall under the secretary's responsibilities. We discussed how to assure continuity with the website over time and keep that stable and strong. The position title will be "webmaster." Also, the website brings up the question about how to re-create the newsletter, especially updating the board/officer list and award-winners. The board previously approved \$3500 honorarium for the webmaster position. We discussed that the webmaster position is not linked to any student rep positions.

Position Vacancies

The following positions are open: Vice-President, Secretary, and the Prize Committee Chair. Richard Schur agreed to become Secretary for the 2008-2009 year. We discussed that we might want to hold off electing a vice-president at this late date. We further discussed that we might want to amend the Constitution so that the president serves for two years, one MAASA conference and one joint conference. In addition, we discussed whether the president should oversee the Prize Committee. Jane volunteered to chair the Prize Committee. Because we have all the responsibilities covered at this time, we will wait until the Spring to nominate and elect a vice-president.

Amending the Constitution

Following from our conversation about position vacancies, we moved to discuss the possibility to amend the Constitution, given the changing nature of MAASA and the MAASA conference. We discussed that the vice-president could serve on the planning committee for the joint conference during the first-year and chair the MAASA conference during the second year. We also discussed making all offices two year terms. We also considered whether officers should be board members or not. This raises the question of who, folk at R1 or teaching colleges, is the primary focus of MAASA. The question was raised whether MAASA could afford to cover the expenses for the Pre/vice-pres to attend ASA and be an official host. We also discussed whether the VP or Pres should be the representative of the region. Secretary will forward a copy of the Constitution to all board members. David Katzman will work on amending the constitution and submitting a proposal before the next board meeting..

Prize Committee

We should publish the award announcements/winner in the ASA Newsletter. The secretary will make sure that the announcement gets placed in the ASA Newsletter. Kathleen might check to see if she has the award descriptions. The secretary will send out the descriptions to the board via e-mail so that we can revise and re-work the award descriptions. Jane will check with Tony Clark about past award winners. The last winner, perhaps Ann Schofield, of the Kolmer should chair the next committee.

ASA Regional Representative

Jane's term will be completed as Regional Representative this Spring. We will need to appoint a new person at the spring meeting. We discussed whether this position ought to be tied to the president or vp positions. We also discussed whether MAASA should fund this person to attend the ASA conference. Cheryl Lester is currently the chair of the nominating committee. The secretary will be sure to forward minutes to Cheryl Lester.

Executive Director's Report

Kathleen asked for receipts for travel to this meeting so people can be reimbursed for their travel. Graduate students get reimbursed up to \$250 for accommodation (plus travel) for both the Spring and Fall board meetings. We will reimburse \$.50/mile.

We are updating the contact information for the board and membership.

Kathleen reviewed the financial report. Total assets are \$93,941.82. The organization looks financially healthy. Of the \$67,000 of operating fund, about \$55,000 is associated with the journal.

In 2010, the contract for the journal will be open for bids. The Board will need to appoint a committee, review the 2005 review of the journal, interview the current editors, conduct a site visit, including a visit with institutional administrative officials, and develop a CFP for the process. This committee should be appointed in Spring 2009. The committee should include members of the previous committee (Laura Rabinovitz, Barry Shank, Matt Mancini). David Katzman will be fully retired at the end of Spring 2010, but KU has the intention to submit a bid. The committee will need to advertise these calls for bids.

Elements to include in the calls for bids:

- Someone with editorial experience
- Hire graduate students
- Appropriate space
- Commitment to faculty
- Subsidy from university/college

- Historical importance of the journal for American studies

Kathleen might have a paper copy of 2000 bid form.

Committee Reports

No reports at this time.

ASA Report

The regional chapters committee is doing a panel at ASA later this month.

American Studies Editor's Report

1. Publication is behind – The journal has moved offices twice in the past year and has caused the journal to fall behind. Summer 2007 is almost ready to go to the printer. Fall 2007 is ready for the printer, but must follow the summer issue. David reported their plan to catch up with their publication schedule.
2. Electronic Availability – By the end of Fall 2008, all back issues will be scanned and will be fully searchable. The back issues will also be available through two databases. The journal has had many offers to publish the journal. The journal has been working to keep subscription costs down. In the future, the journal may pursue publishing only electronically but available on-demand with an outside contractor. David discussed the difficulty of some international subscribers in accessing online publications. Ben noted that the MAASA board should consider this element of the journal's mission in the bid process. Eventually, the journal will lose all royalties once online takes off.
3. New software – The journal getting new software, which will help the editorial process.
4. Current Subscriptions – Current subscriptions have gone down significantly. But, the journal has recovered from being dropped from the ASA renewal forms. Jane will add the subscription form for the journal to the ASA website. Institutional subscriptions are down because of a price increase and because the journal is behind. Total circulation is between 850 and 900. David believes electronic publication will increase the journal's circulation.
5. Financial Report – The 488 institutional subscriptions, along with the KU subvention funds, will keep the journal going. Sherrie may attend the European ASA meetings.
6. Budget authorization – The journal request a continued budget subsidy of \$22,000-\$25,000 but expect to use only \$16,000-\$18,000. The board approved this subsidy.
7. The Journal will be 50 years old in 2010

Conference Planning

2009 – The one proposal we have received for the grant is from the University of Iowa for its "Identities and Technoculture" conference (April 3-4, 2009). The conference is hosted by the Center for Ethnic Studies and the Arts (CESA). We would need to get a representative on the program committee, get space to hold our Board meeting, and select a graduate student paper for our paper award. We would meet on the Thursday afternoon, preceding the conference. The Board meeting would then culminate with dinner on the evening on April 2, 2009. We would like to arrange a graduate student (or recent graduates) panel. The journal would welcome papers from the sessions. David pointed out that this would reconnect MAASA with one of its original focuses on technology, but with "new" twist with the emphasis on environment and identity. David mentioned that graduate student might want to arrange a morning workshop about using material culture in teaching, encouraging them to share their teaching innovations. Board approved the University of Iowa proposal and will contribute \$5000 to their conference.

We discussed that it might be best if the MAASA representative should be someone, not connected to the University of Iowa. Michael Krysko has volunteered to serve as the MAASA representative. The board approved a motion to fund Michael up to \$500 if his institution cannot support his travel to the conference. This motion was approved.

Michael will speak with Lauren Rabinovitz (after the official communication with Jane Simonsen) about the following:

- Reserving a MAASA graduate workshop/panel, selected by MAASA
- Securing a site/time for the MAASA board meeting on Thursday afternoon/evening.
- Scheduling a time for the MAASA general meeting, perhaps after the Keynote Address for our business meeting.
- Announce any award winners before the Keynote Address
- MAASA Hosting a reception.

After Michael has arranged things with Lauren, he will communicate with the graduate student representatives about the nature of the session to be organized.

2010 – We reviewed the document for the theme "American Studies as Paradigm for the Future," developed during the Spring 2008 Board meeting. We do need to find a host, possibly the University of Kansas. We also discussed about inviting papers and presenters. It might be good to have a session that looks critically at the history of American studies journals and their effects on the field. Another variation on this would be a panel of American studies journal editors. Ben shared how the Cultural Studies Association organizes "journal salon" sessions where editors, editorial board members, and article authors discuss an aspect of publishing. David suggested that we might want to form a program committee. That committee might want to commission essays for the conference. He also encouraged the Board to include as many "dissident" voices, however constructed or positioned, as possible within the program. Ben wondered if the working title is the best one. David suggested, "American Studies: A Failed Paradigm?" There seemed to be broad agreement that this title is more provocative and might generate more conversation.

Jane discussed possible members of the program committee, including KU faculty member, graduate student, scholars from a range of institutions. Kim, Jane, and Ben volunteered to serve on this program committee. Ben will explore if KU would be willing to host the conference. Jane and Kim will be attending ASA and will seek out possible speakers and ideas for the conference. Because we do not have a vice-president, we do not have a chair for the program committee. We will need to select chair for this committee.

Board Meeting Agenda Items for Spring 2009 Board Meeting

Constitution Amendments
New Officers and board Members
Journal Review committee
2010 Program Committee
Review Website
ASA Regional Representative

Board recognized Mary-Ann Wynnkop for hosting the board meeting.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Richard Schur

