Mid-America American Studies Association (hereinafter MAASA) Executive Board Minutes

Saturday, 5 October 2019, 11:00am CST, Zoom videoconference

Board members present:

Tom Sarmiento (Kansas State, president, 2019)

Brian Hallstoos (Dubuque, Vice President, 2020)

Kathryn Vaggalis (Kansas, Treasurer, 2019)

David Brodnax (Trinity Christian, Secretary, 2020)

Richard Breaux (Wisconsin-La Crosse, at large representative, 2020)

Ben Chappell (Kansas, faculty representative, 2020)

Naomi Greyser (Iowa, faculty representative, 2020)

Kacie Rubalcava (Iowa, graduate student representative, 2020)

Sean Trundle (Nebraska, at-large representative, 2020)

Sherrie Tucker (Kansas, *American Studies* editor, ex officio)

Board members absent:

Bobby Cervantes (Kansas, *American Studies* assistant editor, ex officio)

Elizabeth Eikmann (Saint Louis, graduate student representative, 2020)

Ivery Goldstein (Kansas, graduate student representative, 2020)

Randal Jelks (Kansas, *American Studies* editor, ex officio)

Ben Looker (Saint Louis, faculty representative, 2020)

Doug Miller (Oklahoma State, at-large representative, 2019)

I. The meeting was called to order at 11:08am.

II. Brief introductions

III. President’s report

1. The board discussed constitution rules about members missing two consecutive meetings.
2. The board discussed hiring a digital communication administrator. **Action Item #1:** Sarmiento will create a job description, send it to the board for feedback, and have a finalized version ready for the ASA conference and to be sent to board members’ contacts and to various departments in the MAASA region.

IV. Treasurer’s report

1. The board discussed MAASA income and expenses from January-August 2019.
2. The board discussed current MAASA membership. **Action Item #2:** Vaggalis and Sarmiento will create an opt-in directory to help with networking amongst MAASA members.
3. The board discussed recent expenditures by MAASA.

V. *American Studies* editors’ report (Tucker)

A. The board discussed the end of the journal’s contract with Kansas in 2022, the pending process to sign a new contract, and upcoming publications.

B. Tucker left the meeting.

VI. MAASA Reception at the 2019 ASA Conference (Rubalcava)

1. The board discussed the upcoming reception. **Action Item #3:** Rubalcava will make copies of a flyer with the reception details.

VII. Old Business

1. *American Studies* External Review (Chappell, Breaux & Trundle)

1. The External Review committee proposed that Mari Yoshihara, Miriam Harris, and Amilcar Shabazz be asked to serve as auditors for the journal. Mark Peters, Aron Reppmann, Michelle Jeanette, Anita Mannur, Keith Camacho, and Natasha Zaretsky were also suggested. **Motion:** to give to the external review committee the list of Yoshihara, Harris, and Shabazz as the top three choices and an alternate list of Peters, Reppmann, Jeanette, Mannur, Camacho, and Zaretsky. Motion passed unanimously. **Action Item #4:** Chappell will ask Tucker about Ben will contact Sherrie about the specific time frame for the review. **Action Item #5:** The external review committee will contact Yoshihara, Harris, and Shabazz and if necessary the alternates, with the review group to be finalized by late November.

B. The meeting adjourned for 15 minutes.

C. Conference Planning

1. The board discussed possible hosting cities, hosting and/or partnering institutions, and dates for the next MAASA conference. The board decided that if there is no conference in 2020, the 60th anniversary will be recognized during the MAASA reception at the 2020 ASA meeting. **Action Item #6:** Sarmiento will ask institutions in the MAASA region to partner with MAASA for the 2020 conference.

D. Trundle left the meeting.

E. Constitution Review

1. The Constitution Review discussion will be postponed until the Spring 2020 meeting.
2. **Action Item #7:** Sarmiento will send the MAASA articles of incorporation to Sarmiento so that he can further consider the question about the possibility of an Executive Director.

F. Awards committees

1. **Action Item #8:** The Stone-Suderman Prize will be decided by the journal staff.

2. **Action Item #9:** board members will send recommendations for the Elizabeth Kolmer Award to Sarmiento.

3. Discussion of the Katzman-Yetman Graduate Prize was tabled due to uncertainty about the 2020 conference.

G. Grant development

1. At the Spring 2020 board meeting, the board will discuss possible spending of grant money to support American Studies scholars in the MAASA region.

H. Greyser left the meeting.

VIII. New business

1. Identifying new board members

1. The board discussed ways to find and recruit new board members. The board discussed the possibility of amending the MAASA constitution to expand the number of board seats. **Action Item #10:** Sarmiento will contact the board members, with a deadline of November for their response, and if after that seats are going to be open, the board will seek nominations. **Action Item #11:** Looker will look at the by-laws and draft an amendment to increase the board from 14 to 16.

IX. Announcements

A. Let people know about the MAASA reception at the ASA conference.

B. **Action Item #10:** Brodnax will finish the minutes.

X. Meeting adjourned at 3:05pm.