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

Saturday, 2 May 2020, 10:00am 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)

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

Ben Chappell (Kansas, faculty representative, 2020)

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

Ivery Goldstein (Kansas, graduate student representative, 2020)

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

Ben Looker (Saint Louis, faculty representative, 2020)

Chris Perreira (Kansas, *American Studies* blog editor, ex officio)

Kacie Rubalcava (Iowa, graduate student representative, 2020)

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

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

Elizabeth Wilhelm (Kansas, *American Studies* managing editor, ex officio)

Board members absent:

Naomi Greyser (Iowa, faculty representative, 2020)

I. The meeting was called to order at 10:10am.

II. Brief introductions

III. The minutes from 5 October 2019 were approved with a correction to Section V(A).

1. The board discussed leaving financial information, information about comments from specific members, and other details from these minutes, from future minutes, and from previously approved minutes. **Motion:** to approve the minutes with the understanding that they will be redacted to include only decisions made. **Friendly amendment** to also include items discussed. **Friendly amendment accepted.** Motion passed with two abstentions. **Action Item #1:** Brodnax will redact the 5 October 2019 minutes and keep future minutes in accordance with the motion but also keep more detailed unofficial minutes that can be accessed by board members. **Action Item #2:** Hallstoos will review minutes from his tenure as secretary in search of information that needs to be redacted for brevity and to ensure safety of MAASA and AMSJ financial accounts.

IV. President’s report (Sarmiento)

1. The board discussed creating a digital repository in Dropbox or Google.
2. The board discussed delays, caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic and other concerns, in the implementation of several ideas that were discussed at the Fall 2019 meeting.

C. The external review of the *American Studies* journal that was supposed to take place on 26-28 March 2020 has been postponed.

D. The board discussed the pending webmaster search.

E. The board discussed the MAASA reception at the 2019 American Studies Association (hereinafter ASA) meeting.

F. The board discussed possible dates and locations for the next MAASA conference.

G. The board discussed sponsoring a panel at the next ASA meeting.

H. The board discussed upcoming issues of AMSJ.

V. Treasurer’s report (Vaggalis)

A. The board discussed the “Budget Balance Sheet” and “Budget Profit & Loss” documents shared by Vaggalis.

VI. *American Studies* editors’ report (Jelks & Tucker)

1. The board discussed the editor’s report shared by Tucker.
2. The board discussed the recent hire of Perreira as the new editor of the AMSJ Blog.
3. The board discussed the pending AMSJ external review being pushed back to the Fall of 2020.
4. The board discussed the document “AMSJ Operating Budget FY2020,” shared by Wilhelm. There will be a drop in royalties due to Project Muse making some content free during the pandemic.
5. The board discussed recent submissions to AMSJ.
6. The board discussed pending issues of AMSJ as well as pending discussions on the journal blog, shared by Perreira.
7. The board discussed the document “AMSJ Proposal for MAASA 2020SP,” shared by Tucker.
8. Tucker and Jelks proposed that Randall Fuller and Deb Vargas be named to the editorial board. **Motion:** to accept the nominations of Randall Fuller and Deb Vargas to the ASMJ editorial board. Motion passed unanimously.
9. Tucker and Jelks proposed that Perreira be named to the new position of Associate Editor with a stipend and the plan that he succeed Tucker or Jelks as editor when either of them retires, that a new Associate Editor be named at that point, and that the new Associate Editor succeed the other current editor when they retire.

VII. Old business

1. The board revisited the pending journal external review being pushed back to the Fall of 2020. **Motion:** to plan a remote review for the fall with the option of replacing review members if necessary. **Friendly amendment** to say “early fall.” **Friendly amendment** to make it explicit that this is a one-time change and does not establish a precedent for future remote meetings. **Motion:** to plan the AMSJ External Review meeting to take place remotely in the early fall 2020 with the understanding that this switch to a remote meeting does not establish a precedent for future external reviews. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. The board took a break. Cervantes, Jelks, Perreira, Tucker, and Wilhelm left the meeting. The board resumed at 12:43.

IX. *American Studies*, continued

A. **Motion:** to approve the AMSJ proposed operating budget. Motion passed unanimously.

B. The board discussed funding for the proposed Associate Editor position to attend conferences. **Motion:** to approve the nomination of Chris Perreira as Associate Editor with financial support for attendance at the ASA conference and one additional conference and to invite discussion on the compensation. Motion passed unanimously.

C. The board discussed ensuring that future editorship of AMSJ remain strong. **Action Item #3:** the external review group and the subcommittee that selected it will discuss this further.

D. **Motion:** to approve the $100 annual funding for the AMSJ Blog and a one-time payment of $700 for the media assistant to upgrade the blog. Motion passed unanimously.

X. Report of the Regional representative to the ASA (Rubalcava)

1. The board discussed the MAASA reception at the 2019 ASA Conference and meetings between the various regional representatives.
2. The board discussed ways for MAASA to host events in a physically large region with most supporting institutions and board members outside of major cities.

XI. Elections

1. The board discussed recruiting new members from universities not currently represented.
2. The board discussed suspending Minnesota’s seat on the board and reallocating it as an at-large position.
3. The board discussed creating a nominating committee to help fill seats in a more organized manner.
4. **Motion:** to elect a slate of Vaggalis, Breaux, Brodnax, and Chappell to at-large terms beginning 1 June 2020 and ending 31 May 2022. Motion passed with one opposed and one abstention.
5. Hallstoos was **nominated** as president, serving 1 June 2020-31 May 2021, and accepted. Hallstoos elected unanimously.
6. The board discussed increasing gender and racial diversity in elected positions.
7. Chappell was nominated as vice president, serving 1 June 2020-31 May 2021, and declined. Chappell was nominated as vice-president and accepted on the condition that it not automatically lead into the presidency. Chappell elected with one abstention.
8. Vaggalis was nominated as Treasurer, serving 1 June 2020-31 May 2021, and accepted. Vaggalis elected with one abstention.
9. The board discussed the constitutionality of providing funding to graduate students on the board. **Motion:** Graduate students serving as officers in 2020-21 shall be compensated for travel to one domestic conference during the academic year to represent MAASA. If conference cancellations occur in 2020-21 due to the pandemic, the reimbursed travel may be deferred to 2021-22. Motion passed unanimously.
10. Brodnax was nominated as Secretary, serving 1 June 2020-31 May 2021, and accepted. Brodnax elected unanimously.

XII. Old Business, continued

1. The awards committees discussion was tabled to the fall meeting.

1. **Action Item #4:** Brodnax and Hallstoos will discuss alternative ways of deciding and awarding the Katzman-Yetman Graduate Prize (Brodnax & Hallstoos).

B. Ben L. left the meeting.

XIII. Elections, continued

1. Sarmiento was nominated as Regional Representative and accepted. Sarmiento elected unanimously.

1. The board discussed ways to reach out to other regional representatives.

XIV. Old Business, continued

A. The board discussed the possibility of having a remote MAASA reception in the fall if the ASA conference is cancelled.

XV. New business

1. The AMSJ bid process is ongoing.
2. The Nominating Committee & Program Committee will be reestablished in the fall.

XVI. Announcements

A. Expression of gratitude to the board members for their work, particularly outgoing graduate student representatives Goldstein, Rubalcava, and Wilhelm.

XVII. Meeting adjourned at 3:05pm.