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

Saturday, 7 November 2020, 10:00am CST, Zoom videoconference

Board members present:

Brian Hallstoos (Dubuque, President, 2021)

Ben Chappell (Kansas, Vice President, 2021)

Kathryn Vaggalis (Kansas, Treasurer, 2021)

David Brodnax (Trinity Christian, Secretary, 2021)

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

Dominic Dongilli (Iowa, graduate student representative, 2022)

Ben Looker (Saint Louis, faculty representative, 2020)

Anastasia Marchenko (Saint Louis, graduate student representative, 2022)

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

Laura Rigal (Iowa, faculty representative, 2020)

Tom Sarmiento (Kansas State, at large representative, 2021)

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

Board members absent:

Richard Breaux (Wisconsin-La Crosse, at large representative, 2022)

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

Sean Trundle (Nebraska, at-large representative, 2022)

I. The meeting was called to order at 10:07am.

II. Brief introductions

III. President’s report (Hallstoos)

1. The board discussed creating an organizational statement about police violence.
2. The board discussed the recent *AMSJ* external review.

IV. Treasurer’s report (Vaggalis)

1. The board discussed the “Budget Balance Sheet As of June 30, 2020” and “Budget Profit & Loss July 2019-June 2020” documents shared by Vaggalis.
2. The board discussed its bank account.
3. The board discussed problems with tuition payments for journal employees.
4. The board discussed the possible pending search for Vaggalis’ successor.
5. The board discussed creating a MAASA dropbox to help preserve institutional memory.
6. The board discussed payments for the MAASA domain name.
7. The board discussed additional support for Vaggalis.
8. The board discussed membership fees.

V. *AMSJ* editors’ report (Tucker, Perreira & Cervantes)

 A. The board discussed the recent *AMSJ* external review.

 B. The board discussed an upcoming meeting of the *AMSJ* editorial board.

C. The journal discussed upcoming issues on black art, the environment, and other topics.

E. The board discussed the *AMSJ* blog and Wikipedia page.

VI. Old business

1. The board revisited the pending *AMSJ* journal process. Tucker left the meeting. **Motion:** to create an ad hoc committee to create a call for bids, which would come in before the Spring 2021 meeting. **Friendly amendment** to approve $1200 in advertising money for the committee. Friendly amendment accepted. **Motion:** to create an ad hoc committee to create a call for bids, which would come in before the Spring 2021 meeting, with the committee receiving $1200 in advertising funds. Motion passed unanimously.
2. **Action Item #1:** The Ad hoc committee will consist of Sarmiento, Chappell, Marchenko, and Dongilli.

B. The board discussed recruiting new board members.

VI. New business

1. The board discussed creating alternatives to the 2021 or 2022 MAASA conference. **Action Item #2:** This will be further discussed after the Program Committee is created.
2. The board discussed having a MAASA-sponsored panel at the 2021 American Studies Association (hereinafter ASA) meeting. This discussion was tabled in light of COVID-based uncertainty about whether or not the conference will take place.

C. The board discussed the search for a new Webmaster/Social Media Content Manager. **Motion:** to increase the pay for this position to $4,000. Motion passed. **Action Item #3:** An ad hoc committee of Rigal & Sarmiento will create a search document and present it to the board.

D. Awards committees

 1. No report on the Stone-Suderman Prize (Trundle & Breaux)

2. The board discussed the Elizabeth Kolmer Award (Sarmiento & Chappell).

3. The board discussed the Katzman-Yetman Graduate Paper Prize (Hallstoos & Brodnax). **Motion:** to give the prize committee the authority to create an alternate means for awarding this prize and to authorize funds for the prize and up to three additional $150 prizes. Motion passed.

E. **Action Item #4:** The minutes from the Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 meetings will be approved by email at a later date along with the upcoming minutes from the Fall 2020 meeting.

F. **Action Item #5:** The Constitution review (Sarmiento & Brodnax & Hallstoos) will be discussed at a later meeting.

G. The board discussed grant development funds for graduate students struggling in the COVID-19 environment (Looker & Vaggalis)

H. The board discussed the status of the University of Minnesota and other degree-granting institutions (Sarmiento).

I. The board discussed creating nominating and program committees. **Action Item #6:** Sarmiento & Hallstoos will give further thought to staying on the board after their current terms expire and/or recruiting more diverse

J. The board discussed possible locations for the next MAASA conference, along with a hybrid or virtual conference.

K. The board discussed creating a statement on social justice. **Action Item #7:** Chappell will send examples of past social justice statements. MAASA already has one that David previously sent.

VII. Meeting adjourned at 3:17pm.