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

Saturday, 27 March 2021, 10:00am CST, Zoom videoconference

Board members present:

Brian Hallstoos (Dubuque, 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* (hereinafter AMSJ) assistant editor, ex officio)

Dominic Dongilli (Iowa, graduate student representative, 2020)

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

Ben Looker (Saint Louis, faculty representative, 2020)

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

Elliott Powell (Minnesota, at large representative, 2021)

Laura Rigal (Iowa, faculty representative, 2020)

Tom Sarmiento (Kansas State, at large representative, 2019)

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

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

Board members absent:

Ben Chappell (Kansas, Vice President, 2020)

Anastasia Marchenko (Saint Louis, graduate student representative, 2020)

I. The meeting was called to order at 10:06am.

II. Brief introductions

III. President’s report (Hallstoos)

1. The board discussed events since the last meeting:
2. Approval of the Spring 2020 and Fall 2020 minutes
3. *AMSJ* editors’ response to the external review
4. Call for journal bids
5. MAASA’s expression of solidarity with Kansas University faculty regarding proposed changes to tenure standards
6. Approval of Emergency Pandemic Grants for graduate students at degree-granting institutions

IV. Treasurer’s report (Vaggalis)

1. The board discussed its savings during the COVID-19 Pandemic due to a lack of travel.
2. The board decided to ask the American Studies Association (hereinafter ASA) for its usual rebate.

V. AS editors’ report (Cervantes, Jelks, Perreira & Jelks)

A. The board congratulated Cervantes on a fellowship and thanked him for his work on *AMSJ*.

B. The board acknowledged Managing Editor Elizabeth Wilhelm & Media Assistant Ashley Aranda’s work on *AMSJ*.

C. The board discussed plans to keep Perreira on as editor to succeed either Jelks or Tucker if *AMSJ* remains at Kansas.

D. The board discussed Emily Lutenski winning the Don D. Walker Prize of the Western Literature Association for her *AMSJ* article.

E. The board discussed more user-friendly online options for *AMSJ* at an estimated additional $600 per issue using the Brightcopy platform.

F. The board discussed raising *AMSJ* subscription prices an additional $3/year for graduate students and $5/year for all others except institutions.

G. The board discussed giving subscribers print-only, online-only, or hybrid subscriptions.

H. The board discussed a recent decision by the Kansas University College of Library Arts & Sciences to deny funding for graduate assistants and editorial summer stipends, in part due to COVID-related budget cuts and in part due to austerity measures. The *AMSJ* editors recommended that MAASA seek additional support from ASA.

I. Managing Editor’s report.

J. Assistant Editor’s report (Cervantes)

K. Blog Editor’s report (Perreira)

L. Social media report

M. The board discussed recent print runs.

N. The board discussed *AMSJ*’s upcoming plans, global vision, and current staff, etc.

O. Jelks, Cervantes, Perreira, and Tucker left the meeting.

P. **Action Item #1:** Proposal to increase the *AMSJ* subscription rate from $35 to $40 for regular subscriptions, from $20 to $25 for emeritus subscriptions, and from $12 to $15 for students, keeping institutional subscriptions at $50. **Motion:** to approve Action Item #1. Motion passed.

Q. **Action Item #2:** Proposal to approve an *AMSJ* expenditure of approximately $592 per issue to simultaneously publish Brightcopy user-friendly electronic versions simultaneously with print version and offer subscribers an option to subscribe print only, electronic only, or both. **Friendly amendment** to require that if the expenditure exceeds $650 per issue, the board has to get MAASA board approval. Amended accepted. **Motion:** to approve Action Item #2. Motion passed.

R. **Action Item #3:** Proposal to approve an annual budget line of $700 for *AMSJ* to utilize Allen Press warehousing and fulfillment services. **Motion:** to approve Action Item #3. Motion passed.

S. **Action Item #4:** Proposal to seek regional support from ASA in preparation of austerity cuts affecting Kansas University and other potential bidders. This Action Item was tabled. **Action Item #5:** Hallstoos will consult with Chappell and then draft a letter to ASA requesting additional support from ASA in light of the pending austerity cuts at Kansas. **Action Item #6:** Hallstoos will ask *AMSJ* editors to clarify that Kansas is choosing to not fund in the future, starting with the fiscal year 2022, rather than during the current ten-year contract period.

T. **Action Item #7:** Approval of the *AMSJ* budget.**Motion:** to approve the *AMSJ* budget. Motion passed.

VI. Old business

1. *AMSJ* journal bids
2. Ad hoc committee report (Chappell & Sarmiento & Dongilli)
3. The board added the following language to the report:

a. The possibility of undergraduate student support for *AMSJ*.

b. The need for storage space for print materials.

c. The specific quantity of 400 copies to the estimated printing cost of one volume.

d. A question about plans to engage readers with *AMSJ* content beyond the journal issues.

1. Trundle left the meeting.
2. **Action Item #8:** Sarmiento will revise the document and send it to board members for consideration.
3. Future conference planning
4. **Motion:** To have a digital conference in the spring of 2022. Motion passed.
5. **Action Item #8:** Dongilli joined the program committee and will reach out to the other grad student reps.
6. **Action Item #9:** Hallstoos will contact Chappell about the conference.

C. Ad hoc Pandemic Emergency Grants committee report (Vaggalis & Looker).

D. Webmaster/Social Media Content Manager search report (Sarmiento & Rigal).

1. **Action Item #10:** The board will make its hiring decision in the summer of 2021.

E. Awards committees

1. Katzman-Yetman Graduate Paper Prize report (Hallstoos & Brodnax)

a. **Action Item #11:** Sarmiento will investigate whether MAASA already has a MailChimp page that can be used for the awards, and if not, Vaggalis will create one.

b. **Action Item #12:** Hallstoos will add several other fields of study and the language “such as” to the call for papers.

2. No report on the Elizabeth Kolmer Award (Sarmiento & Chappell)

3. The board discussed the Stone-Suderman Prize (Breaux).

4. Rigal & Looker left the meeting.

VII. New business

1. Nomination of new officers
2. President

a. **Action Item #13:** Hallstoos will contact other board members to gauge their interest.

2. Vice President

b. **Action Item #14:** Brodnax will consider the position if no other board members are interested.

3. Treasurer

c. **Action Item #15:** Sarmiento will consider the position if no other board members are interested.

4. Secretary

d. **Action Item #16:** Breaux will consider the position if Brodnax is voted Vice President and no other board members are interested.

5. Regional representative

e. **Action Item #17:** Dongilli will consider the position if no other board members are interested.

6. **Action Item #18:** Hallstoos will send the board a list of people who are willing to serve in certain positions and encourage others to submit their names if they so desire. Elections will be held via email.

1. The board discussed investing MAASA funds through the Douglas County Community Foundation.

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 3:40pm.