**Mid-America American Studies Association (MAASA)**

**Fall 2021 Board Meeting Minutes**

Saturday, 6 November, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. CST

via Zoom

**I. Call to order – 10:07 am**

**II. Introductions**

Present –

Brian Hallstoos (Dubuque, President, 2022)

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

Elizabeth Wilhelm (Kansas, *American Studies*, Managing editor)

David Brodnax (Trinity Christian, Vice President, 2023)

Tom Sarmiento (Kansas State, Treasurer, 2022)

Kendyl Schmidt (Saint Louis, graduate student representative, 2023)

Dominic Dongilli (Iowa, graduate student representative, 2022)

Margaret Kelley (Kansas, faculty representative, 2023)

Elliott Powell (Minnesota, at large representative, 2023)

Heidi Ardizzone (Saint Louis, faculty representative, 2023)

Erin Kahle (Saint Louis, Digital Communications Manager)

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

Lydia Epp Schmidt (Kansas, graduate student representative, 2023)

Richard Breaux (Wisconsin-La Crosse, Secretary, 2023)

**III. President’s Report (Brian)**

Things done since last spring:

A. Laura Riegal retired, Ben Chappel left board, Ben Looker left the board, No UI Rep.

B. Official call for bids for AMSJ went out.

C. Margaret and Heidi join board.

D. Dispersed the Emergency Pandemic grants.

E. Approved the spring minutes

F. Cancelled ASA trip to Puerto Rico for in-person conference.

**IV. Digital Communications Administrator’s Report (Erin)**

A. Updating the MAASA website and AMSJ site.

B. Streamline and user-friendliness.

C. Add undergraduate and graduate work and feature people; could use help with updates, staff and positions, photos from meetings, etc.

**V. Treasurer’s Report (Tom)**

A. Our finances are well and has worked to get things updated.

B. Three different accounts: MAASA account, and two journal accounts. Bank of the West Account, another at Central Bank of the Midwest, $10 service fee because the account is under $1000; the other has $3 service fee.

Discussion about merging the accounts and putting everything in one (AMSJ);

C. Fiscal year 2022; income was higher than expenses; compared to June 2020 our expenses were higher; the pandemic has halted normal expenses. Editors and President, regional rep usually all covered to conferences, will also cover associate editors in the future;

D. No royalties from JSTOR during the pandemic. A few outstanding checks not cashed connected to graduate students. Two 2020 Journal related checks not cashed. $108,000 from March and December 2020.

E. What does merging the accounts mean? People in person to change who could sign on accounts. Sherrie, Randal, and MAASA treasurer who need to be able to sign-off. Library and Playbill checks for cover art for AMSJ. May have to re-issue check for work done. Need to track down student names and contacts and 3 grad student checks. $500-$3000 grants. Rolling deadline for 2022 conference grants. Same bank with a sub account for AMSJ.

F. Journal production cost going down $32,000 to $13,000 (2021-2022); printing about ½ the journals because membership is down from 800 to 300

**VI*. American Studies* Editors’ Report (Sherrie & Chris)-**

A. Announce Webinar on November 30, 1-2:30 pm Central time, with the four guest editors of the forthcoming special double issue, “Our Shared Planet” (60 3/4 2021).

B. Zoom party after webinar event.

C. Joined the Counsel of Editors of Learned journals perks $45/year membership; a number of awards, nominated the Arts in the Black Press Issue; took advantage of the discounts for the Times Literary Journals issue, Spring approval – pages on your phone effect not yet working, but now on hold until further; requests in subscription offerings and cost; hold off until the all platforms updates can be made; two editorial board nominees: television and media and environmental studies – CVs at the end of AMSJ report. Question about the editorial board membership. Person has to be a tenured faculty member - do we need to be tenured with fewer people going into tenure-track position? **Suggestions: rely on board members to read one manuscript per month; help to diversify the board and open it up to people working in community colleges, public scholars, activists. If tenure is eliminated, then what? Should they have previous journal editing or board experiences?**

<https://journals.ku.edu/amsj/about/editorialTeam>

Bid – Joint bid with KU and Minnesota.

**VII: Managing Editors and Assistant report (Elizabeth and Lydia)**

A. Subscriptions are down with institutional but not individual; royalties are about the same; discussion of price increases from previously, but access to journal article **$5.00 subscription article rate for something not available online yet. Libraries domestically and internationally.** Especially for people who don’t have access to institutions without subscriptions.

B. Currently averaging 2 to 4 submissions (per month?),

C. Pandemic effect and conference cutback has meant less submissions because more difficult for editors to connect. General trend in decreased submissions. Busier time for reviewers and people writing and submitting. Brian suggests something during the upcoming conference. Sherrie mentioned past editors’ panels and calls for papers and better use of social media via twitter, etc. to extend reach. Broadly framed calls for papers for non-special issues.

D. Suggestion from quarterly to three issues. Will cut on production costs, but not much impact on time for review process. Actually, much better turn around because submission rate is low.

E. Discussion about reviewers and tenure status.

Sherrie – Summer readers’ issues, book reviews; Two regular and one special; like more submissions but always have enough articles. Already have two articles ready for the next issue.

Chris – award; Aaron, Ashley and Chris will connect Blog and Media work around expanding readership and journal or other scholarly contributions, Media Assistant Position – two undergrads at KU doing well; request a temporary change to $18 per hour to compensate Ashley; Despite graduating in Dec 2021, work with her until May/June 2022? Blog and social media ads and design; expansive blog platform; in coming January and Feb 20th short blog essay in 2 years since revamp. Connecting the blog with special issues given excitement around upcoming environmental issue; Chris invited contributors to similar blog-themed short essays connecting to, but moving beyond the journal. Visual work around the new cover design; use the archives of AMSJ; share 2021 cover art; webinars, blog, AMSJ Youtube; looking at Times Literary Supplement; shared numbers in report.

Tom – budget question about calculating the recommendation for Ashley from $10.25 to $18.00 per hour, January to June 15, 2022.

Comment from Dominic: from personal experience in the undergrad (primarily first-year) classroom there’s a gap in resources between secondary/review-type curriculum and the “10,000 word journal article.” The blog seems like a great opportunity to generate scholarly dialogue with impact for undergraduate classrooms.

1. Old Business
2. *American Studies* Journal Bid

* Comments & discussion – David Brodnax – UMN questions about its fluctuating commitment; Dominic; opportunity to make a statement from MAASA about changing climate of higher ed,
* Identify questions, concerns, recommendations; Heidi opportunity to mend relationship
* Tom: fiscal year 2022-2025 correction; suggestion of a 5-year contract versus the current 3 years proposed? Working toward 5 years. Nothing in Constitution that says bid for 10 years; David: external review that happens every 5 years (two into the next bid they would be up for review); something that moves toward 6 year to match up with 3 year proposal.
* Brian: We could also stick to what we have and allow the review in year five before the year for new bid proposals. Get review a year in advance
* Margaret: Suggest for board to always ask for a five-year plan, but 3 year ok for now only once. Has to transition to something longer.
* Brian and Tom: Questions about budget increase $5,000 to $15,000. Questions about book Review editor. Who did this previously? Expense for a Senior book review editor. Carry over to the Blog. AMSJ – only faculty write book reviews, not grad students. Would go broke after a year. Production cost needs to come down by at least $10,000.
* Heidi: Pool of grant resources.
* Tom: Don’t forget the money we use to pay for conference travel for board members.
* Brian and Heidi: Conditional one-year approval of bid, with revision of year Two and Three to account for Book Review Editor and Associate Editor. Cannot afford the current year two or three. More equitable buy-in from both institutions. Have a few people available or on standby for next meeting. June 30, 2022 is when KU contract ends. How do they make it work with the personal they have? DD:
* Dominic: This is a “bottom up” solution — but capitalizing on Sherrie’s suggestion of canceling the summer book reviews/summer reading/“blog posts in print” edition. Does not lower the “output” of peer-reviewed articles and fully invests in the blog. Lower cost by ¼ if eliminate summer reading issue.

**ACTION# 1: We, MAASA’s executive board, accept the joint bid for the AMSJ submitted by the University of Kansas and University of Minnesota for the fiscal year 2023 under the condition that these submitters respond to MAASA’s recommendations by February 15, 2022? Heidi motion; Dominic second.**

**Yes:8 No: 0**

**ACTION #2: Proposed a temporary (1 semester) change of payment**

**method and amount for the Media Assistant position. Typically, MAASA pays for this 11-month position as a KU student hourly ($10.25/hr). Our current Media Assistant, Ashley Aranda, is graduating in December--a critical time for the journal vis-a-vis whatever happens after the bid. We propose a temporary upgrade of this position to an independent contractor ($18/hr) (5-10 hours a week) to make it possible for us to continue working with Ashley Aranda through June 15, 2022.**

**Yes 8, No 0**

**ACTION #3: We nominate two new members to our Editorial Board (CVs**

**attached): (names?)**

**ACTION # 4: Vote on revised criterion for editorial board membership. (see**

**Editor Report, f., pp. 2-3) (portion in bold type on p.3?)**

**Yes 8, No 0**

**ACTION #5: We propose adding a $5 single article PDF option until digital**

**subscriptions are active.**

**Yes 9, No 0**

**ACTION #6 (or discussion?)**

A. 2022 Conference Planning – COVID adjustments; One site via ZOOM or Split site option

B. Split Zoom sessions between the four MAASA PhD-granting institutions; UMN, KU, SLU, and UIowa.

C. Establish program committee (assist Dominic)

D. Dominic – Wordsmith/Work on Call for Papers to be sent in early next

semester

1. Announcements

**Adjourned at 2:57 pm**