

June 11, 2009

Dear Friends,

I'm writing to share with you the results of the recent Executive Board meeting in Arlington, Virginia. We had lively discussions throughout and have many tasks to complete before the annual meeting in Philadelphia. As always, the official list of the motions will be included in the September *Anthropology News*, but I wanted to share this with you early in the summer.

In the realm of finances, we:

- agreed all future reports and proposals to the EB must be accompanied by anticipated costs and revenues.
- agreed to freeze 2010 library prices for journals and AnthroSource to respond to the concerns of librarians.

In the area of membership, we:

- created a new category of membership for undergraduate students.
- are recommending the category of Associate Member be expanded.

Six Executive Board working groups were formed to:

- develop a proposal concerning reciprocal memberships between AAA and other associations.
- establish a succession plan for replacing the Executive Director when needed.
- recommend ways to update poster sessions in order to respond to current technology and enhance session format.
- work with Section Assembly to create a 1-day registration fee for the AAA Annual meeting.
- establish a timeline, product, consultative process and way to measure progress for long-range planning of the association.
- create and update descriptions of governance positions to more expansively and accurately reflect the responsibilities, tasks and time commitments expected with service.

In addition to the working groups concerning the annual meeting, we also:

- passed a motion allotting a set number of annual meeting fee waivers specifically to the Section Assembly to support international and community-based scholars scheduled to present at the annual meetings. The Section Assembly Executive Committee will be charged with equitably allocating the fee waivers requested by the Sections.
- confirmed our commitment to meeting locations that are both affordable for our members and offer active sustainability programs and policies.
- approved experimental procedure for a limited match travel subsidy for the editors of journals currently published on AnthroSource.

Members interested in running for office should note:

- potential candidates will be asked to write a statement addressing their qualifications for each of the positions in which they chose to run.
- candidates will no longer be allowed to indicate "use me anywhere," and instead be asked only to indicate each position that they are interested in.

We also addressed procedural matters:

- clarified the process and timeline through which advocacy and policy statements are reviewed and distributed.
- recommended that the Request for Changes to Specifications process for journals be extended for the 2011 and 2012 fiscal years.
- revised the "Protocol Governing the Creation and Maintenance of AAA Interest Groups"
- renamed the Committee on Scientific Communications (CSC) to Anthropological Communication Committee (ACC).

The following items were also acted upon:

- acceptance of the 2008 audit and the 990 form.
- reauthorization of the Finance Committee and Resource Development Committee.
- renewals of the Postsocialist Cultural Studies Group and Melanesian Interest Group.
- creation of the NGO/Non-Profit Interest Group and the Music & Sound Interest Group.
- 2009 award recipients.
- receipt of annual reports of AAA committees, commissions, journals and sections

Thank you for taking the time to read this report—it means that you care about your association and discipline. I hope that you are pleased with all that we have accomplished. Most of these issues were taken up because an individual, a section, and/or a committee/commission suggested that the AAA could be doing things better and with more creativity and flexibility. I personally want you to know that your involvement makes a difference and that the Executive Board is not some separate governance body, but elected by you to represent your concerns. To be sure that we take actions that you support and are interested in, we need to hear from you.

Best wishes,

Setha Low
AAA President