American Folklore Society, Executive Board Minutes
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p. 1

President Peggy Bulger called the annual meeting of the Executive Board to order on October 18, 2001 at 8:35 a.m. in the Prudhoe Bay Room of the Anchorage Hilton Hotel in Anchorage, Alaska. Members present: Betty Belanus, Peggy Bulger, Burt Feintuch, Rosan Jordan, Diana N’Diaye, Elliott Oring, and Jack Santino. Members absent: Simon Bronner, Norma Cantú, Judy McCulloh, and Margaret Mills. Executive Director Timothy Lloyd was also present. As per the Executive Board directive of October 17, 1991, this meeting was recorded on audiotape.

Peggy Bulger called for review and approval of the minutes of the April 2001 meeting. Burt Feintuch noted that contrary to the draft minutes, he and Simon Bronner did not consult with the AFS Fellows regarding the AFS Lifetime Scholarly Achievement Award. Rosan Jordan moved to approve the minutes of the April 2001 meetings as amended. Burt Feintuch seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Timothy Lloyd presented the award recommendations of the Botkin and Hurston Prize committees. Burt Feintuch moved that Hal Cannon of the Western Folklife Center be awarded the AFS’s 2001 Benjamin A. Botkin Prize for exemplary work in public folklore. Diana N’Diaye seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Jack Santino moved that Amy McKibbin of Florida State University be awarded the AFS’s 2001 Zora Neale Hurston Prize for the best student work in African American folklore. Burt Feintuch seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Judy McCulloh entered the meeting at this point.

Timothy Lloyd then made the Executive Director’s report. He mentioned membership matters and the Society’s proposal for a contract with the Annie E. Casey Foundation. He had hoped to bring a proposal to hold the 2005 annual meeting site in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, or Cincinnati, Ohio, but hotel information is not yet in place, and Board members expressed a relative lack of interest in either location, and problems with local politics and race relations in Cincinnati. He will continue to research possible sites and will report back at the April 2002 meeting.

Peggy Bulger then made the President’s report. She reviewed the Society’s accomplishments over the past year, and mentioned several sessions of note that will be part of the Anchorage annual meeting. She also announced to the Board that she had re-appointed Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett of New York University to serve as the Society’s delegate to the American Council of Learned Societies, and Jerrilyn McGregory of Florida State University to chair the Society’s Task Force on Cultural Diversity. She also mentioned the Society’s official reaction to the events of September 11, and indicated that the victims of that day’s terrorist acts would be remembered at the annual business meeting in two days.
Then Glenn Hinson of the University of North Carolina, co-chair of the 2001 annual meeting program committee, joined the meeting to make a presentation from the committee. Robert Baron and Hanna Griff of the New York State Council on the Arts, two of the four co-chairs of the 2002 annual meeting program committee, also joined the meeting at this time.

Electronic access to the committee, even more fully implemented for this year’s meeting, both helped and hindered the committee’s work. (About 85% of all proposals were submitted online.) Proposal materials could be distributed and manipulated more easily, but the volume of committee work also increased, in part as a result of receiving more than 800 e-mails from members regarding their proposals and meeting participation. This easy e-access appeared to make proposers think all deadlines were infinitely flexible. Many simply ignored the stated deadlines, and were requesting significant changes in their scheduling or abstracts up to the day before the meeting.

Hinson recommended that future program committees state clearly and repeatedly that deadlines were firm, and that they enforce those deadlines strictly. He also cited difficulties with the AAA production process for the annual meeting program book, which made that part of his committee’s work much more complicated.

The Board thanked Hinson and his entire committee for their excellent work on this year’s meeting, especially in the light of the difficulties he had described.

Baron and Griff then summarized their plans for the 2002 annual meeting in Rochester, New York. The theme for the meeting is presently articulated as “Image, Object, and Document,” which will take advantage of the importance of documentation to the work of our field, and of the corporations (Bausch and Lomb, Eastman Kodak, Xerox) headquartered in Rochester. A New York State Council on the Arts—New York Folklore Society partnership will coordinate program committee and local arrangements work.

Discussion followed concerning several matters of annual meeting content, format, and process, without any official Board action.

The meeting paused briefly from 10:55 to 11:05 am.

When the meeting resumed, Journal of American Folklore editor Elaine Lawless and two editorial assistants (Jackie McGrath and David Todd Lawrence) of the University of Missouri joined the meeting and gave the Board an update on the activities of their office, including the contents and themes of upcoming issues, new review editor appointments, relations with AAA editorial and production staff, and electronic publishing developments elated to the Journal.
Discussion followed concerning several matters of Journal content, format, and process, without any official Board action. The Board thanked Lawless, McGrath, and Lawrence for their dedicated work on the Journal.

AFS Electronic Publications Subcommittee Chair Moira Smith of Indiana University then joined the meeting to discuss the drafts submitted to the Board of separate RFPs for an editor and designers for the AFSNet web site. Elliott Oring moved that the Board authorize Moira Smith to solicit and evaluate proposals for an editor and designers for the AFSNet web site. Peggy Bulger seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Peggy Bulger then notified the Board that plenary speaker Kay Kaufman Shelemay of Harvard University (and President of the Society for Ethnomusicology) would not be able to attend the meeting because of travel concerns related to 9/11. Shelemay had sent a videotape of her presentation that she had just made, and we are going to show the video at the same time and place as her presentation would have occurred.

The meeting closed for the day at 12:32 pm.

The meeting resumed in the Prudhoe Bay Room of the Anchorage Hilton Hotel in Anchorage, Alaska, at 8:43 am on Sunday, October 21, 2001. Members present: Peggy Bulger, Norma Cantú, Burt Feintuch, Rosan Jordan, Judy McCulloh, Diana N’Diaye, Elliott Oring, and Jack Santino. Members absent: Betty Belanus, Simon Bronner, and Margaret Mills. Executive Director Timothy Lloyd was also present.

Norma Cantú and Diana N’Diaye (who is also the outgoing chair of the AFS Task Force on Cultural Diversity) then presented a proposal from the Task Force that the Board create a new Society prize in the name of Américo Paredes recognizing exemplary work in Chicano/a and Latino/a folklore. Discussion of this prize focused on the appropriateness of recognizing Paredes’s work and contributions to the field, and of encouraging participation in the Society by scholars of these cultures; as well as some Board members’ concern about a proliferation of culturally specific Society prizes that more appropriately ought to be offered by interest group sections representing those scholars and cultures.

Norma Cantú moved that the Board approve the offering of a prize in Américo Paredes’s name, but that the purpose of the prize be articulated at some higher level than exemplary work in Chicano/a and Latino/a folklore. Diana N’Diaye seconded the motion, but there were four votes for the motion, and four against it; it did not pass.

Discussion followed concerning the criteria for establishing new AFS prizes. There was a general consensus that they be created and offered by the Society as a whole, prizes ought to be given for excellence in achieving one or more of the Society’s core values. The Board instructed
the Executive Director to look into this matter and to bring recommendations to the Board’s next meeting.

Timothy Lloyd then reviewed the draft he had distributed to the Board of a new AFS—AAA management agreement. Discussion focused on AAA’s past performance, especially in the areas of membership services and editorial and production work on AFS publications, and whether the proposed agreement would provide AFS with the authority it needs to review, evaluate, and require improvements in future AAA work. **Judy McCulloh moved that the proposed new AFS-AAA management agreement be approved as presented, and that the annual review of AAA performance it sets forth be earnestly undertaken by AFS. Norma Cantú seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Led by Burt Feintuch and Elliott Oring, the Board then again took up its ongoing discussion of academic issues affecting the field of folklore, focusing on setting goals, priorities, and targeted audiences to move the process ahead and to guide future action. After discussion the Board determined that its highest priority was to engage actively with scholars and practitioners in related fields.

**Elliott Oring moved that a) before the next Board meeting the Executive Director circulate to the Board a list of activities (taken from the past work of the AFS Task Force on Academic Issues) the Society might undertake to engage actively with scholars and practitioners in other fields, that b) Board members then rank those activities and return those rankings promptly to the Executive Director, and that c) the Executive Director come to the next Board meeting with proposals for carrying out highest-ranked activities. Norma Cantú seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Timothy Lloyd then led a brief discussion of the draft of a member survey questionnaire he had distributed to the Board before the meeting. The survey will be administered in December 2001 and January 2002, and he will give a first report of responses to the Board at its next meeting.

Timothy Lloyd then led a brief discussion of the draft of basic information about an AFS endowment campaign he had distributed to the Board before the meeting. **Burt Feintuch moved that the Board accept this document. Norma Cantú seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** (Note: Elliott Oring was out of the room at the time of this action.)

The Executive Director will arrange for a fund-raising consultant to speak with the Board at its next meeting about the criteria by which organizations should assess their readiness for an endowment campaign, and about how such campaigns are carried out.
Under the heading of old business, **Diana N’Diaye moved that income from the FY 2002 Executive Board Leadership Fund be devoted to the costs of AFS fundraising activities. Peggy Bulger seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

The Board then discussed the idea, proposed occasionally in recent years, that it create a new category of membership, offered at a discount price, to people employed in adjunct or part-time positions. After discussion the Board decided to wait to review data from the upcoming member survey before taking an action on this matter.

The Board then discussed the idea of a Society position statement on university human subjects research policies and procedures, using as one guide a short paper prepared at the Executive Director’s request by folklorist Barre Toelken of Utah State University. The Executive Director will see whether the Oral History Association and the Society for Ethnomusicology are interested in collaborating with AFS on a joint statement, and will bring a draft of a joint or AFS-only statement to the next Board meeting.

There was general agreement about holding the Board’s next meeting in Columbus, Ohio, the home of the Executive Director’s office. He will circulate possible early spring 2002 dates in the next few weeks.

Outgoing President Peggy Bulger then thanked outgoing Board members Burt Feintuch, Rosan Jordan, and Diana N’Diaye for their service to the Society. The Board as a whole thanked Bulger for the same.

**Burt Feintuch moved that the meeting be adjourned. Norma Cantú seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Timothy Lloyd
Executive Director

Date