

American Folklore Society, Executive Board Minutes
New Series, no. 53
October 17 and 20, 2002
p. 1

President Jack Santino called the annual meeting of the Executive Board to order on October 17, 2002 at 8:40 a.m. in the Wilmorite Room of the Hyatt Regency Rochester, Rochester, New York. Members present: Betty Belanus, Simon Bronner, Peggy Bulger, Norma Cantú, Margaret Mills, Elliott Oring, Maida Owens, Betsy Peterson, Jack Santino, and Peggy Yocom. Members absent: Judy McCulloh. AFS Executive Director Timothy Lloyd was also present. As per the Executive Board directive of October 17, 1991, this meeting was recorded on audiotape.

Jack Santino called for review of the minutes from the Board's April 2002 meeting.
Margaret Mills moved to approve the minutes of the April 2002 Board meeting. Betty Belanus seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Tim Lloyd then discussed the background of and planning work for the 2003 annual meeting, to be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on October 8-12. Betsy Peterson, from the annual meeting committee, described the 2003 annual meeting theme, "Folk Culture and the Public Domain."

Judy McCulloh entered the meeting in the midst of this discussion.

The meeting paused briefly from 8:55 to 9:04.

The meeting resumed with a review of the planning for the 2002 annual meeting, during which program committee co-chairs Robert Baron and Ellen McHale joined the Board. Issues discussed included computer-based presentations, annual meeting marketing, local community scholars' participation, and the generous funding for meeting activities provided by the New York State Council for the Arts and several other funders. The entire Board thanks Baron, McHale, and their committee for an excellent job. Simon Bronner concluded by mentioning that the original proposal from New York State folklorists was a model for such documents. Baron and McHale left the meeting at this point.

Jack Santino then made the President's report, beginning by citing the Society's beginning participation in the work of the World Intellectual Property Organization. He also spoke about fund-raising, noting that planned giving was the first priority but also giving the Executive Director the responsibility for exploring individual donor possibilities for support of minority graduate student fellowships.

American Folklore Society, Executive Board Minutes
New Series, no. 53
October 17 and 20, 2002
p. 2

Elliott Oring cautioned that while we always talk about money for students, there already is money for students, and that we should focus on things not being done that only AFS can do. What do we want to do in the world as the pre-eminent organization in the field? What do we do to make this a more successful organization?

Simon Bronner suggested that we need a committee to help the Executive Director make strategic recommendations to the Board. Shouldn't we re-create the development committee [actually called a financial planning committee] we recently had? Betsy Peterson agreed, and said that that fund-raising needs to build our organizational capabilities and develop our members' understanding of "donorship," as well as raise funds—and that the key to that is re-building our development committee.

The meeting paused briefly from 10:18 to 10:37 am.

In a brief departure from the agenda, Judy McCulloh mentioned the recent titles in the ABC-CLIO series endorsed by the Society. Margaret Mills announced a new South Asian encyclopedia, and that Routledge, which has taken over Garland Publishing, wants to do more folklore projects.

Returning to the agenda, **Margaret Mills moved that the Society convene a development committee, peopled by members of the previous financial planning committee, to review strategies and materials for Society fund-raising activities. Simon Bronner seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Tim Lloyd then made the Executive Director's report, summarizing work underway on the transition from AAA management to AFS self-management, the redesign of the AFS web site, and the contract with the American Folklife Center's Veterans History Project.

On the matter of the first draft of a planned giving statement, the Board asked the Executive Director to work with consultants and the just-convened development committee to bring strategies and materials forward for review by the Board at its next meeting. Board members are to give individual editorial comments on the present first draft to the Executive Director.

The Board then left the agenda briefly to discuss Nominating Committee issues. A Board member will need to be named next year to replace Simon Bronner as the Board's representative on this committee. Bronner raised several issues relating to the candidates' forum. The Board was of a number of opinions about the utility of this

American Folklore Society, Executive Board Minutes
New Series, no. 53
October 17 and 20, 2002
p. 3

event, wanting to ensure that candidates' positions became widely known among the membership, but unsure as to whether this public forum could be redesigned to provide that knowledge. The Bylaws require that a candidates' forum be held at the annual meeting, but do not specify anything about its format or scheduling.

Journal of American Folklore editor Elaine Lawless then entered the meeting, accompanied by *JAF* associate editor Todd Lawrence, managing editor LuAnne Roth, and intern Lisa Rathje Taylor. She reported that new working relationships with the journals division staff at the University of Illinois Press were very positive. Online reviews a plus. She announced that the *JAF* staff would be issuing calls for contributions to four special issues. Lawless also recommended that all *JAF* online reviews should be available outside the members-only wall, and requested Board action on this matter. The Board asked the Executive Director to get background information on this matter from the University of Illinois Press journals division staff. She then concluded by summarizing the considerable support the University of Missouri is providing for the *Journal's* editorial operations.

Simon Bronner left the meeting at this point.

There was some further general discussion of online reviews accessibility issue, asking the question: where is the critical point of balance/imbalance between accessibility to information and financial considerations?

The meeting was suspended at 12:24 pm, to be resumed on Sunday, October 20, at 8:30 am. Lawless, Lawrence, Roth, and Taylor left the meeting at this point.

The meeting resumed on Sunday, October 20, 2002, in the Wilmore Room of the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Rochester, NY, at 8:41 am. Members present: Betty Belanus, Simon Bronner, Peggy Bulger, Norma Cantú, Judy McCulloh, Margaret Mills, Elliott Oring, Maida Owens, Betsy Peterson, Jack Santino, and Peggy Yocom. AFS Executive Director Timothy Lloyd was also present. Also present were Burt Feintuch, Dorry Noyes, and Sandy Rikoon.

The Board and these visitors discussed AFS's participation in World Intellectual Property Organization activities. Peggy Bulger summarized background and history of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee (IGC) on Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge, and Folklore. Sandy Rikoon attended in December 2001, State Department asked the American Folklife Center to join the US delegation in June 2002. Official delegation members have very restricted roles; non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as

American Folklore Society, Executive Board Minutes
New Series, no. 53
October 17 and 20, 2002
p. 4

AFS have significantly more opportunity to speak their minds independently. AFS should be involved—and lead other organizations with similar interests into the room. Position statements—few, clear, succinct—are needed.

Sandy Rikoon responded that position statements are very important and very much needed, but AFS can be active in other ways—primarily in advocacy, with the US delegation, other NGOs, and especially with networks and associations of grassroots and community groups.

Tim Lloyd mentioned that AFS has now been accepted as an NGO member of the committee. Betty Belanus reminded the Board that the Smithsonian has been involved in parallel sorts of discussions with UNESCO, and recommended that AFS consult with James Early, Peter Seitel of the Smithsonian. Dorry Noyes noted that SIEF (the Société internationale d'ethnologie et de folklore) is an NGO too, and we should contact them. Sandy Rikoon noted that AFS should build relationships with the WIPO Secretariat and work to bring other voices into the room, including smaller groups within developed and developing nations. The WIPO is considering establishing a fund to support travel to and participation in IGC meetings.

The time frame for the committee's work is limited, but no realistic end date is in sight as the committee's issues increase and become more complex. Burt Feintuch asked whether AFS should build a network or develop a conference of the network we want to build. Dorry Noyes asked that any AFS statements regarding these issues be circulated to indigenous and non-indigenous groups. Elliott Oring recommended that Bill Ivey also be brought into this process of review.

The meeting paused briefly at 9:15 am and reconvened at 9:42 am.

Betsy Peterson summarized the graduate students' section meeting. Attendance was small and discussion unfocused; perhaps in the future this session should be scheduled toward the beginning of the meeting.

Maida Owens summarized the graduate student roundtable on teaching undergraduate courses. There is a need for good, up-to-date textbook, to be sure, but discussion also focused on needs for syllabi and techniques. Perhaps AFS could use its web site for materials and discussions in this way. Judy McCulloh recalled the AFS 1980s publication *Teaching Folklore*; could it be reprinted or recreated? Margaret Mills cited several examples of this being considered or in use at Ohio State University. The Board asked the Executive Director to investigate this and report back at the next meeting.

**American Folklore Society, Executive Board Minutes
New Series, no. 53
October 17 and 20, 2002
p. 5**

Under the heading of old business, the AFS Committee on International Issues will be requesting \$1,000 in speaker support for the 2003 annual meeting, and wants Board approval to carry over unspent funds into future fiscal years. Margaret Mills proposed that we think about 2004 for this, given the time required for visa processes, and the like. Norma Cantú suggested that the committee would be in accord with this.

Norma Cantú moved that the Board commit to sponsor an international plenary speaker at the 2004 annual meeting in an amount up to \$1,000. Peggy Bulger seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Margaret Mills moved that the Board adopt the policy of providing financial support for an international speaker every five years, based on proposals from the Committee on International Issues. Norma Cantú seconded the motion. After discussion, Margaret Mills withdrew her motion and Norma Cantú her second.

Following a suggestion from Timothy Lloyd, **Simon Bronner moved that Board Leadership fund contributions for 2003 be devoted to fund-raising costs. Margaret Mills seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Judy McCulloh briefly described the implementing of our agreements with ABC-CLIO.

Under the heading of new business, Tim Lloyd mentioned that the AFS Public Programs Section should be commended for agreeing to continue to make a \$2,000 contribution toward 2003 annual meeting stipends for community scholars, as well as a \$2,500 contribution toward the support of graduate student participation in the meeting.

Tim Lloyd mentioned the recent controversy over issues surrounding the management of the National Endowment for the Arts. The AFS may be called upon to take a leadership role in advocacy work. **Margaret Mills moved that the Board approve AFS's signing a letter to critical US legislators concerning these issues. Elliott Oring seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Tim Lloyd mentioned upcoming lapsed member renewal efforts, which will involve Board members' assistance.

The Board then discussed the request from the membership that the Board craft and approve a position statement opposing the likely coming war against Iraq. Board

American Folklore Society, Executive Board Minutes
New Series, no. 53
October 17 and 20, 2002
p. 6

members discussed whether the proposed statement is really connected to folklorists' expertise and AFS's core values or is simply an anti-war statement, and whether the Board has authority over sections' public statements and actions. Other ACLS societies have made or are considering such statements.

Simon Bronner and Maida Owens left the meeting at this point.

Margaret Mills noted that one of the purposes of our greater involvement in international forums is to advocate and work to ensure a sort of cultural "due process" for traditional peoples, communities, expressions. In general, she said, the US needs consultation rather than unilateral action, and the proposed war, to be undertaken without regional and trans-regional support, is possibly the worst thing the US can do to solidify massive opposition across the Muslim world, from West Africa to the western Pacific.

Elliott Oring recommended that any AFS statement should more appropriately encourage that folklorists and others with cultural expertise should be incorporated into nation-building processes, rather than respond to the war itself. We should create a statement that folklorists could take/include in their own personal advocacy.

Board members also recommended that in any statement we think about conflict mitigation and conflict repair in a more global way than just this specific conflict.

Norma Cantú left the meeting at this point.

A small group of Board members—Peggy Yocom, Margaret Mills, Judy McCulloh, Peggy Bulger—will collaborate on crafting a statement for Board review and comment, and Tim Lloyd will provide other ACLS societies' statements.

Peggy Bulger moved to adjourn the meeting. Margaret Mills seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Lloyd
Executive Director

Date

American Folklore Society, Executive Board Minutes
New Series, no. 53
October 17 and 20, 2002
p. 7