President Michael Owen Jones called the annual meeting of the Executive Board to order on March 26, 2004, at 9:06 am in Room 320 of the Mershon Center on the Ohio State University campus in Columbus, Ohio. Members present: Carole Carpenter, John Dorst, Alan Jabbour, Michael Owen Jones, Dorry Noyes, Maida Owens, Betsy Peterson, Jack Santino, Peggy Yocom, and Steve Zeitlin. Members absent: William Wiggins, Jr. Executive Director Timothy Lloyd was also present. As per the Executive Board directive of October 17, 1991, this meeting was recorded on audiotape.

Michael Owen Jones called for review and approval of the minutes of the October 2003 meeting. **Betsy Peterson moved that the minutes be approved as presented.** Carol Carpenter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Michael Owen Jones then made the President’s report, mentioning three initiatives to which he is giving high priority: the video documentation of important sessions at the annual meeting, a campaign to gather and duplicate photo and video documentation of past AFS events and activities, and the creation of an AFS-funded program of student travel stipends for the annual meeting.

He also announced that the Society’s Lifetime Scholarly Achievement Award Committee (Lee Haring, chair; Frank de Caro, Elliott Oring) had recommended that this award be given to Linda Dégh of Indiana University.

**Maida Owens moved that the Board approve the recommendation that Linda Dégh receive the 2004 American Folklore Society Award for Lifetime Scholarly Achievement.** Alan Jabbour seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Jones concluded by asking members of the Board for recommendations for speakers for the 2004 Presidential Invited Address.

Alan Jabbour then reported on his representation of the Society at Humanities Advocacy Day in March 2004, sponsored by the National Humanities Alliance, citing several issues related to the arts and humanities endowments’ futures in the context of present budget difficulties in a very political year.

Tim Lloyd then presented the Executive Director’s report, focusing on Society finances, membership, subscriptions, and work toward the upcoming annual meeting in Salt Lake City.
The Board took a break from its deliberations at 10:15 am, and returned at 10:30 am.

The Board discussed of the Society’s annual meeting, focusing on the possibilities for joint meetings with other societies, sponsoring or co-sponsoring other meetings on more specific topics in addition to the annual meeting.

The Board then discussed the possibility of adding a new membership category for retired members. Many Society members are or will soon be entering into retirement, and we need to find ways of keeping them active and involved in the Society. At the same time, we need to remember that not all retired persons are in financial need of reduced membership rates, and that perhaps we want to focus of encouraging retired members to make gifts to the Society’s planned giving program. We also need to be mindful of the financial impact on the Society if a significant number of members were able to pay less for their memberships in the near future, and that the establishment of this reduced dues category might well encourage other groups—unemployed or under-employed folklorists, for example—to advocate additional reduced-dues membership categories. The establishment of such categories should be considered only in the context of a larger membership-development effort.

Maida Owens moved to table this matter until the Board is ready to begin the public phase of the planned giving program and has an approved strategy for membership development, but no later than the Board’s mid-year 2005 meeting. Alan Jabbour seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

John Dorst then made the Nominating Committee’s report, mentioning the committee’s considerations of balance and representation in assembling a slate on candidates each year. He also discussed possible improvements in the candidates’ forum held at the annual meeting.

The Board broke for lunch at 12:08 pm and resumed its work at 1:00 pm.

The Board then held a telephone conference on the future of humanities journals publishing with Ann Lowry, Head, Journals Division, and Clydette Wantland, Journals Production and Advertising Manager, University of Illinois Press, Champaign, Illinois.

This discussion focused on the possibilities and pitfalls of electronic publishing in the humanities. Publication expectations are different in the sciences, where online publishing has become the norm. There are definite additional costs and the distinct potential for decreased revenue with online publishing—a troublesome combination.
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The format integrity of special-topic issues is lost in online presentations, which focus just on separate articles. Print journals contain abstracts of complex multi-media articles, with references to the more complex online presentation—so then which becomes the journal of record? Serials pricing difficulties continue, especially with the incredible recent increases in the cost of scientific and medical journals. There have been some decreases in institutional humanities journal subscriptions, but so far they have not been precipitous for the humanities journals published by the University of Illinois Press.

The Board then discussed the selection of the next editor of the Journal of American Folklore, and at the Board’s request the recording of the meeting was stopped for this discussion at 2:10 pm.

**Betsy Peterson moved that future agreements with JAF editors include the provision of a mid-term review and require that an Executive Board member serve on the JAF editorial board. Carole Carpenter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**Betsy Peterson moved that the Board appoint Harris Berger and Giovanna del Negro, both of Texas A&M University, to be the co-editors of the Journal of American Folklore from late 2005 to late 2010. Carole Carpenter seconded the motion, which passed, nine votes for and one abstention.**

The Board took a break from its deliberations at 3:10 pm, and resumed its work at 3:40 pm, at which time the recorder was turned back on.

The Board then discussed the draft statement on AFS policy-making and position-taking process that the Executive Director had prepared. After discussion, the Board instructed the Executive Director to prepare a revised version of this statement and to circulate it to the Board before sending it on to the AFS Politics, Folklore, and Social Justice Section and the AFS Cultural Diversity Task Force, which made the original request for this statement to the Board, and then to distribute a final document to the membership.

The Board concluded its deliberations for the day at 4:49 pm.

The Board resumed its meeting at 9:10 am on Saturday, March 27, 2004, in the same location and with the same members and staff present and absent as on the previous day.
The Board first met in executive session to discuss the Executive Director’s performance and compensation. During this time the recorder was turned off.

The Board took a break from its work at 9:50 am, and returned 10:03 am, at which time the recorder was turned back on.

The Board then discussed the Society’s work with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). There is a lack of consensus in our field about the principles, definitions, and policies that these organizations are working to establish and codify, and the politics of relations among member states, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and indigenous communities in this process is quite complex. The sense of the Board was that the Society could best serve its constituencies by continuing to participate and inform, seeking by these activities to better inform these processes, rather than to focus on the posting of determined positions. Along these lines, the Society will continue to post materials relevant to these processes on its web site, and may work toward facilitating an international meeting of cultural specialists on folklore and intellectual property issues.

Dorothy Noyes made a presentation on the work and priorities of the Society’s Committee on International Issues, which she chairs. Getting long-term international participation in the Society is always a challenge, and the committee is constantly seeking—possible forms of financial support to encourage international membership and participation. They would like to undertake an assessment of the international state of the field, and for the upcoming annual meeting the committee is sponsoring a forum for international graduate students studying both at home and in the US. Executive Director Tim Lloyd will also be speaking to the Board of the Société internationale d’ethnologie et de folklore (SIEF) when he attends that organization’s meeting in Marseille in April 2004.

The Board took a break from its work at 10:55 am, and resumed its work at 11:05 am.

The Board then discussed a number of academic issues, first among them the revision of the Society’s tenure and promotion statement, originally crafted in 1981. President Michael Owen Jones summarized the history of this statement and of recent committee (Jones, Peggy Yocom, John Dorst, Carole Carpenter, and Elliott Oring) work to revise it. Could AFS provide people to serve as reviewers—or establish a committee within AFS to provide advice and counsel (as well as reviewer suggestions, carefully customized for
each case) for tenure and promotion candidates and those reviewing them? Our statement should be seen not as special pleading or public relations for the field, but should provide good information to tenure and promotion committees to make decisions or recommendations.

Executive Director Tim Lloyd then reported on his work with the US Department of Health and Human Services to approve a statement exempting most folklore research from standard institutional review board requirements. He hopes to have some definite word on this project by the time of the Board’s next meeting with academic program chairs in October 2004.

The Board then discussed this October 2004 meeting with academic programs. The focus of the meeting will be on the discussion of responses to the Society’s survey of academic programs in the US and Canada, the questions for which will be distributed to academic programs at the beginning of April 2004—especially on programs’ most critical issues and their suggestions of the ways the Society can help them with those issues. This surveying will be repeated every 3–4 years, and this initial set of responses will serve as a baseline against which to measure future data.

In the October 2004 meeting we hope to focus on strategies for making academic programs stronger, for communicating and working together well as a field, and to move toward possible future meetings on larger issues: What do these programs consider the core curriculum taught at their institutions? Is there or should there be a core curriculum for our field? How can institutions work in a coordinated way to improve the field?

The Board broke for lunch at 12:10 pm, and returned at 1:10 pm.

President Michael Owen Jones announced that Maida Owens would serve as the chair of the Membership Committee for 2004. Owens summarized her priorities for the next year, focused on setting priorities and strategies for the committee’s future work.

The Board then discussed the Society’s proposed activities and budget for FY 2005, which begins on September 1, 2004. Executive Director Tim Lloyd presented the proposed budget, budget notes, and analysis that he had prepared and distributed to the Board before the meeting.

John Dorst moved that the institutional subscription rate to the Journal of American Folklore be increased from $85 to $90 beginning with subscriptions
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To Volume 118 in 2005. Dorothy Noyes seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Carole Carpenter moved that the JAF editorial office operations line be increased from $3,500 to $5,000 in the FY 2005 budget. Alan Jabbour seconded the motion. After discussion, both Carpenter and Jabbour agreed to withdraw the motion.

Jack Santino moved to accept the FY 2005 budget proposal as presented. Carole Carpenter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Board broke from its work at 2:20 pm, and returned at 2:30 pm.

Under the heading of old business, the Board discussed a number of potential improvements in the Society’s annual meeting, including the possibilities for poster sessions and the design of the annual meeting program book.

Under the heading of new business, the Board first discussed moving the location of its mid-year meeting from time to time, in line with other Society priorities or strategies (to academic programs, future annual meeting sites, and/or the JAF editorial location.

Steve Zeitlin suggested that the Board “deputize” particular Board members to meet with nearby representatives of other fields to explore synergies between fields. Mike Jones agreed that Board members should consider this and select their responsibilities, and that he would make this a regular element of Board members’ responsibilities.

Betsy Peterson moved that the meeting be adjourned. John Dorst seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

____________________________________  __________________________
Timothy Lloyd                           Date
Executive Director