President Michael Owen Jones called the annual meeting of the American Folklore Society Executive Board to order at 8:40 am on Wednesday, October 13, 2004, in the Cheyenne Room of the Little America Hotel and Towers in Salt Lake City, Utah. Members present: Carole Carpenter, John Dorst, Alan Jabbour, Michael Owen Jones, Dorothy Noyes, Maida Owens, Elizabeth Peterson, Jack Santino, Margaret Yocom, and Steve Zeitlin. Members absent: William H. Wiggins., Jr. Executive Director Timothy Lloyd was also present.

Michael Owen Jones called for review of the draft minutes from the Board’s March 2004 meeting. Board members noted two small typographical errors on page 5 and 8. John Dorst moved that the Board approve the minutes of the March 2004 meeting with those typographical errors corrected. Carole Carpenter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Michael Owen Jones then made the President’s report, noting that with the present annual meeting AFS will begin the video documentation of important annual meeting sessions. There is also a need for members to submit their own documentary materials from past annual meetings and other activities to the AFS archives. We will e-mail members to request that they do so. This is also the first meeting for which AFS is offering travel stipends (presently of $300 each) to graduate students.

Timothy Lloyd then made the Executive Director’s report. He focused on the new budget proposal he had prepared for FY 2005, based on lower revenue projections for Journal of American Folklore subscriptions than had originally been anticipated. Jack Santino moved that the revised budget for FY 2005 be approved. Betsy Peterson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Betsy Peterson then announced that the recommended recipient of this year’s Botkin Prize is Jens Lund of Olympia, Washington. Timothy Lloyd announced that the recommended recipient of the Hurston Prize is Quan Lateef of Howard University. John Dorst announced that the recommended recipients of the Paredes Prize are Kurt Dewhurst and Marsha MacDowell of Michigan State University. Alan Jabbour moved that Jens Lund receive the 2005 Benjamin A. Botkin Prize, that Quan Lateef receive the 2005 Zora Neale Hurston Prize, and that Kurt Dewhurst and Marsha MacDowell jointly receive the 2005 Américo Paredes Prize. Steve Zeitlin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
The Board then spent some time discussing effective ways of promoting the Society’s prizes more effectively.

The editors-designate of the *Journal of American Folklore*, Harris Berger and Giovanna DelNegro of Texas A&M University, then entered the meeting and made a brief presentation to the Board on their vision for the editorship. They want to emphasize work that shows folklore grounded in “a populist aesthetic,” as well as work that positions that aesthetic as central to folklore study and critical to others; genre, theory, cultures, performance; Africa, Asia, Pacific, the Muslim world, and diasporic communities; material culture, foodways, and dance; and several special topics: intellectual property rights, gender, education, social justice, and public practice.

They mentioned to the Board that they were considering proposing that the cover color of the *Journal* be changed every year, and that the present $3,500 annual budget provided by the Board for editorial office operations be increased.

Berger and Del Negro left the meeting at this point, and the Board spent time discussing the costs and benefits of promotion, travel, etc., for the *Journal*. Is this a time for AFS to make strategic investments into the Journal?

The meeting was paused briefly at 10:45 am and was resumed at 11:05 am.

Past President Jack Santino then made a request to the Board for the financial subvention of a book on folk memorials he is editing. The acknowledged that Issue of subventions in general and of this title in particular. After his request, he, along with volume contributors Maida Owens, Peggy Yocom, and Steve Zeitlin left the room. Discussion among the remaining Board members resulted in a decision to decline this proposal for two reasons: 1) AFS should not consider ad hoc requests for subventions of single titles in the absence of an organized system for reviewing and funding such titles, such as the PAFS series the Society ended some years ago, and 2) AFS’s financial position does not allow for this additional expense. This decision, however, was not be seen as a reflection on the quality of the work or of its contributors’ efforts.

Jack Santino, Maida Owens, Peggy Yocom, and Steve Zeitlin returned to the meeting at this point.

The Board then discussed its biannual meeting, scheduled for later that day, with the chairs of academic folklore centers, departments, and programs in the US and Canada.
Steve Zeitlin then raised some concerns about the AFS policymaking process. Timothy Lloyd explained the Board’s e-voting process and the new Policy Forum bulletin board. After discussion it was agreed that Lloyd will revise the Board’s policymaking statement to make it more explicit that the Board will take members’ Policy Forum responses into consideration when making decisions.

The Board then returned to the discussion of AFS prizes. Michael Owen Jones recommended that rather than offering prizes less frequently, we should focus on more effective promotion of the prizes we have. The Board has an important role in the process of soliciting nominations for all AFS prizes. The Board recommended that all nominations be carried forward for at least three years, that prizes not be offered if nominations do not warrant them, and that at least one prize committee member be carried over from one year to the next.

The meeting was paused at 12:38 pm, to resume on Sunday, October 17, at 8:30 am.

The meeting resumed on Sunday, October 17, 2004, at 8:38 am in the Cheyenne Room of the Little America Hotel and Towers in Salt Lake City, Utah. Board members present: John Dorst, Alan Jabbour, Michael Owen Jones, Dorry Noyes, Maida Owens, Betsy Peterson, Jack Santino, Peggy Yocom, and Steve Zeitlin. Board members absent: Carole Carpenter, William H. Wiggins Jr. AFS Executive Director Timothy Lloyd was also present, as were Ethnographic Thesaurus (ET) project consultants David Batty, Kristin Rainey, Jill Johnson, and Camilla Mortensen, and ET project board co-chairs Catherine Kerst and Michael Taft.

The ET project team made a presentation on this project, now being funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Taft and Kerst summarized the pre-history and history of the project, and project lexicographer Batty described the plan of work for the project, now being carried out by the team. After their presentation, Batty, Rainey, Johnson, Mortensen, Kerst, and Taft left the meeting.

Michael Owen Jones then presented gifts to departing Board members Maida Owens, Betsy Peterson, Jack Santino, and Peggy Yocom, whose terms will end at the end of calendar year 2004.

Membership committee chair Maida Owens then delivered a report on this committee’s recent activities. Graduate students and retired, or soon-to-be-retired, folklorists remain our targeted groups. Mentoring activities may be a way to keep retired members involved and engaged, and also to provide added value for student and young
professional members. Effective strategies for attracting lone folklorists in all professional settings remain unclear.

Executive Director Timothy Lloyd then summarized the meetings of the AFS Graduate Students’ and Independent Folklorist’s sections, which he had just attended. Professional development sessions at AFS’s 2005 annual meeting in Atlanta will be targeted toward the needs and interests of these two groups.

Timothy Lloyd will prepare proposals for reduced annual meeting registration rates for new professionals and retired folklorists. These proposals must be completed and voted on by January 1, 2005, to be incorporated into the registration materials for next year’s annual meeting.

The Board then discussed several matters raised at the academic programs meeting on October 13. Timothy Lloyd and Dorry Noyes will pursue the question of whether and how to establish and operate a listserv for academic folklorists and programs, comparable in some ways to Publore. Such a listserv may need moderation or committee review and seeding of initial conversations and issues. Ultimately, this listserv could migrate to H-Net. Patricia Sawin of the University of North Carolina had mentioned that the UNC humanities center might fund a meeting of program heads to discuss curriculum development. In such a meeting it would be important to include not just established programs but also lone folklorists, undergraduate programs, and public folklorists.

Kristi Young of Brigham Young University, one of the co-chairs of the 2004 annual meeting committee, then joined the Board for a review of the annual meeting just completed. She summarized the division of labor among annual meeting committee members. Pluses of the meeting included the increased use of plenary sessions, the opening event for new people, the AFS Fellows’ reception for students, and section invited lecture sessions. Improvements are still needed in the planning and presentation of poster sessions.

The meeting was paused briefly at 10:40 am and was resumed at 10:56 am.

Teresa Hollingsworth of the Southern Arts Federation, co-chair of the 2005 annual meeting program committee, then joined the Board for a discussion of the 2005 annual meeting, set for October 19-23 in Atlanta. The potential theme for the meeting will be something along the lines of Equal Access and Social Action. We hope to use the meeting as an opportunity to build relationships with Atlanta-area Historically Black
Colleges and Universities. Pre-meeting tours will focus on Atlanta Civil Rights Movement history and North Georgia Pottery traditions. We also want to focus on drawing students from Atlanta-area institutions to the meeting. Hollingsworth left the meeting after her presentation.

Brad Cole, Steve Sturgeon, Randy Williams, all of the Special Collections and Manuscripts Division of the Utah State University Libraries—home to the official archival repository for AFS papers—then entered the meeting and discussed the AFS archives with the Board. Discussion centered on several topics: the increasing deposit of non-print materials, including audio and visual documentation of meetings, and the need to create “standards sheet” for submissions in this area; documenting the founding, activities (and decline) of academic folklore programs. The Fife Folklore Archive, rather than the AFS collection proper, might be a possibility for a repository for such materials.

The AFS collection, along with the entire Special Collections and Manuscripts Division, will move to a library facility on campus in October-November 2005, when the Merrill Library will be demolished. Timothy Lloyd raised the question of the confidentiality of editorial decision-making materials contained in the collection. It was agreed that rejected *Journal of American Folklore* manuscripts will not be submitted to the AFS archives. As with any such collection, there are missing pieces in the collection. Should there be an online listing of missing pieces? Timothy Lloyd will pursue this matter with the USU library staff. Cole, Sturgeon, and Williams left the meeting after this discussion.

Under the heading of old business, Timothy Lloyd reported that work on a revision of the Society’s promotion and tenure statement was proceeding more slowly than had been anticipated, but that a professional development session on the topic held at the just-completed annual meeting should provide useful information to the committee working on this project.

Under the heading of new business, the issue was raised of establishing a position for an official AFS historian: someone charged with posting historical materials on the AFS web site, collecting oral histories, soliciting historical materials from members, and the like. This might be an appropriate role for a retired folklorist.

Timothy Lloyd then described several related staffing and organizational sustainability issues. The work of managing AFS has grown to the point where additional staff help is necessary for the present level of work, to say nothing of a potentially increased future
work load. He will consider this matter further and will possibly make a proposal to a future meeting of the Board.

Peggy Yocom then described possible AFS relationships with the Association of Writers and Writing Programs. She and other interested folklorists will explore the possibilities with the AWWP.

Peggy Yocom then brought forth a concern from the AFS Women’s Section about the relative lack of women in the Folklore Fellows, especially when compared to the number of women in the Society and the amount of excellent work being done by women. She requested that the Board continue to have conversations with the Fellows about the processes for the selection of future Fellows, to communicate with the membership about what the voting processes are, and to provide more information about the Fellows on the AFS web site. She will also pursue these matters with incoming Fellows President (and Board member) Alan Jabbour.

The Board then discussed the petition submitted by the membership at the previous evening’s annual business meeting asking AFS to establish a working group to gather information concerning the impact of the war on Iraq on tangible and intangible cultural heritage. Timothy Lloyd will work with the two AFS sections that initiated the petition, and with those who signed it, to determine a plan of action, and will post information on this matter on the Policy Forum section of the AFS web site.

Jack Santino moved that the meeting be adjourned. John Dorst seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Lloyd
Executive Director