President Michael Owen Jones called the annual meeting of the Executive Board to order on March 25, 2005, at 9:34 am in Room 320 of the Mershon Center on the Ohio State University campus in Columbus, Ohio. Members present: Carole Carpenter, John Dorst, Bill Ellis, AFS President-elect Bill Ivey, Alan Jabbour, AFS President Michael Owen Jones, Dorry Noyes, Sandy Rikoon, Elaine Thatcher and Steve Zeitlin Members absent: William Wiggins, Jr. Executive Director Timothy Lloyd and AFS office assistant Brent Björkman were also present. As per the Executive Board directive of October 17, 1991, this meeting was recorded on audiotape.

Michael Owen Jones introduced the board and called for review and approval of the minutes of the October 2004 meeting. Alan Jabbour moved that the minutes of the October 2004 meeting be approved. Carole Carpenter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Michael Owen Jones then made the President’s report, first sharing with the board observations he made on his recent trip to China. He went on to talk about his experience and informed the group that there are two projects going on now to translate American folklore research into Chinese including work by Dundes, Lord, Foley, and Bauman. Tim Lloyd informed the group that ACLS has been work with programs to improve relationship with China as well.

Lloyd introduced new office assistant Brent Björkman, who has been working on contract for AFS since January 1. Lloyd then reported on current AFS finances. The subscription revenue for Journal of American Folklore will be lower than projected, because the online availability of JAF to institutions via Project MUSE continued to decrease demand for institutional hard-copy subscriptions. On the other hand, the royalty stream from JSTOR and Project MUSE will exceed our projections by about $8,000. He then explained that this increase offsets the decrease in journal revenue. We do not know whether this will plateau or continue on a downward trend.

In speaking about investments, Lloyd noted that AFS has an increase in this area of $30,000 and our recent audit does show is increase in net assets and that we are maintaining the society’s financial strength. The last part of finances, the planned giving program, reflects that we have about a $250,000 in pledges. We are soon approaching the end of the “quiet phase” and will be ready to go public with the campaign at, or shortly after, the beginning of 2006.

Regarding the benefits of membership, Lloyd spoke about that with an additional fifteen dollars a member can gain access to JSTOR. In addition, we just began an arrangement for 20% off of Smithsonian Folkways Recordings products as an additional member benefit.
Lloyd introduced the theme for the 2005 annual meeting in Atlanta (“Folklore, Equal Access, and Social Action”), listed the AFS members involved in the Atlanta 2005 program committee, and listed the likely plenary session speakers. This year the closing event will not include a dinner but instead will feature a Saturday evening concert featuring National Heritage winners to be followed by a dance party. Lloyd also relayed the plans for future meeting sites that include Milwaukee in 2006 and Quebec in 2007. Far future sites AFS is now working on for 2008 and 2009 include Reno and New Orleans.

Lloyd next spoke about special projects that include his meeting next week with the staff of the Ethnographic Thesaurus Project.

The Executive Director’s employment agreement expires at the end of 2005, and the Board will need to designate a committee of its members to work with the Director on drafting a new agreement for Board discussion and approval in October 2005. Lloyd also informed the Board that at the end of this fiscal year, Barbara Lloyd will return to fulltime work with Center for Folklore Studies, and presented a plan calling for the creation of a second full-time position to take over the duties previously performed by Barbara Lloyd, as well as several other responsibilities.

The meeting paused briefly at 11:07 am, and resumed at 11:22 am.

John Dorst then reported on the Nominating Committee. The committee for this year will be beginning the nominating process soon via telephone. A question concerning the organization of the candidate’s forum: should we keep to the current system? Comments by Elaine and others were positive. Bill Ellis asked a logistics issue – It would have been good to have had a bank of microphones for the candidates. There was unanimous agreement on these issues. Zeitlin commented that we have failed at having minority people on the board and Dorst agreed. Dorst brought up this up as a central balance issue; he would like suggestions on how we might become more inclusive.

Lloyd then presented the topic of petitions from new AFS sections, one for Folklore and Creative Writing Section, and the other for an Eastern Asia Folklife Section. Bill Ellis asked whether there is an attempt to check with existing sections about the new applicants. He felt strongly that this needs to be something that we consider so we don’t fragment the energies of our membership. Several members liked the idea of notifying existing sections of new section applications. Jones stated he believes the board should table this issue until we get more information. Bill Ivey then moved that the Board approve the creation of the Folklore and Creative Writing Section and
the Eastern Asia Folklife Section. Dorry Noyes seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The meeting paused for lunch at 12:07 pm and resumed at 1:07 pm.

Timothy Lloyd presented his proposals for AFS membership development contained in the Executive Board Discussion Paper distributed to the Board before the meeting. Based on the 2002 member survey, Lloyd proposed a more comprehensive approach to strengthening the society’s finances and membership base.

Regarding the matter of strengthening student membership, the Board discussed issues that might inhibit students’ awareness of the benefits of membership in the Society, the need to provide an explicit description of these benefits, as well as efforts by board members to actively recruit students in the Society. Members pointed out the need for students to take an active role in the Society in addition to joining, and discussed ways in which the Society website might be utilized.

Next, Timothy Lloyd called members’ attention to his recommendations regarding changes in membership categories and dues. The Board discussed the issue of members retiring and leaving the society and the need to find ways to keep them engaged. Michael Owen Jones moved that the Board increase membership dues from $85 to $100, and international sponsored member dues from $42.50 to $50), beginning in 2006. Billy Ivey seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Carole Carpenter moved that the Board propose a change in the AFS Bylaws to the membership that would give the Board the authority to establish, modify, and eliminate the classes of membership, as well as the dues and privileges for each class of membership, in the Society. Elaine Thatcher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Michael Own Jones moved that, if the Bylaws change is approved by the membership, new membership categories for new professional and retired folklorists be established. John Dorst seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Elaine Thatcher raised the opinion that independent folklorists may have difficulty with the rate increase; discussion ensued. Lloyd suggested that he and Thatcher talk with the membership and bring the issue back to the board at the next meeting. Bill Ellis requested that the minutes reflect that this issue will be revisited at the October meeting in Atlanta.

The meeting paused for a break at 3:00 pm and resumed at 3:15 pm.
Following the break, the Board discussed the possibility of producing a secondary annual conference each spring. Members discussed potential partners, audience, goals and objectives, and funding issues.

Lloyd then turned the Board’s attention to his recommendation that the Board take up the strengthening of undergraduate education in folklore as a membership-building priority, once the other efforts described in his Board discussion paper are underway. The Board discussed the important of folklore education at all levels.

The meeting adjourned for the day at 3:55 pm.

The meeting resumed on Saturday March 25, 2005, at 9:34 am in Room 320 of the Mershon Center on the Ohio State University campus in Columbus, Ohio. Members present: Carole Carpenter, John Dorst, Bill Ellis, AFS President-elect Bill Ivey, Alan Jabbour, AFS President Michael Owen Jones, Dorry Noyes, Sandy Rikoon, Elaine Thatcher and Steve Zeitlin. Members absent: William Wiggins, Jr. Executive Director Timothy Lloyd and AFS office assistant Brent Björkman were also present. As per the Executive Board directive of October 17, 1991, this meeting was recorded on audiotape.

The Executive Director introduced the annual performance review process to the Board, and explained the annual performance objective document distributed to the Board before the meeting. Each year, the Board reviews the executive director’s performance against objectives set a year before, and approves the list of objectives for the year to come that has been created by the Executive Director and President before the meeting. After this introduction, Lloyd and Björkman left the room, and the Board went into executive session until 10:07 am.

At the end of the executive session, the Board reported that it had approved the list of FY 2006 performance objectives for the executive director as presented, and that it had delegated Bill Ivey and Sandy Rikoon from the Board to negotiate the executive director’s new employment agreement with the director.

The meeting then continued with a report by President-Elect Bill Ivey about the need to reinvigorate folklore on campuses and the possibility of obtaining a grant to pursue ways to strengthen outreach efforts beyond the field. The board discussed the importance of the field to the larger picture of the humanities and the need for models for folklore education. Dorothy Noyes raised the possibility of a new scholarly listserv supported by AFS with the hope that it can be made open to folklore scholars worldwide.

The meeting paused for lunch at 12:01 p.m. and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.
Lloyd presented the FY 2006 budget proposal. The Board discussed the upcoming need for an increase in the budget related to the Society website and support of fundraising activities.

**Bill Ivey moved that the FY 2006 budget be approved as presented. Elaine Thatcher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Timothy Lloyd reported that the Society’s proposal to the Rockefeller Foundation in support of an international gathering of folklorists around issues related to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) was turned down. Discussion about the need to continue to talk about an appropriate model for addressing these issues as a Society.

Timothy Lloyd reported that the Board has authority over the graphic appearance of the *Journal of American Folklore*. The new *Journal* editors, Harris M. Berger and Giovanna P. Del Negro of Texas A&M University, are recommending to the Board that the outside cover color of issues of the *Journal* rotate among four colors each year. **Elaine Thatcher moved that the Board accept the editors’ request for a change in the color of the cover of *JAF*. Steve Zeitlin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Steve Zeitlin returned the Board to a discussion from the previous meeting of a need for a Society historian. Among several ideas put forward, the Board discussed proposing that the Folklore and History Section of the Society take this on, including oral histories and the gathering of photographs and slides.

Steve Zeitlin raised the issue of the lack of diversity of board members and proposed a change to the bylaws, giving the Society president the authority to appoint a member to the Board. This issue will be further discussed in October.

Steve Zeitlin raised the issue of the Folklore, Politics, and Social Justice Section’s request that the Board consider the Society’s policy on taking official public positions on issues. A task force has been assigned to consider this issue; Lloyd is monitoring its progress.

Sandy Rikoon raised the question of whether “teaching” should be added to the mission of the Society and agreed to investigate the process needed for such a change.

**Michael Owen Jones moved that the meeting be adjourned. Alan Jabbour seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm.**
Respectfully submitted,

______________________________  Date
Timothy Lloyd  
Executive Director

Approved by the American Folklore Society Executive Board:

______________________________  Date
Michael Owen Jones  
President