President Bill Ivey called the annual meeting of the Executive Board to order at 8:35 am on Sunday October 21, 2007 in the Lauzon Room of the Québec Hilton Hotel in Québec City, Québec, Canada. Members present: Bill Ellis, Diane Goldstein, AFS President-Elect Elaine Lawless, Lucy Long, Sandy Rikoon, Guha Shankar, Daniel Sheehy, Kay Turner, and Patricia Turner. Members absent: Olga Nájera-Ramírez and Elaine Thatcher. Executive Director Timothy Lloyd and Associate Director Maria Teresa Agozzino were also present. As per the Executive Board directive of October 17, 1991, this meeting was recorded on minidisk.

The Board presented outgoing members Bill Ellis and Sandy Rikoon with thanks and Inuit art objects as parting gifts; Elaine Thatcher's gift will be mailed later. Elaine Lawless suggested photos of AFS leaders be added to the website.

Bill Ivey welcomed the board and called for the review and approval of the minutes of the April 2007 meeting. Sandy Rikoon moved that the minutes of the April 2007 meeting be approved as presented. Dan Sheehy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. A discussion followed regarding the minutes’ style and the advantages and disadvantages of more extensive reporting of topics and issues in the minutes, versus a shorter and more clear-cut summary of business and actions. Patricia Turner suggested we include “let the record show” to indicate that a valuable discussion took place.

Michael Ann Williams and Erika Brady of Western Kentucky University and the 2008 annual meeting committee then entered the meeting and presented a brief report on plans for tours, the banquet, entertainment, plenary speakers, and special events at the 2008 AFS annual meeting, to be held in Louisville, Kentucky, on October 22-26. Guha Shankar asked about the representation of local communities in the program, in consonance with the theme. A discussion followed regarding possibilities for representation and involvement of local communities and students. Board members discussed possible tours and related panel topics, such as the Kentucky Derby. Kay Turner cited, as an example, the New York state project at Saratoga, which featured the back track [race track] culture that supports the glamour seen out front. It was agreed that we should strive for a balance between the attention to food and celebration at the Saturday night event. Dan Sheehy suggested that the Latino/a section could organize a Chilean Women’s exhibition, reflecting both the global and local. Tim Lloyd suggested that the Latino/a section gather information on this possibility for the local organizers and AFS. Dan Sheehy reiterated the need for early contact with the annual meeting committee. It was agreed that there should be a balance of authority of annual meeting committee and that selecting a plenary speaker is a priority. Guha Shankar and Dan Sheehy suggested Creative Commons possibilities. Attention to students was discussed, including the Fellows
reception, sessions, the central US location and relatively easy travel for many, and low hotel rates. Diane Goldstein raised the issue of mixing faculty and student presentations on panels. Lucy Long suggested a common room for students. Michael Ann Williams and Erika Brady left the meeting at this point.

Board members Diane Goldstein and Sandy Rikoon, who had been working for the previous six months to survey AFS members on their public policy engagements and to develop a proposal for future AFS public policy activities, then presented their recommendation to the Board that AFS use a modest amount of its financial resources to:

1. Create a working group to produce a white paper on folklore and health care policy, an article for a health and public policy journal, and a policy briefing
2. Put profiles of people and projects in this area on the AFS web site, and in general develop a more robust web presence in this area
3. Plan public policy-related professional development activities for future annual meetings
4. Establish a referral service for those interested in engaging folklorists in public policy work

Elaine Lawless moved to approve these recommendations. Diane Goldstein seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The meeting was paused for a break at 10:10 am, and resumed at 10:23 am.

In his President’s report, Bill Ivey restated his interest in the role of folklore and public policy, and reiterated that he would continue to work toward his goal of strengthening folklore in the academy as Past President. He explained how and why Foundations are moving away from supporting culture and arts, perceiving issues, for example surrounding health, as more pressing. Bill Ivey shared that his time as president has been rewarding.

As part of his Executive Director’s report, Tim Lloyd distributed materials and presented a financial summary starting with the budget approved in April 2006. He explained how AFS membership revenue was better than projected, JAF subscriptions improved (institutional decrease has stopped), royalties have increased, investments fell last summer (in line with the general economy), and endowment pledges have increased by 80%. Tim Lloyd went on to outline the running costs of AFS, including the unusually high expenses associated with the 2007 annual meeting – the financial impact of which will become manifest in FY 2008. Also to be considered is the unforeseen expense associated with the blossoming relationship with the China Folklore Society, which was not budgeted
for. Other topics addressed by Tim Lloyd include the current working groups and future networking opportunities. For example, the publications committee is focusing on open niches and potential improvements (especially *AFSNews*). Guha Shankar commented on the possible LOC/AFS Wiki project. Dan Sheehy commented on the feasibility of holding an annual meeting in Mexico. Of note, the Smithsonian Institution may feature Mexico at the 2010 Festival. Regarding the possibility of future joint meetings, Pat Turner suggested we debrief the 2007 Québec meeting as a case study for what the value added might be in having future collaborative international meetings. Bill Ellis raised questions of accessibility and exclusion issues (such as accommodating for hearing disabilities or foreign language speakers) that could be issues for future meetings. Kay Turner called for greater Executive Board participation in annual meeting issues.

Under the heading of new business, the Board considered a petition for a new AFS section on Space, Place and Landscapes, convened by Kathy Roberts of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Patricia Turner moved to approve the creation of the section. Sandy Rikoon seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Bill Ellis suggests that existing section conveners should be notified of new section proposals, in advance, in case of overlap. Tim Lloyd suggested that a discussion regarding a strategic selection for the next *JAF* editorship should begin as selection will take place 18 months from now. The present editors, Harris M. Berger and Giovanna P. Del Negro, have confirmed their intention to step down at the end of their present term in 2010.

Patricia Turner moved that the meeting be adjourned. Sandy Rikoon seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Lloyd
Executive Director

Date

Approved by the American Folklore Society Executive Board: