

President Elaine Lawless called the 2008 fall meeting of the Executive Board to order at 8:45 am on Sunday, October 26, 2008, in the Board Room of the Hyatt Regency Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky. Members present: Tim Evans, Diane Goldstein, Past President Bill Ivey, Elaine Lawless, Carl Lindahl, Lucy Long, Marsha MacDowell, Olga Nájera-Ramírez, Guha Shankar, Dan Sheehy, Kay Turner, and Patricia Turner. Members absent: none. 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.

Elaine Lawless welcomed the Board to the meeting. Outgoing Board members Diane Goldstein, Dan Sheehy, and Kay Turner, as well as Past President Bill Ivey, were thanked for their service and commitment by Elaine Lawless and Timothy Lloyd, and were presented with Kentucky-made white oak baskets.

Elaine Lawless called for the review and approval of the minutes of the April 2008 meeting. Olga Nájera-Ramírez requested that the minutes should reflect the Board's commitment to holding a future annual meeting in Mexico. **Pat Turner moved that the minutes of the April 2008 meeting be approved as corrected. Diane Goldstein seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Timothy Lloyd then presented his executive director's report, focusing on Society finances and the effects of the current economic climate on learned societies generally, such as SEM and MLA. He distributed copies of two financial reports for FY 2008: a summary of estimated actual revenue and expenses compared to the budget for the year, and a spreadsheet showing revenue and expenses by category.

The topic of subscription revenue developed into a discussion about future digitization and online publishing alternatives, which led to concerns regarding historical preservation and the archiving of online and interactive forums.

Lloyd then reported on the 2007 annual meeting held in Québec City, and on several Society special projects in China and folklore and health policy, and on funding proposals in progress. Investments were reinvested in more diverse and more conservative accounts under the guidance of Bill Schiffman of Schiffman and Grow on August 28, 2008.

The new website activities of upgrade and redesign were already budgeted for. John Laudun, of the University of Louisiana, Lafayette, will become web site editor, having just received clearance from his institution to do so. Although the

Current AFS web site manager Jeff Borisch will continue on a retainer. A discussion followed about protocols such as gate-keeping, open accessibility, section responsibilities, the role of volunteers, and a realistic assessment of the human cost involved.

Lloyd began a review of Wednesday's AFS Executive Board meeting with folklore program and organization heads: The meeting was well attended and the conversations will be continued by email and conference calls. Though the onus is not entirely on the AFS, a short discussion followed about improving cross-boundary communication between programs and students of programs, and better practices of disseminating information, such as posting internships. In light of the time restraints, Kay Turner suggested that participants in future such meetings be better led, better prepared, and less anecdotal. Elaine Lawless suggested the formation of a smaller focus group to follow up. It was noted that this meeting was the first to include independent and public folklorists and thereby dissolved any residue/artificial divide. Daniel Sheehy stated that the meeting gave the AFS an opportunity to discover issues for future discussion.

Graduate Student Section representative Lynne McNeill joined the Board meeting. Timothy Lloyd gave a recap of the mission and work to date of the graduate student working group. McNeill then presented the first annual student report to the Board, which included students' concerns regarding student awareness and opportunities to share their work, a place and role for students on the new website, and the role and responsibilities of Graduate Student section members, and students in general. The possibility of a student-only forum and/or blog was discussed, though students acknowledge they need/want accountability and external supervision. Student feedback of the AFS annual meeting schedule included the Graduate Student section meeting (keep on Thursday), the Folklore Fellows reception, and the possibility of creating even more access to senior folklorists, and space for students from different programs to mingle. For example, FSAC's practice of "taking a student to lunch" would not be practical on an AFS scale. Patricia Turner reported that the Fellows reception drew 150 attendees though food for only 50 was ordered.

The discussion moved away from the annual meeting to ideas for summer meetings, comparable perhaps to Utah State University's Fife Folklore Conference. McNeill explained that students yearn for foundational knowledge and tools, and not just special interest. Timothy Lloyd said he would bring this up with the NEH in November 2008. A discussion of how and why the Fife Conference has been so successful followed. Kay Turner acknowledged Lee Haring's commitment to organizing an ongoing series of "foundational" panels each year at the annual meeting.

The meeting paused briefly at 10:50 am and resumed at 11:05 am, during which time a group photograph of board members was taken.

Judy McCulloh joined the meeting, representing the AFS Publications Committee, to discuss the search for the next editor of the *Journal of American Folklore*, which will take place in 2009. Judy McCulloh raised the following issues: power, leadership, vision, image of field, documenting the field, institutional support, AFS support, etc, and posed the following question: How do the AFS and the Executive Board appeal to and recruit the best candidates, and what can an editor realistically accomplish? **Bill Ivey moved that Timothy Lloyd, Elaine Lawless, and Judy McCulloh would convene a committee to discuss possible candidates and solicit their interest in the position. Diane Goldstein seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

The Board then moved to the consideration of old and new business.

Diane Goldstein raised the ongoing concern to facilitate health insurance for independent members, which she noted has been mentioned in both the business meeting and in more than one of the candidates' statements. Better communication of AFS progress to the membership would let members know that it is still on the books and thus help reduce this residual issue between academic and public folklorists. **Diane Goldstein moved that the AFS continue working on the health insurance issue, that the executive director be instructed to investigate this matter as a high priority and to report his findings regularly to the Board and membership. Bill Ivey seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Carl Lindahl provided an update on the Surviving Katrina and Rita in Houston project and its present relationship with the Social Science Research Council.  
New business:

On behalf of the Folklore Latino, Latinoamericano, y Caribeño Section and the Chicano and Chicana Folklore Section, Dan Sheehy emphasized the desire to hold an annual meeting in Mexico. Those sections would also like to add a third person to the Américo Paredes Prize committee.

Speaking on behalf of Mario Montaña, 2008 chair of the Nominating Committee, Guha Shankar asked what the Board considers "diversity" to be? A discussion of ethnic diversity, improved recruitment into the field, and the visibility of minority candidates ensued. Dan Sheehy suggested that this is a structural issue, and that therefore structural solutions should be sought.

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Timothy Evans advocated for a reinstatement of the Society's program of funding short-term public sector folklorist residencies in academic programs.

Timothy Lloyd confirmed that the next AFS Executive Board meeting will be held in the Mershon Center at Ohio State University on April 3-4, 2009. Each Board member then received a complimentary copy of the *US Public Folklore: The Watershed Years* DVD, produced by the AFS and Public Programs Section.

**Elaine Lawless moved that the meeting be adjourned. Patricia Turner seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 12.25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Timothy Lloyd  
Executive Director

Date

Approved by the American Folklore Society Executive Board:

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Elaine Lawless  
President

Date