President Elaine Lawless called the annual meeting of the Executive Board to order at 9:09 am on Wednesday, October 21, 2009, in the Willows Room of the Boise Centre in Boise, Idaho. Members present: AFS President-Elect Kurt Dewhurst, Tim Evans, Elaine Lawless, Carl Lindahl, Executive Director Timothy Lloyd, Lucy Long, Marsha MacDowell, Olga Nájera-Ramírez, Guha Shankar, Amy Shuman, Amy Skillman, Patricia Turner, and William Westerman. Following the Executive Board’s directive of October 17, 1991, this meeting was recorded on minidisk.

Elaine Lawless and Tim Lloyd recognized and thanked the four members who will leave the Board at the end of 2009: Lucy Long, Olga Nájera-Ramírez, Guha Shankar, and Patricia Turner.

Elaine Lawless welcomed the Board and called for the review and approval of the minutes of the April 2009 meeting. **Kurt Dewhurst moved that the minutes of the April 2009 meeting be approved as presented. Amy Skillman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Tim Lloyd then delivered his Executive Director’s report, touching on Society finances for fiscal year 2009, the events of the upcoming annual meeting; the progress of the Society’s working group on folklore and health policy, and the Society’s international activities in China, Mexico, and with UNESCO. Marsha MacDowell also mentioned the Oral History in a Digital Age project, in which the Society has a role. Kurt Dewhurst mentioned the America Works project now being discussed at a national level, and in which AFS also has a role, and the American Folklife Center’s new Archie Green fellowships for research in occupational culture.

The meeting was paused for a break at 11:05 am, and resumed at 11:20 am.

Elaine Lawless then introduced Cynthea Cotton, a graduate student at Western Kentucky University and senior convener of the Society’s Graduate Student section. In general, folklore students are pleased with the Society and its services to them: The AFS Fellows’ reception is highly appreciated and regarded by students, as is the Fellows Breakfast of Champions event being debuted this year also, to which the Section made a financial contribution. Joe Goodwin’s professional development session should be a part of the meeting every year. Students want to be good members, and to make positive contributions to the Society, but they are not sure how to do so. Student positions in the sections or on the Board or within AFS, or summer internship(s) at the AFS office, might be helpful, since students don’t know how AFS works.
The section has discussed forming a subgroup that does project activities for other sections. Students would welcome annual meeting workshops on various forms of professional writing, including journalism, grants, and public sector publications, etc. Finally, students are in favor of expanding the section’s responsibility to include all students, including undergraduates.

The meeting was paused for lunch at 12:30 pm, and resumed at 1:30 pm.

Tim Lloyd then introduced a discussion of possible improvements in the Society’s annual meeting. The Board discussed annual meetings as opportunities for strengthening the Society’s diversity, presenting folklore as a discipline to others, cross-fertilization with other disciplines, developing international perspectives, and involvement of community scholars. When we undertake joint annual meetings with other associations, they should be part of a longer relationship-building process, rather than “one and done” undertakings—possibly we should commit to five-year relationships. Once we have set our own priorities for annual meetings, we can encourage universities to orient their own events toward our priorities or themes. We might also consider other kinds of meetings—smaller (<75 participants) and more topic-focused—to supplement our annual meetings: examples might include summer seminars, regional gatherings, or meetings tied to other AFS goals or work (Teagle Foundation, China, Mexico, etc.).

The meeting was paused for a break at 2:55 pm and resumed at 3:10 pm.

Jason Baird Jackson, head of Indiana University’s Folklore Institute and chair of the Society’s working group on communications in folklore, then entered the meeting. AFS web site editor John Laudun of the University of Louisiana-Lafayette also entered the meeting at this point.

Jackson then delivered a presentation on new developments in scholarly communication for the Board’s background and information. The Board will certainly be called upon in the near future to make important decisions about the Journal of American Folklore and other existing or new Society communications vehicles, so having this background is critical.

He began by providing an overview of the present terminology used in the online access and open-access worlds, identifying folklore journals that fall into several of the categories found there. He then introduced the concepts of institutional repositories, disciplinary repositories, and personal and departmental websites. The first two of these are positive developments; the last one is problematic because of relative lack of interoperability and sustainability.
Jackson then introduced the idea of the Indiana University Libraries partnering with the Society to provide a disciplinary repository for the field of folklore, and in particular providing open online access to bodies of material that are hard to find and use (e.g., out-of-print journals, obscure journals, public-sector folklore publications).

John Laudun then described the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation-funded Project Bamboo initiative, and the work he and Jim Leary are doing within that Project to “move it outside the library and into the field.

**Lucy Long moved that the meeting be adjourned. Guha Shankar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.