

President C. Kurt Dewhurst called the fall 2011 meeting of the Executive Board to order at 9:06 am on Wednesday, October 12, 2011, in the Charter Room of the Indiana Memorial Union on the Indiana University campus in Bloomington. Members present: Ray Cashman, President-Elect Diane Goldstein, Lisa Gabbert, Jason Baird Jackson, Sabina Magliocco, Leonard Norman Primiano, Riki Saltzman, Amy Shuman, Amy Skillman, Bill Westerman, and Marilyn White. Executive Director Timothy Lloyd was also present. As per the Executive Board directive of October 17, 1991, this meeting was recorded on minidisk.

Kurt Dewhurst welcomed members of the Board to the annual meeting and thanked departing members Amy Shuman, Amy Skillman, and Bill Westerman for their service to the Society and field during their terms on the Board. Tim Lloyd presented gifts from the Board to these departing members.

Kurt Dewhurst then made the President's report, citing AFS accomplishments in fundraising, grants and endowment-building, and international partnerships over the past year.

The next order of business was the approval of the minutes of the Board's April 2011 meeting. **Riki Saltzman moved that the minutes be accepted as presented. Lisa Gabbert seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Tim Lloyd then presented the Executive Director's Report, focusing on AFS finances and membership numbers as of September 1, and noting that the next survey of the Society's membership would take place later in the fall. The Board will have an opportunity to discuss the results of this survey at its next meeting in April 2012.

Catherine McKemie of Atlanta, Georgia, Vice President of ConferenceDirect, the company that does annual meeting site research and contract negotiation work for the Society, then entered the meeting and provided an overview of the financial and legal implications of the annual meeting site selection and planning processes, including the factors that shape successful host city and hotel negotiations, and the Society's typical contractual obligations for an annual meeting.

The meeting paused briefly from 11:00 to 11:15 am. Catherine McKemie left the meeting at this point.

After reconvening, the Board moved to a discussion of the Board's initial charge to, and the initial membership of, the standing Cultural Diversity Committee that

was created through member approval of an amendment to the *AFS Bylaws* in June 2011. This discussion continued until the lunch break at 12:55 pm.

The meeting reconvened at 1:35 pm.

**Amy Skillman moved that the Board approve the following course of action:**

- 1. The President will appoint members to the Cultural Diversity Committee between October 2011 and January 2012.**
- 2. The board initially charges the committee to focus its attention on increasing diverse participation in the Society and field by people of color, with the understanding that this focus may change over time.**
- 3. The Board initially recommends that the committee attend to four areas of action—Society membership, annual meeting, journal, and portals into the field—and to focus first on the annual meeting, with the understating that this focus may change over time.**
- 4. Based on guidelines provided by the Board, the committee will bring back initial recommendations for action, and a timeline for those actions, to the Board at its April 2012 meeting.**

**Marilyn White seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

President-Elect Diane Goldstein and Amy Shuman then facilitated a discussion of the Board's international engagements. Although AFS has been internationally active for many years, in recent years the Society has become engaged in an increasing number and variety of such engagements. However, we need to articulate the reasons for international activities more clearly and effectively to indicate our goals and vision. Our recent engagements have stemmed from one of three circumstances—we have been approached by sister organizations from abroad, we see the need for connections to folklorists and institutions in countries near to us, and we feel a sense of responsibility to the global folklore condition—but we need a more explicit statement of priorities and vision. In some respects, this situation parallels the one regarding the Cultural Diversity Committee, and perhaps the four-part framework proposed for that Committee's initial work—Society membership, annual meeting, journal, and portals into the field—is appropriate here as well.

The meeting paused briefly from 2:45 to 3:00 pm.

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Tim Lloyd then introduced Ulrich Marzolph, President of the International Society for Folk Narrative Research and Rodolfo Palma Rojo, Director de Divulgación of the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, each of whom then made brief presentations on their organizations' developing relationships with the Society, followed by an open discussion with the Board.

President Kurt Dewhurst then asked Board members to recommend items of new business for possible future Board consideration.

Jason Baird Jackson recommended the need for AFS to gather, synthesize, and share information about the present state and future directions of academic programs in the field.

Sabina Magliocco raised the matter of the public face of the Society and field, and asked why do we not have a higher public profile.

Lisa Gabbert recommended that AFS consider institutionalizing a formal mentoring system, and volunteered to investigate what other societies are doing along these lines and to bring information back to the next Board meeting.

**Sabina Magliocco moved that the meeting be adjourned. Leonard Norman Primiano seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:21 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Timothy Lloyd  
Executive Director

Date

Approved by the American Folklore Society Executive Board:

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Diane E. Goldstein  
President

Date