

Approved by the Membership on 20 November 2010

## **Minutes of the 2009 ASTR Annual Business Meeting**

**San Juan Condado Plaza Hotel, 14 November 2009**

President Tracy Davis called the meeting to order at 1:59 pm.

### **1) Approval of the Minutes of Fall 2008 meeting--Davis**

MOTION: To approve the Minutes of the 2008 annual Business Meeting that were published on the ASTR website in Winter of 2009. Moved by Postlewait, seconded by Nellhaus. The motion carried unanimously.

### **2) Announcements--Davis**

- The President asked for a moment of silence in honor of Brooks McNamara, who passed away in the year since our last meeting.
  
- Congratulations and welcome to newly elected EC members: Susan Bennett, Dorothy Chansky, Laura Edmondson, Mike Sell, and GSC Representative Charlotte McIvor.
  
- Congratulations and welcome to new President Rhonda Blair and Vice President Stacy Wolf.
  
- Thanks to the donors who sponsored our receptions, including the Hemispheric Institute, *Modern Drama*, The Graduate Center at CUNY, The University of Michigan Press, and the University of Iowa Press
  
- Thanks and congratulations to Sonja Kuflinec and Tamara Underiner and the Program Committee for a successful and inspiring conference.
  
- Thanks to Jean Nelson and Administrator Nancy Erickson for their conference organizing efforts, and to all the volunteers who have helped run the conference.
  
- Thanks to outgoing EC members James Harding, Andrew Sofer, Karen Shimakawa, Harvey Young and GSC Representative Matt Omasta for their service to ASTR.
  
- Thanks to Vice President Ric Knowles for his service as an ASTR officer.
  
- The Silent Auction raised \$1500 to support graduate students. Thanks to the work of the GSC and especially to Silent Auction co-chairs Angela Marino Segura and Jenna Kubly, and to Matt Omasta, Charlotte McIvor, Donovan Sherman and Stephen Harrick for helping to organize the Silent Auction. Thanks to all who donated items.

### **3) Secretary's Report--Arons**

a) Membership and Conference Registration

Conference registrations this year number 373. The current membership total stands at 383. While Administrator Nancy Erickson anticipates more renewals through onsite registrations and as a result of further renewal mailings, the EC has noted a downward trend in membership numbers over the past 3 years.

b) 2009 Election

We moved this year to using Survey Monkey to run the election, which seemed very smooth. In addition to the new officers and EC members already announced, we passed an amendment to the bylaws to take care of an inconsistency in wording.

c) Website

ASTR news is now posted to the website instead of being published in a newsletter. Our ONEW, Jim Groom, is working on making changes to the website to make it both more functional and helpful.

d) Archives

Records of ASTR business are regularly sent to the University of Maryland Archives.

**4) Vice President's Report--Knowles**

Thanks to EC and officers and to Nancy Erickson for a productive and rewarding 3 years.

a) 2010 Conference

The 2010 Conference will be in Seattle for joint conference with CORD; the theme is "Embodying Power: Work Over Time." Anthea Kraut and Nadine George-Graves are the Program Chairs. The CFP is in the packet.

b) 2011 Conference

In 2011, the site will be Montreal or Nashville. The theme will be "Economies of Theatre." Nic Ridout will be Program Chair.

**5) Treasurer's Report--Nellhaus**

Conference attendance is good. Investments are recovering better than the average index. We have not recovered our high, but we are in better shape. Declining membership is a matter of concern; please ask colleagues to renew if they haven't. EC has been paying close attention to expenditures and trimming costs where we can. Thanks to Nancy Erickson.

**6) Graduate Student Caucus--Omasta & McIvor**

Omasta announced that GSC initiatives this year include:

- Guidelines for the GSC as an addendum to the ASTR handbook.
- Conducting a survey on graduate student funding to assess costs and financial aid available to graduate students.

-A new listserv that distributes information of interest to graduate students, in particular an aggregate of CFPs.

-Restructuring the silent auction from a two-hour event to a two day bidding process.

One big challenge—there are 677 PhD students in theatre currently. How to serve that population is a challenge to be faced.

Incoming GSC President McIvor noted that numbers of PhD students is an opportunity. A goal of the GSC is to make ASTR and GSC a yearlong resource for graduate students—for networking, finding opportunities, CFPs, roommates, etc. She urged graduate students to be involved and faculty to steer their graduate students toward the GSC.

## **7) President's Report--Davis**

### a) GSC

Davis acknowledged the important work of the GSC—graduate students are the future of ASTR, and it looks to be in very good hands.

### b) Opportunities to serve ASTR

We have a more transparent process thru the Nominating Committee to open more opportunities for service to members. Members who are interested in serving ASTR should contact Jonathan Chambers, chair of the NC.

### c) *Theatre Survey*

*Theatre Survey* is now edited by Catherine Cole and Leo Cabranes-Grant. We have a new online submission system that makes the editorial process more streamlined. The entire run of *Theatre Survey* will be available digitally soon. The editors are currently exploring additional ways to have the journal abstracted; they are also exploring the possibility of expanding from two issues per year to three. Stay tuned.

### d) Archives

The ASTR archives are being catalogued and made accessible at University of Maryland through the work of Heather Nathans.

### e) Website

We have been exploring how to use the website more effectively, and a whole new look is coming soon. Members will be asked to weigh in on ways we can make it a more useful tool for them.

### d) The Consortium of Doctoral Programs in Theatre and Performance Studies

This comes out of an initiative on the part of Esther Kim Lee. The Consortium met for the first time this past Spring, and has the support and participation of ASTR. It will be an ongoing venue for representatives of PhD programs in our field to assess the state of the profession and share information about graduate education.

e) PhD Directory

ASTR continues to be a clearinghouse for information for prospective students, thanks in particular to Kimi Johnson's attention to updating the PhD directory on the website.

Davis thanked all who have served with her the past three years, and introduced the new President, Rhonda Blair.

Blair thanked the membership for its trust in electing her to office, and also the EC and Conference planners for their work in organizing the conference. She reiterated that there are many positions to be filled on ASTR committees, and asked those with an interest to contact her.

Blair thanked outgoing President Tracy Davis for the care she has taken during the transition, and, on behalf of the organization, thanked her for her tireless efforts, leadership, and vision.

**8) Fundraising Report--Davis**

As Chair of the Fundraising Committee, Davis urged the membership to contribute to the fundraising campaign, with the goal of fully endowing the awards and graduate support.

Meeting adjourned by acclamation at 2:37.