

ASTR
American Society for Theatre Research

**Minutes of the Fall 2011 ASTR Executive Committee Meeting
Fairmont The Queen Elizabeth Hotel,
Montreal, Canada
Thursday, 17 November 2011**

Present: Rhonda Blair (President), Stacy Wolf (Vice President), Wendy Arons (Secretary), Tobin Nellhaus (Treasurer), Nancy Erickson (Administrator, *ex officio*), Kimi Johnson (GSC Representative), Susan Bennett, Dorothy Chansky, Gay Cima, Laura Edmondson, Penny Farfan, Brian Herrera, Scott Magelssen, Heather Nathans, Sandra Richards, Mike Sell, Patricia Ybarra, Cindy Bates (Treasurer-elect), Marla Carlson (Secretary-elect), Kirsten Pullen (EC Member-elect), Leigh Woods (EC Member-elect), David Calder (GSC Representative-Elect)), Bill Doan (ATHE President Observing), Elinor Fuchs arrived 9:45 am.

The President called the meeting to order at 8:31 am.

Introductions were made. There were 16 voting members present, plus the President as Committee Chair.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION: to adopt the agenda for the 2011 EC Meeting prepared by the President. Moved by Nellhaus, seconded by Bennett. Vote: 16 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions, 1 absent. **The motion carried unanimously.**

1. Adoption of the Minutes of the Spring 2011 Executive Committee Meeting

MOTION: To approve the Minutes of the Spring 2011 EC Meeting as amended, including subsequent e-votes. Moved by Nellhaus, seconded by Nathans. Vote: 16 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions, 1 absent. **The motion carried unanimously.**

3. President's Report (Rhonda Blair)

a. Welcome to new officers and EC members – The President welcomed officers elect Cindy Bates (Treasurer) and Marla Carlson; incoming EC members Soyica Colbert, Suk Young Kim, Kirsten Pullen and Leigh Woods; and GSC Representative David Calder. The President announced that Bates and Carlson will replace Nellhaus and Arons signatories for ASTR.

b. Necrology – Jeff Richards, Dorothy Heathcote, Lisa Wolford Wylam, Ruby Cohn
At the annual meeting, there will be a moment to acknowledge the passing of recently deceased colleagues. Brief words of memorialization will be spoken for Jeff Richards by Heather Nathans, Dorothy Heathcote by EJ Westlake, Lisa Wolford Wylam by Laura Levine, and Ruby Cohn by Janelle Reinelt.

c. Fundraising – President Blair will take over as chair of the Fundraising Committee from Tracy Davis. Davis constituted the committee, which is now focused on three initiatives: targeted fundraising for the Brockett & Chinoy awards, and legacies and bequests. Kirsten Pullen is chairing the Chinoy fundraising effort, Judith Sebesta the Brockett, and Blair is working on the bequest and legacy initiative.

d. **MOTION:** to approve the new committee members, in the spreadsheet attached as an addendum to the minutes. Moved by Nellhaus, second Richards. Vote: 15 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions, 1 absent. **The motion carried unanimously.**

In discussion of the committee rosters, the Vice President noted that the GSC will need to elect a member to both the Committee on Conferences and the Program Committee; this will happen in mid-December. The President announced that Iris Smith Fischer has agreed to be the new Director of Awards and Fellowships, and Bill Doan has agreed to serve as ATHE Liaison. The Secretary will pass these changes as well as the new committee lists to Nancy Erickson and Shaun Sewell for updating on the website.

e. **MOTION:** to propose the following amendments to the bylaws to the general Membership, the effect of which will be to establish a Vice President for Publications and a Vice President for Awards without expanding the size of the Executive Committee. The current Vice President, as a result of these bylaw alterations, would become the Vice President for Conferences. (Motion appears below as amended by the EC by unanimous vote; this motion was crafted by the Ad Hoc Committee on Executive Committee Structure: Dorothy Chansky, Brian Herrera, Laura Edmondson, Sandra Richards, and Gay Gibson Cima [Chair]).

The phrase "for Conferences, a Vice President for Publications, a Vice President for Awards" shall be inserted into Article V, Section 1 of the By Laws, as follows: "The Officers of ASTR shall be a President, a Vice President FOR CONFERENCES, A VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLICATIONS, A VICE PRESIDENT FOR AWARDS, a Secretary, and a Treasurer."

Article V, Section 2b shall be amended as follows: "b) The Vice President FOR CONFERENCES shall be nominated and elected according to the procedures established for the President. The term of office of the Vice President FOR CONFERENCES shall coincide with that of the President. THE FOLLOWING YEAR, THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLICATION SHALL BE ELECTED. A YEAR AFTER THAT, THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR AWARDS SHALL BE ELECTED. **The Vice President FOR CONFERENCES shall not be eligible for election for two consecutive terms.**"

The phrase "Vice President for Publications, Vice President for Awards" shall be inserted into Article V, Section 2c as follows: "The VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLICATIONS, VICE PRESIDENT FOR AWARDS, THE Secretary, and Treasurer," shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee, shall be elected by mail ballot of the membership at large for a term of three years, and **may be reelected.**"

The phrase "for Conferences" shall be inserted into Article VI, Section 2 as follows: The Vice President FOR CONFERENCES shall be a voting member of the Executive Committee, and shall be responsible for, oversee, and coordinate planning for the Annual Meeting. THIS Vice President shall chair the Committee on Conferences. The Vice President FOR CONFERENCES shall assume the duties and responsibilities of the President if necessary, according to the stipulations of Section 1 of this article. In such a case, the Executive Committee shall have the option of appointing an Executive Committee member for the unexpired term.

The following passage, Section 5, shall be added to Article VI:
 "THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLICATION SHALL BE A VOTING MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, AND SHALL REPRESENT ASTR IN ALL MATTERS RELATING TO SCHOLARLY PUBLICATION. BI-ANNUALLY AND WHENEVER REQUIRED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLICATIONS SHALL REPORT ON THE SOCIETY'S PUBLICATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE MEMBERSHIP. THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLICATIONS SHALL CHAIR THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE AND PERFORM SUCH OTHER DUTIES AND SUPERVISE STAFF AS MAY FROM TIME TO TIME BE DESIGNATED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The following passage, Section 6, shall be added to Article VI:
 THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR AWARDS SHALL BE A VOTING MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND SHALL REPRESENT ASTR IN ALL MATTERS RELATING TO AWARDS. BI-ANNUALLY AND WHENEVER REQUIRED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR AWARDS SHALL REPORT ON THE SOCIETY'S AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE MEMBERSHIP. THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR AWARDS SHALL SUPERVISE THE AWARDS COMMITTEES AND PERFORM SUCH OTHER DUTIES AND SUPERVISE STAFF AS MAY FROM TIME TO TIME BE DESIGNATED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE."

Article VII Section 1 shall be amended as follows: "The Executive Committee shall normally consist of the President, the Vice President FOR CONFERENCES, THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLICATIONS, THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR AWARDS, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and ~~thirteen~~ ELEVEN elected members. ~~four of whom~~ TEN OF THESE ELECTED MEMBERS shall be elected for three-year terms ~~each year~~ by a majority of those members in good standing voting by ballot. THE ELECTION OF THESE TEN MEMBERS SHALL UNFOLD THROUGH A THREE-YEAR ROTATION: FOUR MEMBERS IN YEAR ONE, THREE IN YEAR TWO, AND THREE IN YEAR THREE.

One member OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE will be a Graduate Student elected for a one-year term, who may not serve more than two consecutive terms. The Graduate Student Representative must be a member of good standing and a graduate student in good standing at the time of the election. If a current member of the Executive

Committee is elected President or Vice President FOR CONFERENCES, or if an unexpected vacancy occurs in the Executive Committee, the Committee shall have the option of appointing a replacement for the unexpired term. The function of the Executive Committee shall be to direct the activities of ASTR. The chair of the Executive Committee shall be the President, elected as described in Article V, Section 2a. New members of the Executive Committee shall take office immediately after the conclusion of the annual business meeting of the Society.”

The phrase “for conferences” shall be inserted into article XIII in the following passages:

Article XIII: The Committee on Conferences and Its Function

Section 1: The Committee on Conferences shall normally consist of the Vice President FOR CONFERENCES (three-year term); two Executive Committee members (designated on the ballot as running for the Committee on Conferences, staggered two-year terms); the Program Chair (one-year term); the Immediate Past Program Chair (one-year term); the Vice President FOR CONFERENCES Elect (one-year term); the Graduate Student Caucus member appointed by the Vice President FOR CONFERENCES in consultation with the Graduate Student Caucus Representative for a one-year term; a TLA Representative; and two members elected to the Committee by a majority of those members in good standing voting by ballot. Members may self-nominate to run for election to the Committee on Conferences. If an unexpected vacancy occurs in the Committee on Conferences, the Committee shall have the option of appointing a replacement for the unexpired term. The Executive Committee, as part of its oversight of the Committee on Conferences, shall give consideration to the inclusion of representatives from various geographical areas and professional specialties represented in the membership at large.

Moved by Chansky, seconded by Nathans. Vote: 15 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions, 1 absent. **The motion carried unanimously.**

The above motion is intended to solve a number of issues: 1) to acknowledge the work done by people who chair the Publications and Awards and Fellowships Committees, and to give the work the profile it deserves; 2) to ensure that the people in charge of these key areas of ASTR's work are in the room to consult on Executive Committee decisions that impact their areas; and 3) to acknowledge the fiduciary responsibilities these Chairs have to the organization.

The motion changes the title of the current Vice President, and replaces two "regular" EC members with two new officers; there will be, as a result of these proposed amendments, no net increase in the number of members on the EC and no extra expense to organization.

In discussion, members of the Executive Committee noted the following:

- There has been a tradition for the Chair of the Publications Committee to rotate into this position; service on the Publications Committee is an important "pipeline" (and important training) for service as Publications Chair. It would be advisable to change the handbook to direct the Nominating Committee to draw the candidates for this position from the Publications

Committee (or from members who have served previously on the Publications Committee and have the requisite experience).

- The first VP for Publications would be elected in 2013 if this amendment is passed by the membership; the first VP for Awards would be elected in 2014.

- Concern was expressed about cutting short the next appointee during the "learning curve" for each of these positions; we do not want to have the situation of appointing a new Director of Awards and only having that person serve one year. There is nothing in the motion that prevents the next appointed Director of Awards or Publications Chair from running for the office; the next officeholder of each post could also theoretically run opposed.

- The question of whether or not these offices should be eligible for reelection was discussed at some length (two options for structuring the positions were before the EC for consideration). Could a six-year run as VP for Awards or Publications allow too much power to accrue to the VP? The Awards position does not have much power; the Publications position potentially does. That said, it is unlikely anyone would want to run for a second term, the job is time-consuming and would come after several years of service on the Publications Committee.

- Would nominees for the Publications Committee be limited to previous members of ASTR's Publications Committee? What about a member who had served as VP for Publications with ATHE? The ongoing relationship with CUP is important, hence, drawing candidates from the Publications Committee is ideal, but of course it's the job of the nominating committee to find the candidates (in consultation with the President).

- Concern about reelection comes out of a concern that "cronyism" could either develop or be perceived. But it should always be an election, with two candidates; members have a choice who to elect. Transparency is also important to combat the perception of cronyism; in the article that is written to communicate this to the membership on ASTROnline we should make clear how the process works, and in particular how and why service on the Publications Committee is important as a prerequisite for being considered as a candidate for Chair of that committee. You can't just step in, there's a lot to know beforehand.

- Information about this proposed change should be written up for ASTROnline in addition to being sent out to membership.

- If the bylaw amendment passes, the EC should vote on changing the handbook to direct the NC to pull candidates for the VP for Publications from the Publications Committee, as discussed.

4. Secretary's Report (Wendy Arons)

Nothing much to report beyond what was in the distributed report. The transition to the new Secretary will follow the same procedure used in the last transition; the current Secretary will minute the EC meeting and finalize them for submission to the Officers and EC for approval and ratification. The incoming Secretary will minute the Business Meeting and begin her term of office at the end of that meeting. Thanks to all for a smooth three years.

5. Vice-President's Report (Stacy Wolf)

a. **MOTION:** to approve Scott Magelssen and Jonathan Chambers as co-chairs for 2013 conference. Moved by Wolf, seconded Nathans. Vote: 15 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions, 1 recusal (Magelssen). **The motion carried unanimously.**

b. **MOTION:** to approve an unthemed Call for Papers for 2013. Moved by Wolf, seconded Edmondson. Vote: 16 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions. **The motion carried unanimously.**

The purpose of an unthemed Call for Papers is to convey to the membership complete openness and curiosity. There has been an enthusiastic response to the call for volunteers among members interested in serving on the Program Committee.

6. Treasurer's Report (Tobin Nellhaus)

a. **MOTION:** to revise paragraph (f) of the Donations Policy in the ASTR Handbook to read as follows (changed language is underlined):

"f) Donations for Annual Expenditures: The policy established above does not apply to donations that the donor wishes to be spent in the near future (usually within 12 months) for an expenditure such as an upcoming award or a reception. Donation acknowledgment (or if necessary, refusal) shall be managed through ordinary operations under the officers' general supervision. "

Moved by Nellhaus, seconded by Arons. Vote: 15 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions, 1 absent.
The motion carried unanimously.

d. **MOTION:** to renew the contract with Hilliard-Lyons as stipulated in the board resolution attached as addendum to the minutes. Moved by Nellhaus, seconded by Chansky. Vote: 16 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions. **The motion carried unanimously.**

7. Administrator (Nancy Erickson)

The Administrator updated her report; it looks likely that we will make our budgeted membership number, and we have surpassed the number we budgeted for conference registrations. Our concerns about the high cost of Montreal turn out to be unjustified; we have over 525 people registered. The numbers may look down from last year, but last year was a joint conference.

The Administrator also clarified the chain of communication with the Webmaster and web editors. The Administrator manages Shaun Sewell and the editors; anything you want posted needs to go to Nancy Erickson. Secretary can send directly to Shaun and Nancy if the matter is time-sensitive.

8. ASTR listserv

The President expressed a desire to put the ASTR listserv more closely under ASTR management by moving it from its current hosting at the University of Illinois to our own website (and Web Manager). The EC agreed that the Administrator should work with Webmaster Shaun Sewell to move the listserv to ASTR management and domain. The Administrator will ask the Webmaster to come up with an estimate of how much extra time and

compensation such an additional responsibility will require, and report that back to the EC in the Spring, so that it can be added to his contractual responsibilities when the contract comes up for renewal on June 1.

The list would remain unmoderated, but we might be able to solve the ongoing problem of the "reply-all" gaffe. EC members expressed concern about civility on the list; it was suggested that with the move to a new platform, all listserv members might have to resubscribe, and we could insert a "civility agreement" as a condition of registration for the list. The President offered to send out gentle reminders about civility to the list if postings become uncollegial.

9. Archivist (Heather Nathans)

UMD Archivist Vin Novara is stewarding the archives during Nathans's leave. Nathans suggested that if we are moving platforms on the ASTR-1, we should archive them somehow in "hard" form (paper or CD's). The Secretary noted that in the move to the new website some archived material (notably, the archive of previous committees and committee members dating back about 6 years) had disappeared. The documents are likely both in the UMD archive and on the "old" website but the dual transition (to new site and new Webmaster) resulted in some lost content.

The Secretary reminded all outgoing members to send records to Nathans at UMD for archiving.

10. Graduate Student Caucus (Kimi Johnson)

The GSC is considering trying to find a more permanent home than Facebook for GSC's web presence; the change in Facebook's policies has resulted in reduced functionality, and the site does not get much activity in any case. Incoming GSC Representative Calder will talk with the Webmaster about alternatives.

11. Standing committee reports

a. Nominating committee update

The nominating committee is well along in finding six candidates to stand for election to the EC, and also two each to stand for President and Vice President. Thanks to John Lutterbie in absentia for serving a second term as chair. Natalya Baldyga will chair the Nominating Committee this coming year, and will consult with the President in finding replacements for Lutterbie, Bial, and Cook, whose terms expire

b. Fellowships and Awards (Dorothy Chansky)

1. General report. The Director of Awards and Fellowships made two small corrections to her report:

- a) The Kahan Award essay was published in *Theatre Survey*.
- b) There was an Honorable Mention for the Barnard Hewitt Award: Josephine Lee.

2. The Director of Awards and Fellowships called attention to some of the numbers in her report. Of the 23 awards this year, four are going to people on the Executive Committee, and five are to members of committees, which means that 9 of 23 awards are going to the people who seem to be in the "inner circle". In addition, some of the awards have very low application numbers. This raises the question: do we think as long as there is one worthy applicant, that's enough? Or do we want a more robust applicant pool? After some discussion, the President struck an Ad Hoc Committee on Application Solicitation for Fellowships and Awards, and assigned Chansky (chair), Pullen, Sell, and incoming Awards & Fellowships Director Fischer Smith to the committee. The committee was charged with taking an overview of the awards, looking at the statistics, and reporting a recommendation to the EC about what actions to take. Later in the meeting, this committee was also charged with coming up with a recommendation of how best to take advantage of CUP's offer to sponsor an award or panel at the conference. The Secretary will forward suggestions that arose from the EC discussion to the President and to Chansky.

3. The President thanked Dorothy Chansky and Tracy Davis for their terrific work securing a \$10,000 gift from Grace Hope Hill to support the Errol Hill Award for the next 20 years. The cultivation of this gift was a monumental effort. Thanks also to the Treasurer for helping to sort out the financial arrangements.

4. The President and EC thanked outgoing Director of Awards and Fellowships Dorothy Chansky for her three years of outstanding service in this capacity.

c. *Publications (Susan Bennett)*

1. Website

a) **MOTION:** to approve the appointment of Charlotte McIvor as the editor of *ASTROOnline* effective January 1 2012, for a two-year term. Moved by Bennett, seconded by Johnson. Vote: 17 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions. **The motion carried unanimously.**

b) The President noted that the membership list on the website is difficult to use: there is a great deal of space between each listing, resulting in being able to only view two to three names per page. The Administrator agreed to work with the Webmaster in reformatting the output; the President and Ybarra will consult with the Administrator so that this task only needs to be done once.

2. *Theatre Survey* (report from Editor Leo Cabranes-Grant occurred later in the meeting)

a) Some members are still not receiving their issues of *Theatre Survey*. The Administrator was charged with going through the membership list and making sure that the *Theatre Survey* subscription list is up to date with correct addresses. It was also suggested that a notice to the membership that announced, "*Theatre Survey* is now out!" might prompt members to alert Nancy if they have not received their issue.

b) Next year CUP will sponsor a nice reception at the conference to announce and celebrate the move to three issues per year, which will commence in 2013. There will be an increase in cost of \$2 per issue per member with the change.

c) The EC discussed a number of possibilities for a potential CUP award, including:

- *CUP would prefer to target the award to a junior scholar; perhaps an award for best conference paper*
- *Alternatively, model on the TDR Award for Best Graduate Student Essay, with a prize and publication in Theatre Survey*
- *A prize for Best Edited Collection should still be considered; anthologies often have a major impact on the field*

The President charged the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Application Solicitation for Awards and Fellowships to consider the suggestions and issues raised in discussion and return to the EC with a recommendation in the Spring. The Secretary will send notes from the discussion to the President and Committee Chair.

d) **MOTION:** to thank Matt Omasta for his excellent work as founder of *ASTRonline* and all his work to develop and improve the website. Moved by Bennett, seconded by Cima. Vote: 17 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions. **The motion carried unanimously.**

12. Special committees

Ad Hoc Committee on New Paradigms in Graduate Education (Heather Nathans)

a. Graduate program survey results: Nathans provided an overview of the survey results: there were 352 responses, which was a good rate. The next survey needs a special section for directors of grad studies. One item of note: there was an almost 50/50 split between programs that are currently making major changes and those that are not, but 70% of programs say they know change will be necessary. This means that many are not changing even though they know it will be necessary. Many programs identify mentorship as a big priority; a function ASTR can fill is to be a clearinghouse for information: people don't want to reinvent the wheel.

In discussion, members of the EC raised the following points:

- *Because the survey was anonymous, we'll need to go back and request best practices from programs that are instituting change; we need information to be posted and permanent, i.e. "Steps to take in curriculum transformation"*
- *We can gather some of that information at the proposed regional meetings*
- *The next phase of the work is to collect information and use it to make things happen, provide mentorship.*
- *Focus for this year was PhD programs; we need to do a follow-up survey of MFA programs*
- *In the survey, we asked what training students got, what they wished they had; production training came up many times as a need.*

- *Leadership training is also needed; many job opportunities want people who can step into administrative roles; ASTR may want to provide training similar to the ATHE Leadership Institute.*
- *A handful of comments from the survey interpreted it as ASTR's attempt to push programs to think more about how to get jobs for students; but in fact, the idea behind the initiative is to envision the future of the field. ASTR is about scholarship; but we have to prepare the soil if we want to yield the fruit.*
- *Some PhD students don't want "our" jobs; many PhD students get the administrative jobs in smaller institutions because they have the PhD. One challenge is to define "happiness" in terms that allow students to see the whole range of opportunities that might be satisfying in terms of career and research interests. We need to redefine expectations and definition of "success."*
- *The issue of the "speedup" at the junior level was raised—many are "overcredentialed" at entry level, we need to bring a critical awareness of the amount of work expected now of young scholars which is often not acknowledged by faculty who did not have to jump through similar hoops. Many students have a more strategic awareness of what will be required than faculty. Theater graduates compare poorly to graduates from other fields when competing for grants, for example; they don't seem to have the same number and quality of publications. Advisors need to understand how expectations are shifting.*
- *One way the New Paradigms Committee can be useful to the membership is in collecting data; when you take requests to a Dean or Provost, it's helpful to be able to provide numbers that back up your anecdotal concerns. Data can provide a bridge to conversations with our institutions.*

b. Report on Regional Meetings (Mike Sell) This initiative, which was approved by the EC in the Spring, aims at providing meaningful mentorship and space for brainstorming at the regional level. There is no cost to ASTR, mainly the idea is to provide the organizations imprimatur to help those at the local level secure funding and support from their institutions. The Regional Meeting initiative aims to institutionalize our recognition that this conference is not the whole field, there are other components, and it also recognizes the financial realities that impact our colleagues. A regional meeting is easier to organize, can bring people together to brainstorm, share best practices. Next step is to implement and promote the meetings, get the questions raised in the survey articulated and discussed by more people at the local level.

13. Theatre Survey report (Leo Cabranes-Grant)

Esther Kim Lee is the new Associate Editor. The Editor and Associate Editor work as a team, the Associate Editor is involved in the decision-making process from the beginning of his/her term. All decisions are collaborative; this process trains the Associate Editor and also gives the Editor another set of eyes on the journal throughout. Cabranes-Grant expressed the hope that this model for work between the two will continue in the future.

Next year will be a transition year; it will be the last year with two issues before we transition to three issues per year in 2013. There are some small details that will change in 2012:

1) Different months for appearance of issues: #1 will appear in April instead of May, and #2 in September instead of November. The reason is that CUP does its budget planning before

April, and the shift will allow them to plan for the year after the first issue has been released and they have sales data.

2) The September issue will be a global outreach issue -- it will be a joint issue on recent scholarship in Golden Age Drama, in partnership with the University of Navarra, which is paying for translations and helping to subvent purchase for libraries in Spain. The volume will bring together leading voices in Golden Age drama, translate them, and make them available as an archive for teaching. *Theatre Survey* needs to get more involved in issues of translation; it can address the need to deal with how translation is also a methodology for communication in global era.

Beginning in 2013, the issue will appear in Jan/May/Sept. January will be Lee's first issue, on Asian Theatre and Historiography. From now on, the first issue of new editor will be a special issue, which will allow the new editor to come in with a "bang."

The journal aims for a balance between rigor and flexibility. We want rigorous scholarship, but also the ability to respond to current issues and problems. The flexibility attracts a different kind of reader to the journal, and also documents the "history of the moment." We're creating an archive.

One concern to note is the number of submissions. There is an average of about thirty-three submissions per year to the journal. How can we improve the submission rate? On a positive note, there has been an uptick in the diversity of methodology and topic—we see more submissions on Latin American, Asian, and African performance. There is more diversity, but not an increase in numbers of submissions. Moreover, in spite of efforts, junior scholars perceive *TS* as a senior journal—they are afraid to 'compete' with senior scholars. But *TS* has won the Kahan Award twice in the past two years, so clearly this is a false impression. We need to convince junior scholars that their submissions are welcome. Cabranes-Grant floated a couple of ideas:

- 1) *TS* could sponsor a plenary at the conference
- 2) We could create an award related to *TS* that sponsors new voices in the field. We want to increase our visibility among our own members.

In discussion, the EC put forward a number of suggestions for increasing visibility of the journal:

- *Possible Theatre Survey plenary panel, options might be:*
 - *paper versions of article that have not yet been published*
 - *a competitive panel, with prize and TS publication*
 - *sponsor a panel that is already in place, TS provides the respondent*
 - *editors constitute one panel out of the papers already accepted by the program committee (perhaps TS editor could be ex officio member of the program committee)*
 - *perhaps TS panel could be "cutting edge" or "new thinking"—outside the theme of the conference, an open invitation to young scholars*
 - *how we do this is not as important as addressing need to increase visibility of the journal*
 - *TS could sponsor individual papers across plenaries and/or concurrent paper sessions, or even within Working Groups; papers could be designated "Theatre*

Survey sponsored paper, give them distinction and honor. Working Session papers have advantage that the editor can see the whole paper and not just abstract in advance. This would also not corral all the junior scholars into one panel

- It's helpful to have the Editor articulate the openness of the journal to submissions, should make use of ASTROonline and website to increase transparency. The "Demystifying ASTRO" session would also be a good place to explain to junior scholars how to get published in TS. This was also identified as desirable in the New Paradigms survey.

14. American Theatre Archive Project/ Ad Hoc Committee on Archive Preservation

We are still waiting for word from the NEA on the disposition of the grant application; Committee Chairs Susan Brady and Ken Cerniglia have set up a great network of theaters and scholars to work on this project. This initiative is firmly under ASTRO: it is kind of a standing committee, an ASTRO project. Many thanks to Susan Brady and Ken Cerniglia; this initiative has the possibility to have a profound effect on future scholarship in the field of theatre history.

There will be an organizational meeting on Friday morning to encourage people to get involved.

15. Report on 2011 conference (Nancy Erickson)

There are 525 attendees at the conference so far; some were registering up until midnight last night. Having mistakenly sent out the email that early registration ends on October 1 turned out to be advantageous, many people registered early. We may consider setting the early registration deadline to October 15. There have been no non-member registrants. Forty-three people signed up for the Cirque tour.

We have an overabundance of registrants for the career sessions, we didn't limit them, and some are quite large. When we do the list of announcements, we should let attendees know that the sessions are still open so that anyone can attend.

This year, a new fundraiser: attendees can buy an ASTRO t-shirt for \$20, or a raffle ticket for \$2.

We had 40-50 requests for mentors; thank you to all who took on extra mentees.

16. New business

a. Conference issues from the Vice President's Report

1. Joint conference with other organizations: The Vice President solicited suggestions from the EC for possible potential future partnerships for another joint conference. She will take those suggestions back to the Committee on Conferences for discussion and consideration.
2. Process for selecting conference planner: The Vice President asked for suggestions to open up the process for selecting the conference planner. The committee recommended using the same model used for finding a new editor for *Theatre Survey*. For the 2014

conference, the Committee on Conferences will send out a call for applications for the conference planner (can also, in future, be an insert in the conference program).

b. Spring meeting information: The Spring EC Meeting will take place in Dallas, TX from March 23-25, 2012. There will be an Officer's meeting on Friday evening; the EC meeting will begin Saturday morning, and the meeting will end on Sunday morning.

c. Thank you to outgoing EC members Penny Farfan, Scott Magelssen, Sandra Richards, Patricia Ybarra, and Kimi Johnson (GSC representative)

d. Thank you to outgoing officers Tobin Nellhaus and Wendy Arons

15. Adjournment

MOTION: to adjourn. Moved by Nellhaus, seconded Arons. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Arons
ASTR Secretary