

American Society for Theatre Research

**Minutes of the Fall 2012 ASTR Annual Business Meeting
Sheraton Downtown, Nashville, TN
3 November 2012**

The President called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

1) Approval of the Minutes of Fall 2011 meeting—Blair

MOTION: to approve the minutes of the Fall 2011 Annual Business Meeting. Moved by McConachie, seconded by Sell. **The motion carried by acclamation.**

2) Approval of Agenda—Blair

MOTION: to approve the agenda for the Fall 2012 Annual Business Meeting. Moved by Herrera, seconded by Canning. **The motion carried by acclamation.**

3) Thanks and congratulations to conference chairs Patrick Anderson, Patricia Ybarra, and their committee for their superb work in putting this great event together.

4) In memoriam: Glenda Dickerson

E.J. Westlake remembered Glenda Dickerson of the University of Michigan as an iconic director, folklorist, adapter, and educator noted for her work with folklore, myths, Black legends, and classical works reinterpreted. She won Emmy and Peabody awards, directed on Broadway, was central to discussions of race and gender within the Women and Theatre Program in the 1990s, as well as creating many activist, womanist performances. She founded the Center for World Performance Studies at the University of Michigan.

5) Vice President's Report—Wolf

—Heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Patrick Anderson, Patricia Ybarra and their committee for organizing this excellent conference program. Thanks to all for attending, and to members of the Committee on Conferences for their sustained work on the conferences across the years. Special thanks to Koritha Mitchell, who put together the career session this year and will do so again next year and to Laurie Beth Clark, Michael Peterson, and Lois Weaver for the hospitality sessions. The Vice President would welcome all thoughts and feedback on the current conference.

—The Vice President thanked those who have worked with her on the Committee on Conferences over the past three years: Angela Marino Segura, Angela Weaver, Anthea Kraut, David Saltz, David Saltz, Gay Gibson Cima, John Fletcher, Laura Edmondson, Marla Carlson, Mechele Leon, Nadine George-Graves, Nancy Friedland, Nicholas Ridout, Patricia Ybarra, Patrick Anderson, Sara Armstrong, Scott Magelssen, Sonja Kufinec, and Tamara Underiner. She

congratulated the amazing Nancy Erickson and her team for their work this year in the face of many challenges including the sold-out hotel and the weather.

—The registration packet contains a call for papers for our 2013 Post-Thematic Conference in Dallas. Thanks in advance to Jonathan Chambers and Scott Magelssen for their work as Program Chairs. As the call for papers says, “Live large, think big.”

—Program chairs will be selected through an application process starting in 2014 and going forward, with applications due by December 15.

—Thanked the officers she has worked with and, again, Nancy.

6) Secretary's Report—Carlson

—2012 Election: Thanks to Shaun Franklin-Sewell and Nancy Erickson for once again creating an electronic ballot.

—Website: Remember that minutes from Executive Committee meetings and from the general meeting can be found on the website, along with the handbook detailing ASTR policies and procedures and describing the work of all of the committees.

—By-law Amendments: The Executive Committee unanimously approved three amendments to the ASTR Bylaws. The text of all three amendments was emailed to the membership and posted on the ASTR website. Following a discussion of the proposed amendments during today's meeting, we will conduct a vote by mail.

- The proposed amendment concerning electronic communications authorizes us to conduct business including votes by email or other electronic methods.
- The proposed amendment concerning indemnification and insurance authorizes us to indemnify persons authorized to act on behalf of ASTR against claims that might arise from such actions, and to purchase insurance if necessary.
- The proposed amendment concerning Vice Presidents establishes a Vice President for Publications and a Vice President for Awards without expanding the size of the Executive Committee, because we would eliminate two EC positions. The current Vice President would become the Vice President for Conferences. All terms of office would be three years, and elections would be conducted on a three-year rotation: This means that we would elect a VP for Publications in 2013, and the VP for Awards in 2014. Patrick Anderson's title would change to VP for Conferences, and we would elect someone for to replace him in 2015, at the same time as we elect a new President. The VP for Conferences cannot serve two consecutive terms in that position. The purpose of this amendment is to ensure that the people filling these positions, both crucial to the operations of ASTR, are present for meetings of the Executive Committee.

The President voiced support for the amendments and noted the fiduciary responsibilities of the chairs of the Awards and Fellowships and Publications committees.

7) Treasurer's Report—Bates

—The overall health of the organization quite good. Our investments have largely recovered from recession of last few years thanks to excellent guidance, including former Treasurer Tobin

Nellhaus. Our two checking accounts are both quite healthy and we can expect to come out in the black. Members can find detailed reports online along with the Treasurer's email address. Tobin did an incredible job and made her job easier. Thanks to all members of Finance Committee, the officers, and the incomparable Nancy Erickson.

8) GSC Report—Calder

—Described this year's fundraising raffle. The ASTR-GSC listserv has expanded resources. For this conference, the GSC provided a guide to resources in Nashville with Kellen Hoxworth leading this effort.

—Thanks to Eero Laine for work in streamlining operations and improving the GSC Handbook.

—Expressed thanks to President Rhonda Blair, members of the EC, and to Nancy Erickson. Congratulations and thanks to incoming GSC President Kellyn Johnson.

—Extended an invitation to all graduate students to attend the GSC meeting at the conference led by new GSC President Kellyn Johnson.

9) TLA Report—Schlesinger

—Congratulations to David Mayer on his award, with appreciation for his remarks about TLA.

—TLA celebrated its 75th anniversary this year, as reflected in their plenary title. The organization also sponsored a working session on Digital Humanities, the Hatch Tour, and an open forum on academic libraries, which is a joint effort of TLA and ASTR.

—Welcome to incoming TLA President Nancy Friedland, who pledges support to ASTR's officers and members.

10) Ad Hoc Committee on New Paradigms in Graduate Education Report—Nathans

—A condensed report of the committee's survey is included in conference packets. Highlights: This year's conference Program Committee made New Paradigms visible throughout the conference with multiple sessions, the last of which is at 5:15 tonight.

—Recognized members of committee for their service.

—New directions programs are taking: compared to last year there has been an 11% increase in the number of programs that are rethinking how they're operating, along with some increase in training students for careers outside of the academy. 58.5% of recent graduates would not characterize their careers as successful.

—Areas of concern: job placement, program support, integration of production skills, mentorship.

—Identified ways that ASTR can help.

11) President's Report—Blair

—Acknowledged the historical input of the Graduate Student Caucus and Scott Magelssen's survey of the membership.

—Thanks to Nancy Erickson.

—The spring 2012 EC meeting included planning for the proposed bylaw amendments and the Cambridge University Press prize; transformed the Ad Hoc Committee on New Paradigms in Graduate Education into a standing committee.

—Thanks to the Oscar G. Brockett Center for Theatre Studies at the University of Texas, Austin, especially Brant Pope and Charlotte Canning, as well as Iris Smith Fischer.

—The EC has developed new policies related to conference submission and registration and has also increased funds for some awards and fellowships, particularly those that fund travel and research.

—There have been changes to fundraising, with Kirsten Pullen taking over as chair of that committee. Please response to their initiatives and look for announcements in 2013.

—502 people preregistered for this conference and close to 400 are actually present, which is especially impressive given the impact of Hurricane Sandy.

—Thanks to Leo Cabranes-Grant as outgoing *Theatre Survey* editor for his fabulous work. Royalties have increased this year, and there were over 15,000 downloads of *Theatre Survey* articles, an increase of more than 50% over the previous year. Harvey Young has been approved as the new Associate Editor of *Theatre Survey*.

—Ad Hoc Committee on the website including *ASTROOnline* is building on the work that Charlotte McIvor has done. Also note Shaun Franklin-Sewell's fine work as Webmaster, which has included among other things eliminated the "reply all" default for the ListServ. The chair of the Publications Committee oversees the website as well as the journal. Thanks to Susan Bennett for the way she guided all things under her purview with such efficacy and grace.

—Thanks to Iris Fischer for her leadership of Awards and Fellowships, building on Dorothy Chansky's work. All of the award committees are staffed at this time, but volunteers are still welcome for positions that will need to be filled in the future. Thanks to Jeffrey Jenkins at the University of Illinois for working with ASTR to strengthen the Hewitt Award. We had more submissions this year for many categories but some were still low—in particular, there were no applications this year for the Grants for Researchers with Heavy Teaching Loads award. If you can use that money, please apply for it.

—Thanks to John Lutterbie and the Nominating Committee last year for putting together such a strong slate. Natalya Baldyga is looking for candidates to stand for election to various positions in the 2013 election.

—ATAP: Ken Cerniglia, Susan Brady, and their committees have established nine teams and received \$4000 from the Lucille Lortel Foundation this year.

—A leadership summit will convene next weekend under ATHE Pres Bill Doan to focus on questions currently being addressed primarily through the committee on New Paradigms in Graduate Education.

—Remember to check the website of the American Council on Learned Societies for information on grant and funding possibilities for professoriate and graduate students. Members have applied and received funding from this organization.

12) Announcements—Blair

—Thank you to outgoing EC members Susan Bennett, Dorothy Chansky, Laura Edmondson, and Mike Sell for their three years of service to ASTR, and thanks to David Calder for his year as GSC representative.

—Thanks as well to continuing members of the EC Gay Gibson Cima, Elinor Fuchs, Brian Herrera, Soyica Colbert, Suk-Young Kim, Kirsten Pullen, and Leigh Woods.

—Congratulations and welcome to new EC members Robin Bernstein, Jill Stevenson, Shane Vogel, E.J. Westlake, and our new GSC representative, Kellyn Johnson.

13) Questions and New Business

None.

14) Incoming President's Comments—Nathans

Heather Nathans thanked Rhonda Blair and expressed excitement about the work that lies ahead, her gratitude to Rhonda and Stacy, all the members of the EC, and all the people serving on committees for leadership and mentorship. She looks forward to working towards the success of organization but also individuals who comprise the organization and spoke about the direction and tasks to be discovered. Noting the alchemy between Performance Studies and Theatre History, Nathans looks forward to hearing many voices in this dynamic, democratic organization.

15) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 2:56.