

Approved by the EC on



Minutes of the Spring 2010 ASTR Executive Committee Meeting
Southern Methodist University, Dallas TX
6-7 March 2010

Present: Rhonda Blair (President), Stacy Wolf (Vice President), Wendy Arons (Secretary), Tobin Nellhaus (Treasurer), Nancy Erickson (Administrator, *ex officio*), Charlotte McIvor (GSC Representative), Brandi Catanese, Sandra Richards, Penny Farfan, Patricia Ybarra, Dorothy Chansky, Mike Sell, Laura Edmondson, Susan Bennett (12 voting members)

Absent: Scott Magelssen, Rebecca Schneider, Ramon Rivera-Servera, Daphne Lei

SATURDAY 6 MARCH 2010

The President called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION: to adopt the agenda prepared by the President for the Spring 2010 EC Meeting. Moved by Nellhaus (no second). Motion carried by acclamation.

2. Adoption of the Minutes of the Fall 2009 Executive Committee Meeting

MOTION: to approve the Minutes of the Fall 2009 EC Meeting, including subsequent e-votes. Moved by Arons, seconded by Chansky. Motion carried by acclamation.

3. President's Report – Blair

a) Website: Work is continuing on the redesign of Web site. The ONEW, Jim Groom, is a bit overextended, but he's working well. The membership list is being revised and developed and refined; this is an ongoing project.

b) Nominating Committee: This committee is constituted in June. The President will recruit people over the next few months, and submit a list of appointees to the Nominating Committee to the EC for approval by evote.

c) Balzan Prize nomination: The President has been gathering letters of support for our nomination of Marvin Carlson for this prize. IFTR is cosponsoring, Ellen Gainor has

been helping to gather materials, and it's looking very impressive. All the materials are gathered; the package will be put together and emailed on Monday March 8 2010.

d) Fundraising Committee: this committee has been 'on hold' for a while, until we have had a chance to articulate priorities and have the conversation about ASTR's future. The President also wants to rethink how we do the fundraising, who we approach, etc., especially in the current economic climate. One approach might be to look at grants and foundations as an alternative means of subsidizing specific activities and projects.

e) Virtual meeting: this was a good experiment, but it is not clear that the virtual meeting platform will work effectively for a group of the size of the full EC.

f) New Committee Appointments

MOTION to ratify the President's appointments to committees for 2010. Moved by Nellhaus, seconded Farfan. Vote: 12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions. **The motion carried unanimously.**

4. Vice President's Report

a) 2010 Conference: The conference planning for 2010 is going well—a large number of plenary and working group proposals were received. We may want to do a similar collaboration with another organization in future.

b) 2011 Conference: Planning is under way. Hotel is the Fairmount in Montreal. A draft of the CFP was attached to the VP report; the VP will welcome any suggestions and comments from the EC, by email, by March 20, 2010. The CFP will then come back to the EC for an e-vote later this spring for approval.

c) 2012 Conference: The Committee on Conferences has begun to discuss venue and theme. The CC is looking at Nashville and New Orleans, as well as Chicago, Denver, Minneapolis. The EC expressed strong support for both Nashville and New Orleans and noted that both cities open the possibilities of fruitful explorations of popular culture and/or music. The President suggested that the CC also consider Dallas, which has the advantage of being both an airline hub city and the city with the world's largest arts district. The Vice President asked EC members to contact her if they had any further suggestions for conference sites to pass along. In addition, the choice of a conference planner for 2012 is under discussion; the CC feels strongly that the theme and planner should be chosen together. There was a list of possible themes in the VP report. An unthemed conference is also a possibility.

d) Ad hoc committee on Archival Preservation: This committee is doing a lot of important work, and has developed the draft white paper attached to the VP report. They have a great deal of support from TLA and other organizations. The committee has requested approval from the EC to go forward with the white paper.

The president asked the EC to approve the spirit and basic principles of the Ad hoc committee's white paper, so that the committee can go forward with their work and present a final version to the EC for formal approval. Approved by acclamation.

e) Ad hoc Committee on the Committee on Conferences: constituted to review the work and function of the CC. Rick Knowles is heading this up; they do not yet have anything ready for the EC, but the VP will communicate their recommendations to the EC when those have been articulated. Nothing will change in the near future.

5. Treasurer's Report

a) The Treasurer's report contained a proposal to change the conference fee structure—both to take care of the issue of non-member's conference registration fee being less than members' payment of dues plus the regular conference registration fee, and to encourage earlier registration so that we have a better sense of the budget going in to the conference. EC members expressed some concern about the increase in fees for graduate students who register late. The proposal was made to eliminate the \$25 cancellation penalty for graduate students, to remove any disincentive for graduate students to take advantage of the early registration discount. This proposal was approved unanimously by straw vote, and the remainder of the changes to the conference fee structure was accepted as proposed, to be adopted with the formal motion to adopt the budget.

The GSC representative noted that there was no projected income from the Silent Auction in the budget; the Treasurer amended the budget to add a projected income of \$1000 from the 2010 Silent Auction.

b) **MOTION** to approve the budget for FY 2011, as amended (to add \$1000 to the income line from the silent auction). Moved by Nellhaus, seconded by Chansky. Vote: 12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions. **The motion carried unanimously.**

c) **MOTION** to approve the contract with Nancy Erickson as ASTR Administrator for FY 2011. Moved by Nellhaus, seconded by Sell. Vote: 12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions. **The motion carried unanimously.**

d) **MOTION** to replace the policy on honoraria outlined in Section VII.C.4 with the following:

"Individuals may be paid honoraria for conference presentations at the Vice President's discretion, out of funds designated for conference programming. Individuals may be paid honoraria for other organizational services at the Officers' discretion, out of funds for general operations.

The offer of an honorarium must be made in writing, identifying the reason for the honorarium, and signed by the Treasurer and either the President or the Vice President. ASTR's Administrator will determine the documentation needed for accounting and tax purposes."

Moved by Nellhaus, seconded by McIvor. Vote: 12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Nellhaus asked the Secretary to put in a cross reference in the handbook to refer Program Chairs to this policy.

6. Secretary's Report

a) The Secretary urged the EC to commit to timely response to ASTR business, especially to calls for votes.

b) **MOTION** to approve the election slate of names submitted by the Nominating Committee and prepared by the Secretary. Moved by Arons, seconded by Nellhaus. Vote: 12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions. **The motion carried unanimously.**

7. Graduate Student Representative Report

a) One focus of GSC efforts has been to increase yearlong services and accessibility, particularly with various web-based networking platforms (wikis, listservs, facebook, e-newsletter, etc). A quarterly newsletter is now in place to keep a regular rhythm of information flow.

b) Another area of focus is the growth of the silent auction. In 2009, the final sum raised was not as high as hoped, but the number of bidders was much higher than 2008. The GSC is working with pricing strategy to increase the yield.

c) There has been a structural change to GSC officer functions. The President-Elect of the GSC will support the silent auction; the VP will now chair the graduate resources committee. It is hoped that one unique thing ASTR can offer is to be the place for graduate students to locate important resources.

d) The mentor breakfast was a big success at the 2009 conference. The Ambassador program is under continuing review to find the most effective way to have ambassadors help new attendees.

e) The Silent Auction this year should begin online, at least two weeks pre-conference. Graduate students should not pay out of pocket for silent auction expenses; there is a line item in the budget for reimbursement of fundraising expenses. It was suggested that, in addition, the request for donations could include a 'subsidy' option for those who do not have items to donate to the Silent Auction. The Administrator needs to reconfirm with BK Media to make sure that the website will be able to accommodate the silent auction online bidding.

f) Seattle 2010: a Brown Bag session on alternative careers for Theater PhDs is planned. Suggested names for participants: Ken Cerniglia, Gavin Witt.

g) The GSC Rep will be liaising with her counterpart at CORD to work together at the Seattle conference to make it a rich and valuable experience for graduate students in both organizations.

h) Mentoring: more consistent and ongoing mentorship of graduate students is desirable. The Administrator noted that it would be helpful to have guidance from a member of the EC to help her pair mentors and mentees at the conference. Mike Sell agreed to work with the Administrator and GSC Representative on developing ASTR mentorship, both at the conference and as an ongoing benefit of ASTR membership.

8. Publications Chair Report

a) *TS Contract*: The Publications Committee has been busy with the renewal of the publishing contract for *Theatre Survey*. A decision will need to be made in the summer, and the Publications Chair will want an electronic discussion to take place among the EC to help advise on, and vote to approve, the new contract. The Publications Chair asked the Secretary to circulate the discussion from the minutes on the last contract negotiation three years ago to give the EC a sense of what was discussed and considered. The Publications Chair also distributed marketing materials from Cambridge and requested EC members to weigh in with any ideas or suggestions at a later date (after they have had a chance to review)—what Cambridge offers in terms of marketing may be a negotiating point in this next contract.

b) Bennett suggested a topic for discussion in the breakout groups: the role of editing. It was hard to get editors in this last round; there seems to be a devaluing of this work in institutions (in the promotions process), and a sense that editing a journal is seen as 'onerous service'. How do we market this as intellectual leadership?

c) Recruiting editors: The PC will put together a document to demonstrate to institutions what kind of support has been offered in the past, in order to help future editors make the case to their institution for support. More input from the EC in identifying potential candidates for the next Associate Editor would be helpful.

d) In response to a query from the President, Bennett noted that although the current editors are interested in expanding to a third issue, the committee does not at this point see the evidence of number of submissions to support that change.

e) **MOTION** to appoint Kim Solga as Book Review Editor for *Theatre Survey* for a three-year term, commencing 1 January 2011. Moved by Bennett, seconded by Chansky. Vote: 12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions. **The motion carried unanimously.**

9. Fellowships and Awards Director's Report

a) **MOTION** to replace the policy on conference fee waivers outlined in Section VII.C.2, which currently reads:

"Honorarium recipients and student volunteers providing conference assistance always have their conference fees waived."

with the following (as amended at the meeting):

"Conference fees will be waived for the recipients of the Distinguished Scholar Award, all publication awards, the Marshall, Keller, and Cohen awards, and for student volunteers providing conference assistance. The Vice President may, in consultation with the Treasurer and the President, choose to pay for any other waivers from the Vice President's discretionary fund."

Moved by Chansky, seconded by Nellhaus. Vote: 12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions. **The motion carried unanimously.**

b) **MOTION** to change the name of the "Supplemental Research/Travel Grants" to "Grants for Researchers at Teaching-Intensive Institutions". Moved by Chansky, seconded by Ybarra. Vote: 12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions. **The motion carried unanimously.**

c) Keller Award: last year we granted only one Keller Award, because of budget. We need to check to see if the donor has sent a double contribution this year; if so, we need to fund a second award this year. The Administrator will check this. If there was a double donation this year, there will need to be a vote to amend the budget to fund a second award.

d) **MOTION** to change the Visiting Scholar and Domestic Exchange Grants to biennial awards beginning in 2011, with the Visiting Scholar Grant awarded in even years, and the Domestic Exchange Grant awarded in odd years. Moved by Chansky, seconded by Richards. Vote: 12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions. **The motion carried unanimously.**

e) **MOTION** to approve the proposal for an "ASTR Essay Prize", to commence in 2010, as described below. Moved by Chansky, seconded by Farfan. Vote: 12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions. **The motion carried unanimously.**

ASTR Essay Prize

Purpose:

The American Society for Theatre Research offers an annual award for the best essay written and published in English in a refereed scholarly journal or volume published by an academic press. The essay can be on any subject in theatre research, broadly construed. The ASTR Essay Prize presentation at the ASTR annual meeting includes an acknowledgement of the editor's contribution to the work.

Eligibility:

The author must have been a member of ASTR for at least three years and be at least seven years beyond the Ph.D. Essays must have been published in the calendar year preceding the year in which the award is given. Essays in edited anthologies may not have appeared elsewhere previously.

Nomination:

Nominations may come from the author of an essay, any member of ASTR, or the editor of a journal or volume in which the essay has appeared. Authors may nominate only one essay. Editors may nominate one essay per volume.

Evaluation:

The winning essay will be judged for its originality, critical rigor, fluency in related research, and significance to the field.

The Director of Awards and Fellowships will constitute a committee to adjudicate this prize.

10. Administrator's Report

a) Membership: There is a clear decline in membership from previous years. If members do not renew online, the Administrator has to put them into the database manually. It is most efficient if members renew online; we need to find ways to encourage online registration.

b) Website: Jim Groom has developed a revised look for the website. It will be changed in the next few months. We may need to constitute a subcommittee to make suggestions for the final look & structure. The President asked the EC to suggest names of ASTR members who might be good candidates to fill the role of Website Editor (to gather and funnel information to the ONEW for posting, and to help manage content).

c) Conference: Total attendance last year was 470 (needs amending on the Administrator's Report). Conference attendance has been over 400 for several years running. We have budgeted for over 400 in Seattle (ASTR and CORD attendees combined). The Administrator has contracts on file for 2011, and will begin working on site and hotel for 2012.

11. Report from the ad hoc Committee on Membership Assessment

This Committee was constituted to gather information about the membership and assess why member numbers are falling, particular among the emeritus faculty. The committee is trying to find ways of sending a survey out in a form that will get response from members who may not be comfortable users of email/ web based surveys.

Some other suggestions that came up in the committee's discussion:

- the website needs to be kept up to date
- a quarterly newsletter from President
- a list of 'benefits of membership'
- recruiting grad students with direct appeal to departments

- are similar trends happening in ATHE? Nancy points out that this is not really the case, ATHE numbers holding fairly steady
- is ASTR a second/third priority organization for members?
- How much does ASTR membership link up with the status of the institution where you work?

The EC broke for lunch at 12:00 pm.

12. Breakout sessions—Discussion of the current status of ASTR; future goals

After lunch, the EC broke out into three groups to discuss challenges the organization faces in terms of membership retention and the future of the organization. The President charged each group to bring back three concrete proposals (see Appendix A). The EC reconvened as a committee at 3:15 pm to discuss the breakout group proposals (see Appendix B).

In discussion, the EC agreed that the following were concrete actions that could be implemented quickly:

- Website oversight committee—with member from the current EC as chair
- Call for nominations for website editor
- Raffle for membership—just needs organizing and advertising
- Conference "panel" sessions during working groups
- Our version of the "TED" talks as podcast/videocasts on the web—needs a point person to woo, cajole, organize
- Brownbag for researchers at non-research institutions—doable for this year
- Senior scholars invited to mentor younger scholars—needs point person from EC—maybe better to do NOT in conjunction with the conference.
- Institutional memberships—research what might be the cost to ASTR, and then we can move on it.
- Patricia Ybarra will look into the possibility of ASTR affiliation w/MLA.
- Plan for an unthemed conference in the near future.

The meeting adjourned for the day at 4:49 pm, to reconvene on Sunday morning at 8:00 am.

SUNDAY 7 MARCH 2010

The President called the meeting to order at 8:20 a.m.

Absent: Laura Edmondson

The President thanked all EC members who were willing to share rooms or pay for half the room at this meeting to save costs. Order of business for the day: motions from business that arose on Saturday, and a few new items of business.

13. Motions presented from business that arose during Saturday's meeting

a) **MOTION** to award the Sally Banes Publication Prize in 2010 to coincide with the joint ASTR/CORD conference. The Banes Prize shall subsequently continued to be offered in even numbered years. Moved by Farfan, seconded by Catanese. Vote: 11 yes, 0 no, 0 abstention. **The motion carried unanimously.**

The President asked the Secretary to update the website to reflect this change in the schedule for the award.

b) **MOTION:** ASTR will establish the ASTR Editorial Fellowship, in the amount of \$1500, in support of the editors of *Theatre Survey*, to be awarded beginning in 2010. Moved by Bennett, seconded by McIvor. Vote: 10 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention. **The motion carried.**

During discussion members of the EC stressed that the spirit of this award at the present time is to provide for funding and recognition for the service provided by the book review editor, who currently does not receive any ASTR funding, but to leave open flexibility for the future if different needs arise. The designation of "Fellowship" would also mean something to institutions that value and reward the ability to win external grants.

c) **MOTION** to change the second sentence in the paragraph describing the purpose of the Targeted Research award to read as follows:

"Such areas include, but are not limited to, the following: pre-1900 research and Asian, African, Latin American, and Middle Eastern theatre, dance, and performance."

Moved by Chansky, seconded Ybarra. Vote: 10 yes, 0 No, 1 abstention. **The motion carried.**

d) **MOTION:** to authorize the Director of Awards and Fellowships to empower the Research/Targeted Research committee to fund awards for Targeted Research from Research funds, should the number and nature of applications for the two award categories warrant such action. Moved by Farfan, seconded by McIvor. Vote: 0 yes, 11 no, 0 abstentions. **The motion was struck down.**

e) **MOTION:** The Research and Targeted Research Fellowships shall be funded at up to \$3000 each. Moved Chansky, seconded by Catanese. Vote: 0 yes, 7 no, 4 abstentions. **The motion was struck down.**

Currently, each award is funded "up to \$4000" but there is only \$6000 budgeted for the two awards in total. The EC debated whether or not it was desirable to mandate parity in the two categories, or leave the language as is, which opens the possibility of an inequitable distribution of monies between the two awards. The President charged the Director of Awards and Fellowships to work with members Catanese and Richards to

bring a proposal to the EC to clarify this issue, to be discussed and acted upon either electronically or at the Fall meeting.

The Director of Awards and Fellowships will clarify to the adjudicating committee that for 2010, \$6000 total is available for these two awards. To reflect the EC's desire for flexibility, the Treasurer combined the separate budget line items for the two awards into a single line item for both.

f) Program Statement on Conference Panels:

In an effort to provide more opportunities to our members to present their work to their most valued peers, the EC charges the Committee on Conferences and the Program Committee and its Chair(s) to explore options for conference events that fall between Working Sessions and Plenaries.

We are particularly interested in panels running concurrently with Working Sessions. These panels would provide a place for additional excellent papers selected from among the plenary proposals.

We are also interested in panels and/or brownbags, such as the following, as possibilities for future conferences. The spirit of the suggestions below is to recognize excellence in books, essays, and research supported by ASTR.

1. Barnard Hewitt panel: A panel comprised of the year's Bernard Hewitt winner and respondents, along with a table with the year's book available for purchase and signing.
2. Errol Hill panel: A panel comprised of the year's Errol Hill winner and respondents, along with a table with the year's book available for purchase and signing.
3. Essay award winner panel: A panel comprised of the winners of the year's essay awards and their editors.
4. New work panel: A panel comprised of scholars who have books just published or in the pipeline. This might be complemented by a table with their books and an opportunity for a book signing.
5. Research and Targeted Research Fellowship and Dissertation Prize panel: A panel composed of recent recipients of ASTR Research and Targeted Research Fellowships to present the results of their research.

The EC affirmed this statement by acclamation, and charged the Vice President to bring it to the Committee on Conferences and Program Chairs.

14. Reconsideration of Funding of Fellowships and Awards for 2010

a) **MOTION** to fund the Hill, Kahan, and Baner Awards for 2010. Moved by Nellhaus, seconded by Farfan. Bennett called the question. Vote: 4 yes, 6 no, 1 abstention. **The motion was struck down.**

In discussion, several EC members asked for the rationale by which the previous EC made the decision to de-fund certain awards and not others. The President asked the Secretary to circulate the discussion from the Spring 2009 meeting regarding the principles which guided the decision to fund and defund various grants and fellowships.

The Director of Awards and Fellowships noted that we had not discussed changing the funding level for the Selma Jean Cohen Award. Due to time constraints, the President asked the Director of Awards and Fellowships to circulate a motion regarding the Selma Jean Cohen Award funding level by email, for an e-vote.

15. Website

The ONEW's contract is going to be reviewed, and his duties reconsidered. Moreover, we need a website content editor. Brandi Catanese has been asked to chair an ad hoc Committee on Website Oversight. The President will appoint two other members to the committee, with the Administrator and Secretary *ex officio* on the committee.

16. Consideration of the title and function of the Executive Committee

The President invites reflection on the name and function of ASTR's "Executive Committee": is that what this body is, in fact? The "executive branch" of government does not "legislate" the way ASTR's EC seems to do. Is it a - governing board? an Advisory Council? a Steering Committee? Is there a better way to name this committee? Is a redesignation needed or desired? It may be a useful reflection to more clearly define and clarify the function of the EC.

17. Final Announcements

The Treasurer announced that the amended budget will be circulated to the EC electronically; the budget does not have to be ratified again, but EC members should review it carefully to make sure it accurately reflects decisions taken at this meeting.

The President thanked the EC for its service and attention to business.

MOTION to adjourn. Moved by Nellhaus, second Richards. **The motion carried by acclamation.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:23 am.

(From the President to the Breakout Groups)**THE CHARGE: I WOULD LIKE FOR EACH GROUP TO COME UP WITH THREE CONCRETE PROPOSALS FOR ACTION REGARDING THE BELOW**

What should ASTR be?

Whom are we serving? Whom should we serve?

How do we retain our strengths as a scholarly body in relationship to changing economic conditions, employment opportunities (various teaching profiles, non-traditional employment for Ph.D.s), technologies, and demographics?

How do we address challenges facing us regarding membership, changing disciplines, changing technologies, etc.?

How do we define and sufficiently value the work of journal editors?

How do we market to ourselves and our institutions our work as intellectual leaders in the field?

How can the EC facilitate this?

Some concrete issues that came up this morning to address various aspects of the above:

Questions regarding collaborations with other organization;

Possibility of unthemed conference(s);

Request for more input/suggestions regarding the GSC brown alternate careers session;

Questions regarding co-sponsored events and awards;

How to be more effective regarding membership renewal notifications.

FROM THE WEBSITE

The American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR) is a U.S.-based professional organization that fosters scholarship on worldwide theatre and performance, both historical and contemporary.

ASTR was founded in 1956 to encourage theatre scholarship and to provide a link with other similar groups represented in the International Federation for Theatre Research (IFTR/FIRT). Its name was adopted to distinguish it from the Society for Theatre Research, based in the United Kingdom.

In 1967, the American Society for Theatre Research was incorporated under the laws of New Jersey as a nonprofit corporation. In informal correspondence, the society is referred to as "ASTR."

ASTR is the only theatre organization in the United States affiliated with IFTR and the American Council of Learned Societies. ASTR cooperates with the Theatre Library Association to host its annual conference and the Association for Theatre in Higher Education in many endeavors of mutual interest. ASTR also maintains liaisons and correspondence with the National Humanities Alliance, Performance Studies International, the Society of Dance History Scholars, and the Kurt Weill Foundation for Music regarding the administration of the Kurt Weill Prize.

Breakout Group 1: Mike Sell, Brandi Catanese, Wendy Arons, Susan Bennett, Nancy Erickson

1. Themes and the conference

--We propose a hybrid alternative. There will continue to be themes, but the themes will not encompass all activities at the conference (i.e., only plenaries are themed, or certain number of plenaries and working groups, etc.)

--Regardless, we would like to see structured moments for the gathering of off-path material.

--Possibilities: A "Fresh Print" panel in which writers who have just published books or have them in the pipelines speak about them. A "Barnard Hewitt" plenary. The "prodigal" panel featuring former members.

--Plus: Aligns the conference with the journal: both themed and unthemed.

--We propose at least one unthemed conference: The catchphrase: "What's Out There?"

2. Website and member-exclusive content

--Joblist

--Journal extensions: correspondence and debate, documents, etc.

--Podcasts: 20-minute talks from our celebrity members

--Teacher stuff (documents, clips, syllabi, lesson plans, exercises)

--Newsletter

--Discount links: To Cambridge, airlines, etc.

--One suggestion: Selling advertising space (hotel, airline, publishers, theatre)

--Linking with the archive project (i.e., archival material directory)

--Update alerts: "A new podcast by X" "Y responds to Z's critique"

3. Promoting editorial positions

--Making clear the benefits and support that editors already have: stipend (\$6500/\$1500, need one for book review editor), online submission (need this for book review editor, too), subsidy for conference (for book review editor), ability to put together a special issue.

--Add perks: Applause, certificate, letter from president, ASTR Editorial Fellowship (to help grow funding at home institution)

--Copy editor and online submission: Gets rid of some of the onerous work, allows focus on intellectual work

Breakout Group 2: Sandra Richards, Stacy Wolf, Dorothy Chansky, Charlotte McIvor

-Should the emphasis be on making the conference exciting to draw attendees or on encouraging year-to-year membership?

-Possibilities of lifetime membership

-People only pay membership dues the year that they are attending the conference.

-How to reach out to professors and academics who work outside of what we traditionally consider "serious" theatre research?

- What about people in anthropology and social sciences who do similar work? How do we reach out to them?
- Conference theme that reaches out to broader audience of practitioners? (Spectatorship, audience)
- Competitiveness of working groups and plenaries.
- Problems with audience members in working groups.
- Are the working groups open/accessible to auditors? What if working group topics don't allow members to participate or apply?
- How can the working groups be more open or accessible to audience members?
- Is there something else that we could propose as another opportunity for participation? Concurrent panels in addition to working groups?
- How can we advocate for the prestige of journal editorship within departments? How do editors understand their job in intellectual terms? What about collaborating on ACLS to think through this issue?

Goals:

1. Focus more on the excitement of the conference as event.
2. Have concurrent panels running at same time as working groups in order to include more participants.
3. Work on ways of incorporating research on/as praxis into our goals as an organization in order to reach out to wider membership.
4. Work on ASTR Digest/Newsletter akin to PSi digest.
5. Raffle for free membership.
6. Information session about getting involved in ASTR, have committee members suggest other colleagues to work on committees. Handout dealing with possibilities of participation at different levels in information packet and on website.
7. Have mentors for assistant professors/young faculty.
8. Structure brown bags more like roundtables than experts teaching on a topic. Have brown bags for faculty to discuss undergraduate/graduate school curriculum.
9. How can we have materials to distribute, and put up materials regarding what was discussed in the session.

Breakout Group 3: Penny Farfan, Patricia Ybarra, Tobin Nellhaus, Laura Edmondson

- Premiere theatre research organization for historians and theoretical . We would like to embrace the small focused organization.
- Looser themed conference which is not geopolitically, or temporally specific.
- Paper newsletter-bring it back to create a community.
- Bring back senior scholars through mentorship for younger scholars.
- Have a brown bag to help people who want to be researchers at non-research institutions, so as to serve our interest in serving as a premiere research organization.
- Keep the website up to date.
- Possibilities of institutional membership? Can we make this enticing to departments to make a name for themselves and foment support for ASTR.
- Should we write a white paper on journal editing?

ASTR having panels at MLA or ASA (like ATDS does)?