

**ASTR**  
*American Society for Theatre Research*

**Minutes of the Spring 2012 ASTR Executive Committee Meeting  
Southern Methodist University, Owen Art Center 1030  
Dallas TX  
March 24-25 2012**

**Saturday 24 March 2012**

Present: Rhonda Blair (President), Stacy Wolf (Vice President), Marla Carlson (Secretary), Cindy Brizzell-Bates (Treasurer), Nancy Erickson (Administrator, *ex officio*), Susan Bennett, Dorothy Chansky, Gay Gibson Cima, Elinor Fuchs, Brian Herrera, Suk-Young Kim, Heather Nathans, Kirsten Pullen, Mike Sell, Leigh Woods

Absent: Soyica Colbert, Laura Edmondson, David Calder (GSC Representative; joined the meeting via Skype)

The President called the meeting to order at **8:28** am.

There were 13 voting members present, plus the President as Committee Chair.

**1. Adoption of the Agenda.**

**MOTION:** to adopt the agenda prepared by the President for the Spring 2012 Meeting. Moved by Sell, seconded by Nathans. Vote: 14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions. **The motion carried unanimously.**

**2. Approval of November 2011 Meeting Minutes** and review of November 2011 Annual Business Meeting minutes.

**MOTION:** to approve the Minutes of the Fall 2011 EC Meeting. Moved by Cima, seconded by Bates. Vote: 14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions. **The motion carried unanimously.**

**3. President's Report (Rhonda Blair)**

The President noted some amendments to the committee appointments:

- Natalya Baldyga becomes Chair of the Nominating Committee in June, with Koritha Mitchell and Karen Shimakawa continuing to serve.
- Debra Caplan is the GSC representative to the Committee on Conferences and the Program Committee.
- Patrick Anderson will continue to edit the "Critical Stages" section of *Theatre Survey*.
- Manon van den Water will be asked to continue as AATE liaison.
- The new Vice Presidents of the GSC are Kellyn Johnson and Eero Laine.

- The Ad Hoc Committee on New Paradigms in Graduate Education now includes Chrystyna Dail, Amy Cook, David Calder, Sharon Mazer, Amy Hughes, and Leigh Woods.

**MOTION:** to approve the President's 2012 committee appointments & memberships as amended. Moved by Pullen, seconded by Nathans. Vote: 14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions. **The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **4. Vice President's Report (Stacy Wolf)**

The Vice President announced that plans for the 2012 conference are proceeding smoothly, and that the Program Committee is currently reviewing and ranking plenary proposals. Since all of the plenary proposals are judged blind until very late in the process, the committee does not at this point know whose proposals they have reviewed.

During the 2012 conference, Kate Bredeson and Lara Nielson will unofficially convene a group of members who teach at small liberal arts colleges, and the Vice President supports their efforts.

The following items concern future conference planning:

- 1) The Vice President requested EC feedback as soon as possible, and next week at the latest, on the Call for Papers for the 2013 Conference.
- 2) The Committee on Conferences will issue an open call for applicants to be Conference Planner(s) for 2014. They are engaged in ongoing discussion about increasing transparency for the conference planning process and about the best ways to solicit and vet applicants.
- 3) The Committee on Conferences is also investigating possibilities for co-sponsored conferences.
- 4) The Vice President is compiling a handbook for working group session leaders—i.e, best practices and tips from successful leaders. Mike Sell will work with her on this project, and suggestions from EC members or past working group leaders are welcome. The ASTR archives may contain useful material that was generated at the time of developing the new structures for working groups.

#### **5. Secretary's Report (Marla Carlson)**

The proposed amendment to the by-laws with respect to the society's Vice Presidents has been placed before the membership and will be sent again one month before the 2012 conference.

Cima, as chair of the committee that drafted the proposed amendment, will write a brief article for *ASTRO* explaining the reasons that the EC is recommending this change.

The Administrator will ask the Society's legal advisor to review the by-laws and draft language for a proposed amendment changing all references to "mail" so that they include or are replaced by "electronic mail," given that we now conduct most of our communication and voting by this means. **The EC can expect an electronic vote on this matter.**

**MOTION:** to approve Nominating Committee slate of candidates. Moved by Sell, seconded by Chansky. Vote: 13 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention. **The motion carried.**

## **6. Treasurer's Report (Cindy Brizzell-Bates)**

The Treasurer passed around a slightly revised FY 2013 budget that correctly reflects the impact of expanding *Theatre Survey* from two issues per year to three, which raises the per-member cost from \$18 to \$20. The Society's investments did not perform as well as had been hoped, and the Treasurer is in conversation with our financial advisors about the matter.

The Finance Committee plans to investigate an increase in membership dues and conference fees, perhaps to be implemented as a percentage increase over time. Lifetime memberships were suggested as an option beneficial to individual members as well as to the Society. Other suggestions include tiers based on income and an underemployed rate.

**MOTION:** to approve Administrator's contract as revised for FY2013. Moved by Nathans, seconded by Pullen. Vote: 14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions. **The motion carried unanimously.**

## **7. Administrator Report (Nancy Erickson)**

The Administrator passed out the conference report and noted that this is what our computer system now generates, but she would like to have a separate category in the system for onsite registration.

## **8. Standing Committee Reports**

### **a. Graduate Student Caucus Report (David Calder, via Skype)**

In response to questions about continuing frustration on the part of GSC members responsible for fundraising during the conference, the GSC Representative indicated that the raffle was an improvement over the silent auction but still prevented these students from attending conference sessions. Participation by more graduate students would make this fundraising activity more manageable.

*Members of the EC questioned whether fundraising of this sort is the best way to engage graduate students in the Society's activities, suggested that this activity might give the GSC a sense of ownership as well as raising their visibility in a positive manner, and reiterated that we appreciate their efforts. The Administrator explained that the money raised by the raffle goes into the general budget.*

The President put fundraising, to include this issue, on the agenda for discussion in the afternoon's breakout groups.

### **b. Publications Committee Report (Susan Bennett)**

The Publications Chair noted that *ASTROonline* has been a terrific initiative, that members consult it for quite a variety of information; however, it has emerged quickly and without a clear framework.

*Among other issues, EC members observed that the Society needs to establish who holds copyright for articles published by ASTROonline, that we need a publishing agreement for the authors of articles, and that we need legal advice concerning these matters.*

The Administrator informed the Publications Committee Chair that funds are available from FY2012 to create a search function and to prepare the infrastructure to implement a job bank, both of which will be accomplished by early May.

The President put this issue on the agenda for discussion in the afternoon's breakout groups.

## **9. Special Committee Reports**

### **a. Ad Hoc Committee on Awards and Fellowships (Dorothy Chansky)**

This committee comprising Dorothy Chansky, Mike Sell, Kirsten Pullen, and Iris Smith Fischer (Director of Awards and Fellowships), tasked with assessing current operations of the Committee, addressed four areas of concern:

**1) Publicizing the awards:** The Director and Webmaster are working together to send out regular notifications, and this process is working well. *Working group leaders might also send out timely information about awards for which their group participants might wish to apply. This suggestion would be a good addition to the handbook of best practices for working group leaders that the Vice President is compiling. Creating a standard form for working group leaders to use for this purpose would help to facilitate the task.*

**2) Streamlining the application process for collaborative awards:** *The committee suggests minimizing the number of individual letters required by crafting an electronic, signable verification form for the department chair. The President confirmed that the Director of Awards and Fellowships should craft this with the help of Kirsten Pullen and the Webmaster.*

**3) Eligibility of Executive Committee members for awards:** Members of the EC received one-third of the Society's 2011 awards or honorable mentions. *Suggestions included asking the membership to decide whether officers and EC members should be eligible; separating publication awards from research and travel grants and restricting only the former; and educating the membership about the procedures for selecting award recipients and the small number of submissions received. Arguments against continued eligibility centered on the appearance of a conflict of interest in the EC making a decision about this matter. Arguments in favor of continued eligibility included the following: the Nominating Committee has difficulty recruiting candidates for office; EC members and officers are clearly invested in the Society's activities and should not be penalized for their service; some liberal arts colleges count grants as evidence of scholarship for purposes of tenure and promotion; women predominate among those providing service as officers and members of the EC, and denying awards to these people damages their prospects for promotion.*

No action was taken with respect to this issue. The President wished to see whether the newly instituted process of regularized deadline announcements has the desired effect of increasing submissions and perhaps alleviating this imbalance before opening a general dialogue about this issue. *ASTROOnline might also include as a standard feature a notice of upcoming submission deadlines. In any event, new EC members need to have their obligations spelled out very clearly, and members of the EC would do well to volunteer to write letters in support of applications for awards.*

**4) Cambridge University Press prize:** The committee agreed with the desire of CUP to sponsor a prize and discussed possible configurations, such as a debut plenary or a presentation by any junior scholar.

**MOTION:** that the Cambridge University Press prize be awarded to an ASTR member presenting on an ASTR plenary session for the first time. Moved by Chansky, seconded by Pullen.

*Discussion: A new awards committee will be constituted to read these papers. Suggestions included the following: that papers will have to be submitted six weeks before the conference; that we give the prize for a paper already presented rather than requiring the papers in advance of the conference; and that the committee be tasked with determining the specifics (such as whether there's some kind of "junior" provision). The President clarified that restricting eligibility to plenary sessions rather than including papers submitted to working groups is designed to give CUP more visibility. The objection was raised that the name of the prize suggests a very high status, which suggests that it should be awarded for something more fully developed than a plenary presentation. The Publications Chair explained that the award will consist of \$250 worth of books, that Cambridge wants to better recognize that their relationship with Theatre Survey is also a relationship with the Society—that the journal is a shared project, and the editor might well be one of the adjudicators for the prize.*

Question called by Sell. Vote: 10 yes, 2 no, 2 abstentions. **The motion carried.**

#### **b. Possible ASTR-TLA Archive Preservation Project**

The President noted that the ATAP project, which grew out of an ATHE PSFG preconference meeting, does not address the issue of archive preservation in academic libraries. Many of these archives are in rough shape. ASTR's liaison to the Theatre Library Association reports that the TLA has formed an ad hoc committee, and the President proposes forming an ad hoc committee of ASTR to work on this issue. The President is also in touch with the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts library and supporting their efforts relating to archive preservation.

#### **c. Ad Hoc Committee on New Paradigms in Graduate Education (Heather Nathans)**

This committee has expanded as members volunteer to join it. New faculty express interest based on their own recent experience, and faculty at liberal arts colleges express concern about what it means to mentor undergraduates who wish to enter doctoral programs. The committee appreciates visibility and participation at the conference and has proposed a working group as a more participatory model than 2011's roundtable. The committee is interfacing with Charlotte Canning and the Consortium of Doctoral Programs.

A resource list has been started, and information about funding sources is being gathered. Esther Kim Lee sent out a call to the membership and got many responses that said, in essence, "we don't have any funding." David Saltz's success in getting funding from the National Science Foundation may provide a useful model. The committee faces the difficult task of encouraging people to devote the time required to write major grant proposals when we're all experiencing workload creep, but stresses the need to strategize and prepare these things as departments or units.

The next issue of *ASTROonline* will feature articles about diversity recruitment and retention with respect to diversity. The committee's concern is not simply getting jobs for people but, rather, the future of our field. They argue that programs need to re-vision themselves if they see a new shape for the field.

The committee wishes to create a second questionnaire with more categories specifying respondents' jobs and also wants to reach out to MA and MFA programs. The President pointed out that the officers discussed doing another general membership survey and suggested that perhaps we combine the two.

The President and Vice President both supported converting New Paradigms into a standing committee. *The Vice President suggested perhaps holding a grant-writing boot camp, maybe during one of the career sessions. She has been participating in the Op Ed project at Princeton, which is a group young feminists trying to change how public conversation happens, and she feels that there needs to be more public discourse about the arts (as well as women and minorities). This group has a really great track record. The committee chair supported the notion of greater visibility in media and pointed out that this was mentioned on three separate occasions during plenary sessions at the 2011 conference. The EC discussed the desirability of access via the website to archives of the email messages that the New Paradigms committee is sending to the membership, perhaps by collating them once or twice a year as a PDF download including hyperlinks; the need to develop talking points for advocacy within as well as outside the field (e.g., why doctoral degrees matter within theatre departments); advocacy within the college and university; and the need for data in support of these talking points. With respect to the scope of data gathering, a separate survey could reach those who are working in fields other than the academy. The committee's previous survey did include ASTR members who are independent scholars, but a wider sampling would be useful. Perhaps members could distributed a survey asking "what are you doing with your doctoral degree?" to former students.*

**MOTION:** to transform the Ad Hoc Committee on New Paradigms in Graduate Education into a standing committee. Moved by Cima, seconded by Pullen.

*Discussion: We can revisit the issue of whether to retain the name "New Paradigms."*

Vote: 14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions. **The motion carried unanimously.**

## **10. Other Business**

### **a. Structure and purpose of *ASTROonline***

The Publications Committee chair notes some interesting problems of crossover between *ASTROonline* and *Theatre Survey*, such as one piece being accepted by both publications. The current editor has appointed two associate editors and proposed adding a third. The editor's report outlines the structure for a proposed editorial board. The EC discussed whether the Publications Committee should be involved in this process and these decisions about editorial work that is being performed largely by new faculty in non-tenure-track lines and graduate students. *Discussion included the following recommendations:*

- *Carefully spell out the editor's responsibilities.*
- *Clarify the editorial process to eliminate incidents such as a change in word count after an author has agreed to write an article.*

- *Imagine an adequately nimble organization for this publication appropriate to its online character (as opposed to print).*
- *Check the current slide towards being an online version of Theatre Topics. Articles written for ASTROonline do not go through peer review, should therefore not be as time consuming for authors, and should follow web-native reference models rather than mimicking print publications; for example, we should be concerned not only with searching but also with tagging content for easy access.*
- *Extending conversations that get started at the convention might be more appropriate than creating themed issues.*
- *Learn more about what portions of the website the membership find most useful—in other words, find out whether people read the articles, perhaps institute a comment stream.*
- *Delegate oversight of the website, including the appointment of any associate editors, to the Publications Committee.*
- *Reduce the staffing to a single editor, eliminating the associate editors.*

The President summarized the officers' interest in having online archives related to the Society's history accessible on the website, to include items such as past officers, committee appointments, and award winners. The Administrator pointed out that the EC's job is to take a strategic view of issues such as the website's purpose. The Publications chair agreed that the committee needs direction in order to provide a framework.

As noted previously, a breakout group was scheduled for the afternoon to discuss this topic.

#### **b. Efficacy and future of the Fundraising Committee**

Noting not only the problems with graduate student labor but the very, very small response to the 2011 conference's call for contributions, the President contemplated disbanding or radically reconstituting this committee. *She expressed interest in forming a small committee to solicit bequests as well as corporate and government grants. The Society needs funds to support our activities, but serving on an ineffectual committee demoralizes its members. Our existing campaign has two fundamental flaws: strategically, it doesn't work to run an effective campaign on small contributions; also, when people do make small donations, it's motivated by the vision behind the fundraising—and even the EC has difficulty seeing the vision behind our efforts. Discussion included the following recommendations:*

- *Guarantee that donations are allocated to the activities that the donor has targeted.*
- *Set up a monthly donation program.*
- *Create a fundraising task force (rather than the awards committee) to look at the structure of the awards, because perhaps we could be more effective with the awards we are already giving. Perhaps we might want to take more money out of the investments. The President noted that the renaming of the Brockett and Chinoy awards has been an effective catalyst for donations: of the three \$500 gifts in response to the 2011 call, one targeted the Brockett and two, the Chinoy.*
- *Look into fundraising efforts reaching beyond our small membership, such as setting up arrangements with scholars in other countries (for example, the numerous foreign students who attend our universities fully funded by their governments). The President suggested that this is an issue appropriate for the New Paradigms committee to address.*
- *Target fundraising efforts to support ATAP and the Archive Preservation Initiative.*

- *Create a mechanism for matching funds; for instance, committing to match donations with money from our reserve fund.*
- *Focus efforts on four different appeals: membership, year end, annual, and targeted.*
- *Focus on efforts that support our core mission to the membership; that is, to provide the best possible resources to ensure that they succeed in the profession to which we have dedicated our lives. Interest was expressed in increasing support for the artist-scholar path.*

As noted previously, a breakout group was scheduled for the afternoon to discuss this topic.

### **c. Challenges facing the Nominating Committee**

The President noted John Lutterbie's generosity in chairing this committee for a second year and reiterated that shorter terms of office would not be a solution to the difficulty in recruiting candidates for office. *The EC discussed the existing gender imbalance in service to the profession. Work is being done primarily by women, not only within this organization but nationwide within the academy.*

- *The MLA has issued a report that is significant with respect to this issue.*
- *SUNY Press's Over Ten Million Served is also relevant to this gender imbalance.*
- *The Associate level is a bottleneck for female professors; at SMU, for example, only 7% of full professors are women.*
- *Women outnumber men on the awards committees 2:1 and as chairs, 3:1. Some universities have instituted efforts to limit committee work, such as defining a minimum and maximum number of committee assignments and written guidelines for Associate Professors.*

*Discussion of ways to deepen the pool for leadership included the following suggestions:*

- *Using service on committees as pipeline.*
- *Establishing a mechanism for generating involvement at the conference, making sure to fulfil the interest that we generate. The Vice President reported a tremendous response to the call for people to serve on the Conference Program Committee.*
- *Maintaining the interest of people who don't get chosen to serve in the capacity for which they initially volunteer. We might hold a reception, breakfast, or other type of gathering at the conference for those who volunteered; point these people towards other committees that might be able to use their service; and approach all of this as a grooming for leadership. It was noted that referring to this "grooming for leadership" could produce even more hurt feelings among persons not asked to run within a short period after volunteering.*
- *Finding ways to help members envision themselves as part of the administration.*
- *The Vice Presidential designations proposed in the pending by-law amendment will make service as Director of Awards and Fellowships and Chair of the Publications Committee more attractive.*
- *Inter-university mobility is enhanced by the ability to apply for administrative positions.*

The President put this issue on the agenda for discussion in the afternoon's breakout groups.

The committee broke for lunch at broke for lunch at 12:00 and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

## 11. Fellowships and Awards Report (Iris Smith Fischer, via Skype)

The Director of Awards and Fellowships reported good representation on the various committees from all regions across the country; however, a notable gender disparity exists, with more women serving on these committees.

## 12. Breakout Sessions

The committee broke into smaller groups and were charged by the President to discuss the structure and purpose of *ASTROOnline*, the efficacy and future of the Fundraising Committee, and ways that we might alleviate the challenges faced by the Nominating Committee through better mechanisms for cultivating leadership. The groups broke for discussion at 1:15 p.m and reconvened at 2:30 p.m.

Following is a summary of the ideas and proposals brought back by the three groups. The reports from each group are attached to the minutes as Appendices 1-3.

### a. *ASTROOnline*

This group discussed the purpose of the website, which they saw as providing to the membership 1) information about the Society, 2) information about the conference, 3) news from and about members, and 4) information about awards and fellowships. Anything that we publish online should be related to and in service of these areas; therefore, feature stories should be connected to ongoing programs and activities of the Society. This will require the current editor to refocus initiatives to remain in line with this purpose. The group recommended that *ASTROOnline* should remain under the purview of the Publications Committee, because this is an official publication. Perhaps we should add one more person to the committee to take primary responsibility for this area. We need to have a clear conversation with the editor so that we can move toward a more simply informational presentation with other features in support of this. The American Folklore Association website was displayed as a possible model. *Discussion included the following suggestions:*

- *Clarification: the feature articles would not go away entirely but would become less prominent and more narrowly focused. There is interest in continuing to present Op-Ed content.*
- *We might fold in the leadership break-out group's ideas about online communities and conversations—the forums on the AFS site provide a very good model. This group proposed the following topics: scholar/artist, archival adventures, outside academia, liberal arts, international research.*
- *Working groups could make use of the forums feature.*
- *The editor's task, shepherding ASTROOnline, is a opportunity for service rather than for scholarship.*
- *The Webmaster could moderate the forums, but we could also have volunteer moderators (for instance, perhaps the person who opened a forum would serve as de facto moderator).*

The President and the chair of the Publications Committee will discuss the EC's concerns with the editor of *ASTROOnline*. Brian Herrera could serve on an ad hoc committee, with the Administrator and Webmaster *ex officio*. The Administrator clarified that any redesign would need to wait until the next fiscal year.

## **b. Fundraising**

This group recommended ending the fundraising committee. This step would raise the question of what to do with estate planning, since that element would fall through the cracks. To raise money for the organization, we need to raise money for things that we really care about and that articulate a vision. The group defined two priorities, each of which calls for a different fundraising model.

First, we should do what we can to bring people to the conference, particularly people who cannot afford to attend. They proposed increasing the amount of the travel grants, perhaps up to \$1500, so that the grant would cover flight, lodging, dues and conference fees. Small gifts might work for this purpose, because we have all been in the position (or have students now who are) where this sort of support was critical. We can set a goal and track progress to maintain interest and donations. We could have a travel grant development group to make this happen.

Second, the group would like to see a greater presence of international scholars and especially international students within ASTR. A summer institute or conference might accomplish this and also provide a revenue stream. They also expressed a wish to get international students at US institutions to attend ASTR, for which financial support might be available from foreign institutions.

The group also considered lifetime memberships to be a good idea, not only because this would give us money to invest but also because it would serve as concrete evidence to granting agencies of the broad support. Finally, the group discussed the possibility of sending out a stable of distinguished lecturers with the honoraria going to ASTR rather than to the lecturer. ATDS and America Studies already do this, so we could follow this model.

## **c. Cultivating leadership**

This group discussed ways to get as many people as possible involved; having goals, turning them into a vision, getting feedback. They proposed that online communities organized around different identities, in the form of blogs or conversations, would be a way to get more people involved and in community.

With respect to elections, the group suggested that the EC needs to take more responsibility for the task of finding candidates. We need to have more ways to share information about jobs, qualifications, desirable temperaments, and so forth. We need to be proactive rather than reactive.

## **13. Discussion of new business**

### **a. Vision for ASTR**

Discussion among entire EC about our vision for ASTR began at 3:28 p.m. with a focus on the gender imbalance with respect to service, the work of the nominating committee, and the need for transparency with respect to the running of the Society and particularly the adjudication of fellowships and awards. *General discussion of our vision for the Society included the following points:*

- *We should focus on what we can do that other organizations do not. The New Paradigms committee is doing important work. We seem to be at a point of some confusion and loss of clarity.*
- *The President articulated a concern with preserving scholarly rigor while making room for practice as research.*
- *The Vice President notes that the Society's nature shifts depending upon the conference theme, the conference planners, and their committee. She also noted that the conference structure is unique.*
- *ASTR is not typically centered on pedagogy or on the mechanics of making performance.*

*Discussion related to conferences included the following points:*

- *Observed how poorly theatre scholars read papers and a desire to reconcile better presentation skills with rigor.*
- *Loves the structured, odd, rigorous conversations.*
- *Felt for the first time like a human being here in comparison to other conferences he had attended.*
- *The President asked Kirsten Pullen to draft a version of what she tells her graduate students about good conference strategies (particular to ASTR) to post on the website.*
- *We might send an email to new members informing them about where to get information.*
- *Heather Nathans offered to forward a "Tips for Conferences" that she put together. She suggested a new feature of "what were the themes that you heard" that could take the place of a State of the Profession panel and might resemble the respondent role at MATC but with more than a single respondent.*
- *We might develop podcasts and similar virtual outreach such as webcasts.*

*Discussion related to retaining members included the following points:*

- *The President suggested a questionnaire or just a follow-up inquiry to find out why people don't renew their membership.*
- *Conversations seem to be concerned with creating a community. Does the structure of our conferences map onto the perception that graduate students participate in working groups but then leave because they'll never get a plenary?*
- *People tend to fall through the cracks because they get positions in institutions that don't prioritize publication. Some mid-career scholars don't have time to keep up with the discussion.*
- *Reading groups, which are already an option as a type of working group, might help keep people involved. The book previous year's Hewitt award would make a good choice for this sort of reading group. The Society of Early Americanists does a colloquium annually.*

*Discussion related to attracting new members included the following points:*

- *A stronger interdisciplinary conversation would be welcome, and language departments would be a good source for the type of member that would contribute fruitfully. Suk-Young Kim and Dorothy Chansky agreed to work on this informally.*
- *We discussed interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity, having different reading groups in different interdisciplinary arenas.*

- *We might offer a one-time discount for new members and/or feature their work on the website.*

*Discussion related to the Society's mission statement included the following points:*

- *The website features the mission statement prominently, but the statement is tepid and its only verb, "fosters." The President suggested bringing a motion to rewrite the mission statement.*
- *We might find a way to foreground the words theatre, drama, and performance in relation to the Society's title.*
- *We might come up with words connected to the acronym.*
- *Words and phrases culled from this discussion include:*
  - Create opportunities to forge deeper engagement with the work of . . . and with each other.*
  - Community. Leadership. Generate.*
  - Generate new knowledge and methods.*
  - Fosters research and leadership through . . .*
  - Interdisciplinarity. Transdisciplinarity. Expansiveness.*
  - Innovative, rigorous research. Creative, forward-looking leadership. Community.*

The Vice President will pass all of the discussion respecting conferences to the Conference Planners for 2012 and 2013 and encourages people to submit proposals for these sorts of committees.

#### **b. Archive preservation initiative**

The President asked for a consensus whether we should be involved in this initiative and whether someone is interested in taking it on. No one jumped up; she will take that under advisement.

It was noted that the issue of archive preservation is something that fell away from the discussion of the fundraising breakout group.

#### **c. Brockett prize**

The Department of Theatre & Dance at the University of Texas, Austin wishes to jointly award and jointly announce ASTR's Brockett prize. The Society's selection committee would still administer and select the award recipient. The department can either fund the prize in its entirety or match us with \$2 for every \$1 that we provide.

**MOTION:** that we accept the proposal for sponsorship and support of Oscar G. Brockett Essay prize and in particular the matching fund proposal of 2 for 1 whatever ASTR awards. Moved by Blair, seconded by Nathans.

*Discussion: The Treasurer asked for clarification of funding. The President explained that we have control of the amount, which would be established by us and matched by them. This would create a disparity in award amounts, so that the Brockett award for an essay would be significantly larger than the Hewitt book prize. The increase in this award might be a good incentive for contributions to the other awards. We might raise the amount of the Hewitt award, first by asking Illinois for more.*

It was agreed to return to discussion of this motion in the morning, after spending more time on the wording, and to postpone a vote until that time.

**d. Action items arising from discussion of breakout sessions**

The following action items came out of the afternoon's discussion of the breakout sessions:

i) The President struck an Ad Hoc Committee for *ASTRO*Online, charged with overseeing implementation of issues that arose in our review. The President appointed the following EC members to the committee: Susan Bennett (chair) and Brian Herrera as EC rep. Charlotte McIvor and Catherine Cole will be asked to serve. Nancy Erickson will serve *ex officio*.

ii) The President struck an Ad Hoc Committee on Interdisciplinary Recruitment. The President appointed the following EC members to the committee: Dorothy Chansky and Suk-Young Kim (co-chairs); Gay Gibson Cima. She will ask the GSC President to recommend an appropriate graduate student to serve on this committee.

**14. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** to adjourn. Moved by Nathans, seconded by Woods. Approved by acclamation. The meeting adjourned to the following day at 5:00 pm.

**Sunday, 25 March 2012**

Present: Rhonda Blair (President), Stacy Wolf (Vice President), Marla Carlson (Secretary), Cindy Brizzell-Bates (Treasurer), Nancy Erickson (Administrator, *ex officio*), Susan Bennett, Dorothy Chansky, Gay Gibson Cima, Elinor Fuchs, Brian Herrera, Suk-Young Kim, Heather Nathans, Kirsten Pullen, Leigh Woods

Absent: Soyica Colbert, Laura Edmondson, Mike Sell, David Calder (GSC Representative); Gay Gibson Cima and Suk-Young Kim left at 9:20 a.m.

The President called the meeting to order at 8:24 am.

**1. Completion of action related to the Brockett Prize**

**MOTION:** that the Oscar G. Brockett Essay Prize be jointly awarded by ASTR and Department of Theatre and Dance of UT-Austin, be jointly announced by both entities, and be part of the presentation at the annual ASTR conference. The selection committee will continue to be appointed and run by ASTR so that there is no conflict of interest should UT-Austin students, faculty, or alums be considered for the award. The UT-Austin Department of Theatre and Dance will match every dollar ASTR contributes with an additional two dollars. Moved by Blair, seconded by Chansky. Vote: 13 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions. **The motion carried unanimously.**

The Administrator suggested that we might want to create a formal statement to be signed by UT Austin and ASTR.

**MOTION:** that ASTR contribute \$500 to the Barnard Hewitt award, pending the approval of University of Illinois Department of Theatre. Moved by Chansky, seconded by Pullen.

*Discussion: Our contribution might offend Illinois, so perhaps we should have the Director of Awards and Fellowships contact them before taking any action. Proposing that we add \$500 and seeking their permission to do so would be a positive approach, whereas asking them for the money would be a negative approach. Alternatively, we could graciously ask them to contribute the \$500.*

Vote: 8 yes, 2 no, 3 abstentions. **The motion carried.**

## **2. Consideration of action items coming out of the break-out groups and subsequent discussion**

### **a. Disbanding the Fundraising Committee**

**MOTION:** to disband the existing Fundraising Committee. Moved by Pullen, seconded by Herrera.

*Discussion: As a standing committee, the Fundraising Committee has no specific mandate and as a result has been unable to effectively raise funds for ASTR. The President gave a history of committee and its charge. The suggestion was raised that we maintain the committee and task it with the targeted efforts that the Fundraising breakout group identified.*

**The motion was withdrawn.**

Because this motion was withdrawn, two other motions to form new ad hoc committees tasked with fundraising were drafted but not brought forward. Their substance and rationales are of interest to the Fundraising Committee:

i) To form an ad hoc Travel Grant Development Fund Committee. Rationale: Members are more likely to give to specific fundraising campaigns. All ASTR EC members (and presumably all ASTR members) recognize the value of conference attendance as well as the economic barriers to attendance for some of our members. This specific campaign can make a clear impact for many conference attendees, and is an issue to which most members can relate. It can also build organizational loyalty and set the stage for future leadership. Charge: This development campaign will raise the Keller, Marshall, and Cohen prizes to \$1500 each. The number of prizes given will remain the same. Once this goal has been met, the campaign will be over and the committee will disband. *Discussion included questioning the size of these grants, the impact this increase would have on the budget, and doubts as to whether we could raise these funds.*

ii) To form an ad hoc International Scholars Fund Committee. Rationale: ASTR can and should be more responsive to the needs of international students and scholars. International students and scholars (or their respective governments) may be an untapped revenue source. Charge: This committee will investigate partnerships between ASTR and national government agencies (especially Asian and Middle Eastern) to fund graduate student conference attendance as well as symposia and seminars that promote intercultural performance research, drawing on the skills and interests of both US and international scholars and students.

**MOTION:** to add Mike Sell and Kirsten Pullen to the Fundraising Committee. Moved by Blair, seconded by Woods. Vote: 13 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions. **The motion carried unanimously.**

*The Administrator pointed out that some of the people who served on the Fundraising committee last year may wish to continue.*

#### **b. Cultivating leadership**

Noting again the gender imbalance in service to the Society, the Administrator has been asked to gather the information necessary to determine whether the membership is also predominantly female. Further interest was expressed in assessing the composition of the membership by rank and by full versus graduate student members, whether through a membership survey or other means of data gathering.

Although suggestions were offered for recruiting people to serve, such as asking incoming EC members to propose candidates, the President pointed out that the problem occurs at the more demanding officer level of service. Some experience indicates that the EC can be most effective in supporting the efforts of the Nominating Committee.

The suggestion was brought forward that we follow the example of certain universities and provide an incentive to serving as an officer in the form of a graduate assistant, to whom the Society could offer free membership and conference registration as well as a good line on the *curriculum vitae*, with a one-year term of service. *Discussion included the possibility of officers using this as an opportunity to mentor their own graduate students. The Administrator noted the necessity of establishing clear expectations about the hours and type of work to be provided, the selection process for assistants, and their eligibility for Keller or Marshall grants. Establishing a title for these positions such as one would list on a c.v. would required a change in the by-laws.*

The President struck an Ad Hoc Committee on Providing Graduate Assistants for Officers. The President appointed the following EC members to the committee: Brian Herrera (chair), Dorothy Chansky, Stacy Wolf, David Calder, and Nancy Erickson *ex officio*.

#### **c. Cambridge University Press Prize**

The chair of the Publications Committee noted that we cannot proceed with any action until September, when Sally Hoffman returns to the press, but in the meantime she and the President can discuss possible adjudicators. The EC can expect an electronic vote on this matter.

#### **d. Balance in committee assignments**

**MOTION:** to remove Suk-Young Kim from the Fundraising Committee and add her to the Committee on New Paradigms in Graduate Education. Moved by Blair, seconded by Woods. Vote: 13 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions. **The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **e. Budget**

The Treasurer pointed out that we need to amend the budget if we wish to start funding the Hewitt award this year. **The EC can expect an electronic vote on this matter.**

### **3. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** to adjourn. Moved by Woods, seconded by Nathans. **Approved by acclamation.**  
The meeting adjourned at 9:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Carlson  
Secretary  
7 April 2012

## Appendix 1

**Notes from *ASTRO*Online breakout group:** Susan Bennett, Dorothy Chansky, Brian Herrera, Marla Carlson

Susan: Charlotte is treating it like a journal with CFPs, etc. Suggested her to follow up on certain issues, and the response was that this is additional work on top of what she *wants* to do.

Brian: stepped into the role that the hard copy newsletter previously served. Other models that he's aware of have contributing editors who provide content, but the editorial function is primarily to permit and enable, vet for style, sign up as contributing editor who will sign up for 4 articles per year, for example.

Susan: original vision was to have some value-added content to provide news.

Dorothy suggests de-emphasis on website; better to have them available from a dropdown menu.

Website is a single entity; *ASTR* Online has a presence on the website.

Member resources would be useful (calls for papers, etc.).

Big discussion of design issues. We need information about conferences and awards, things that we might need member input on, in the form of votes or otherwise.

Perhaps Shaun can do a revised and simplified website design. Member news s/b names with links. Has to go hand in hand with refocus of Online. We need to, a minimum, redesign the website's landing page, and perhaps move to a different platform.

When we reconvene as the full EC, we'll look at a blogging model (website of the American Folklore Society, which appears to be powered by a template that works well). They're using social media, etc. Brian even suggests setting it up as a separate web platform that the website links to. So we can simplify the landing page. the blogging model makes it possible to do hit counts, for example, which are useful on a c.v. in the "other professional writing" category.

Pubs Com should come up with a style sheet and practices guidelines for the editors: word count, what the editorial process is, use a Creative Commons licensing for this content. Host has no proprietary claim, anyone who wants to export it needs permission.

We could use a document that defines responsibilities for the website, since those responsibilities are dispersed.

\*\*The purpose of the website is to provide information to the membership about the society, about the conference, news from and about members, and awards and fellowships. Anything that we publish online should be related to and in service of these areas. No more feature stories unless they're connected to ongoing programs and activities of the society. This will require the current editor to refocus initiatives to remain in line with this purpose.

This should still remain under the purview of the Pubs Com because this is an official publication. Perhaps we should add one more person to the committee to take primary responsibility for this area.

There is currently a listing of CFPs, and a button to submit one. Wasn't clear to any of us what either of these meant, and it would be valuable to the membership. Someone does need to curate this.

Should this be effective immediately? yes. don't need an advisory board or associate editors.

## Appendix 2

**Notes from Fundraising breakout group:** Mike Sell, Kirsten Pullen, Cindy Bates, Suk-Young Kim

bottom line: fundraising committee be ended, but does raise question of estate giving moving to model of specific, targeted fundraising

- international/ASTR tied to institutional funding
- targeted to travel
- what does ASTR have to trade, honorarium, mechanism for easy giving
- who does it? ad hoc
- we like lifetime memberships and think it should happen

- not organizational giving, but to specific target
- upping the bread and butter awards and opportunities funding
- international -- how do we cultivate specific groups in organization
- estate planning

- easier to donate time rather than money
- ASTR lectures -- can we donate the honorarium money, call it the ASTR lectureship, linked with regional, one-day meetings, ASTR isn't funding these, but if honoraria goes to them, they can have a slush fund

- get rid of fundraising committee?
  - yes, but then put these responsibilities on short-term, ad-hoc committees
- raffle? recommending that GSC drop this in order to do more at the conference qua conference
- named university travel grant -- University of Jordan travel grant?
  - needs to be coalitional
  - summer seminar/symposium funded by various government bodies for international students with other students and ASTR scholars
    - international faculty, international students?
    - how do we make this different from IFTR?
    - include US native students?
  - our programs challenge the canon and method, but the expectation for these students' return is to teach the canon
    - this is a reason to have international faculty?
  - special travel fund for international students to attend ASTR
  - targeting students to become leaders in ASTR
  - Soo Kim is doing something like this in her institution
- people will donate honorariums
- let's have really exciting events that can generate money for more exciting events
  - people put time, energy, money toward something specific for ASTR
- organization gives money for schools to bring in distinguished lecturers, we want to reverse this and have distinguished lecturers who will donate their honorarium to the organization -- hosting

institution donates to ASTR rather than paying honorarium, then we recognize the departments

- ASA and AJS have this -- look into it
- in between model of \$1 from 10,000 people, or \$10,000 from 1
- donation can be targeted
- donating time rather than money by donating a fee rather than making an out-of-pocket donation

-estate planning is a good and easy way to plant seeds for future planning

-award giving is successful

-check off a box on registration, other places

-travel awards

-tithing, annual

-stay with model that generally doesn't work, but focus on travel grants, to fund travel grants at X amounts, or to give more

-small contribution structures can build those

-currently, ASTR gives up to 3 grants of \$800 each, always are distributed + 3/\$800 + 1 \$1000  
-more of them, but most importantly upping to really cover costs, so that it's \$1500/cost of conference

-stay with old model of fundraising that doesn't work for making big money, but we think it will work for getting us to this small campaign

-target international scholars already IN and get new international scholars AT ASTR

-help people get here, and be part of what we're doing

-how do we sustain estate planning if we get rid of fund committee?

-2 things that members can get behind, and that can help us raise money

-do ASTR better, and for more people

-where can we get an opportunity for faculty to give up a gift that could be for them, but to give it to ASTR

-raffles are most effective fundraising mechanism because gives something away

-gift gives you a good feeling

-honorarium, then you're buying a title if it becomes an ASTR line on the cv for giving money?

-regional meetup, panel at school, something, contacts ASTR and tells them about symposium, give your money, get a celebrity

-give your honorarium to ASTR, is there some way that ASTR could tap some of the extras, likely not to work well unless it's going someplace specific and/or they get something back from ASTR

-converting things that don't cost ASTR into monies coming in

-what does ASTR have in trade, what can we give that has low/no cost to us for what we get

-lifetime membership

-win-win for everyone -- ASTR gets money up front to invest, members get a break on

membership (and if there's a flush bursary/grant year for them, they can cover ASTR for the future)

### Appendix 3

**Notes from Leadership breakout group:** (Stacy (scribe), Leigh Woods, Elinor Fuchs, Gay Gibson Cima, Heather Nathans, Nancy Erickson)

#### Summary of some key issues

How do we get people involved in ASTR?

How do we encourage people to take a leadership role?

How do we get people in the pipeline for leadership positions?

That we want to try to cast a wide net to target people who might want to serve, including men from an earlier era who might feel dis-included; dramaturgs who might not feel their work in the center of ASTR; members across generations and fields of expertise; active scholars who may not have considered serving ASTR; people from different kinds of institutions, different departments

We acknowledge that graduate students feel pressure to get involved early

Encourage members to nominate other members (Elinor)

That, as an organization, we need to pay more attention to the issues of leadership, that everyone on the EC needs to think about the leadership and not just leave it to the Nominating Committee. All EC members should look around the conference and approach people about possibly volunteering. (Nancy)

Ways to get people involved: that we need places to put people when they volunteer; need task forces (Nancy)

That we should think about mentorship as a continuous project, not one that ends when someone gets a job or gets tenure (Leigh)

How do keep conversations going outside of the conference, beyond the career session about staying on track after tenure. What are “everyday opportunities” (Heather) to stay involved with ASTR. Where are our needs? What are the ways to sustain connections especially for people who are isolated?

Gay: what would the steps be?

- 1) Having a vision.
- 2) Transforming the vision into goals
- 3) Organizing team
- 4) Feedback/testing
- 5) Implementation

Areas that might be sustaining that might open us up for new blood. Discussion group . . . blogs and discussions from the website; could begin as an email list and people contributing regularly. Providing opportunity and access to participate on the ground level (Nancy: “professional community”)

Heather: What are the next step moments? What are the priorities?

Elinor: Group might articulate action items

Gay: Possible groups might be scholar/artists; outside academic life; liberal arts; international research, for example.

Question of outcome for these on-line discussions. Should there be a report or an action or a way to measure the effectiveness of the conversation?

Nancy: what is the purpose for this? What is the reason?

Gay: information-sharing and communication-building and leadership-building. People need a place where they feel like they can be heard

Heather: Look at membership survey and to New Paradigms survey for topics

Gay: Discussion groups could help people identify each other at the conferences

Nancy: Could form other groups to work outside of the conference, such as the working groups that are sustaining all year; another place that is linked to ASTR but work takes place on their own

Elinor and Heather: What should be the reporting strategy and discussion?

These groups could help identify leadership tracks

### **How to get people to run for offices**

Treasurer and Pres are hard to get people to run

Simply tell people to talk to people and encourage them to volunteer for committees

Put out a call for people who are interested repeatedly—not just have it on the website. Maybe regularize call for volunteers?

Elinor: have a system for “nomination”; announcement, time, structure

Rhonda: add nominations and self-nominations to the general call for volunteers for committees

Gay: we need a document; a time to distribute; make transparent the various means to get involved; member of EC have to talk to people

Gay: we don't have a leadership institute like ATHE: should we think about this?

Heather: “volunteers” are people who are willing to serve; internal vetting process; on what basis are people told they aren't ready?

Nancy: form that they have to fill out

Rhonda: can clarify what the responsibilities are

Heather: job descriptions

Leigh: put information on the ballot about the next time to volunteer

Nancy: why don't we do orientation for EC members?

## ADDENDUM TO THE MINUTES

### *Record of Electronic Votes Taken, 26 March 2012 – 1 June 2012*

1) **MOTION:** that an additional \$1,500 be approved to support Co-Sponsored Events requests for 2012. Moved by Woods, seconded by Herrera. **Motion withdrawn.**

2) **MOTION:** to propose the following amendment to the bylaws to the general Membership, the effect of which will be to include electronic communications such as email as a valid form of written communication or ballot. Text of proposed amendment:

The following article shall be added to the bylaws: "Article XV: Additional Provisions Section 1: Wherever these bylaws call for a written communication or ballot, the communication or ballot may be in electronic format including but not limited to email or facsimile, as determined by the Executive Committee."

Moved by Carlson, seconded by Colbert. Voting conducted between 5 and 9 May 2012. 17 yes. **The motion carried.**

3) **MOTION:** to correct the language of the proposed amendments to the bylaws to the general Membership, which were approved unanimously by the Executive Committee on November 17, 2011. The effect of the proposed amendments 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.

The corrections to the proposed amendments will change all references to "Vice President for Publication" to "Vice President for Publications," change the frequency of reports from Vice President for Publications to be semi-annual rather than biannual, clarify that officers' eligibility for reelection refers to the office currently held, and renumbers the sections of Article VI: Duties of Officers in accordance with the newly added Vice President positions. The corrections do not change the substance of the proposed amendments to the bylaws in any way. With corrections, the proposed amendments to the bylaws read as follows:

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 PUBLICATIONS 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 TO THAT OFFICE.”**

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 TO THEIR RESPECTIVE OFFICES.**"

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 (**of the VICE PRESIDENT FOR CONFERENCES**).

The following passage, Section **3**, shall be added to Article VI:  
"THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLICATIONS **S** SHALL BE A VOTING MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, AND SHALL REPRESENT ASTR IN ALL MATTERS RELATING TO SCHOLARLY PUBLICATION. **SEMI-ANNUALLY** ~~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 **4**, 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. **SEMI** ~~(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.

CHANGE numbering of Secretary and Treasurer to Section 5. and Section 6. respectively in Article VI: Duties of Officers.

Moved by Carlson, seconded by Herrera. Voting conducted between 9 and 14 May, 2012. 15 yes. 0 no. 2 members did not vote. **The motion carried.**

4) **MOTION:** to propose the following amendment to the bylaws to the general Membership, the effect of which will be to authorize the Society to indemnify all individuals who are empowered to act on behalf of ASTR. Text of proposed amendment:

The following article shall be added to the bylaws: "Article XV: Additional Provisions  
Section 2: Indemnification and Insurance – Officers, directors, committee chairs and  
members, staff and others authorized to act on behalf of the association shall be  
indemnified against claims against them arising out of their authorized actions. The  
Society may purchase insurance to fund the indemnification (if need be)."

Moved by Nathans, seconded by Herrera. Voting conducted between 31 and 1 June 2012. 17 yes.  
**The motion carried.**