Called to order at 9:00am

1) Roll Call at 9:03am

Present: Jimmy Noriega (President), Laura McDonald (VP for Conferences), Dorothy Chansky (VP for Publications), Katie Zien (VP Awards), Amy Cook (Treasurer), Cláudia Tatinge Nascimento (Secretary), Michelle Liu Carriger, Paige A. McGinley, Jonah Winn-Lenetsky, Margaret Werry, Angela Marino, Paola Hernandez, Noe Montez, Mysia Anderson (GSC Rep); and Lilian Mengesha (afternoon).

Online: Eric Glover and Sukanya Chakrabarti (morning only)
Late: Nicole Hodges Persley (online)
Administrators Present: Aimee Zygmanski (Executive Director)
Not present: Shamell Bell

2) Approved: Adoption of consent agenda.
   A. Approved: Minutes from the Spring 2022 EC meeting and motion on Editorial. Board terms of service.
   B. Approved: Adoption of today’s agenda.

Opening Remarks (President) at 9:05am.

ASTR is under institutional financial pressure. While we may not be able to keep doing all that we’ve done, it could be that we can deepen certain areas of action that are in line with the organization’s mission. The president asked the board to volunteer their ideas.
The Executive Director reiterated that our conversations are shared with ASTR members via the minutes and that the board has fiduciary responsibility for the organization.

Update on Conference (Laura McDonald, VP For Conferences) at 9:15am

The VP for conferences let the board know that there was a lack of volunteers to chair plenaries or introduce sessions at the NOLA conference.

For the NOLA conference, organizers included dry events & reception; a performance by the local group Melange Dance Company; and focused on amplifying the work of global majority scholars (23% BIPOC/global majority). Additional care went into handling the pandemic and Louisiana as the site of the conference. Organizers offered 8 online working sessions, compared to 4 last year.

Enthusiastic planning for the 2023 conference in Providence has begun. Harvey Young will pursue fundraising initiatives to support programming, online sessions.

With regards to 2024: the visit to Albuquerque as a possible 2024 conference location proved disappointing. The Clyde Hotel and the DoubleTree by Hilton are in bad shape, with unprofessional customer service and still recovering from pandemic. The nearby restaurant options are poor. Given financial pressure, we should consider what we can afford as we plan 2024.

Update on Financial Situation (Aimee Zygmonski, Executive Director) at 9:25am

The NOLA conference has 563 registrants, fewer than we had conservatively projected. ASTR has never made a profit on a conference and starting in 2017 the organization has remained on deficit. ASTR is not the only one in this position; ATHE, MLA, and others are in the same situation and share the same woes. With the inflation, all costs are up—from coffee to AV.

Last year, many old members returned to ASTR; this is not true this year. Still hear lots of comparisons to ASA. We should also consider that while ASTR gives over $30,000 in awards, ASA gives $5000. ASA has double the membership, but conference attendees pay extra for any events they choose to attend, including dining receptions.

The Executive Director is hopeful about Providence because 50% of our membership comes from the East Coast.

Old Business

Action item: new award honoring the late scholar Po-Hsien Chu (Katie Zien, VP Awards) at 9:35am
**MOTION**: To act on the new award honoring the late scholar Po-Hsien Chu (exact wording to be determined at the meeting)

The VP for Awards reported that the donation button for is live, and that she has been in conversation with professors Caitlin Marshall and Jyana Browne from UMD.

The board discussed the parameters of this new award, its goal, and its place in ASTR. Some questioned whether or not it would dilute our fundraising and others remarked that awards always mean increase in committee labor. Specifics on who can apply and receive the award must still be clarified. The board decided that we are not ready to vote on the award and need to pause to consider what is its purpose and implications.

**Update on the Undergraduate Initiative (Jonah Winn-Lenetsky and Cláudia Tatinge Nascimento) at 9:55am**

Given that the undergraduate working group was advertised at the very last minute, the organizers were surprised to receive 20+ submissions. We invited 10 students to the working group.

The organizers recommend that undergraduate working group organizers create a document to be used as a template for subsequent iterations and that ASTR makes it a requirement that faculty at the undergraduate student’s home institution read and provide feedback on their paper. They suggest a minimum of three faculty on the selection committee so as to avoid conflicts of interest in the case the students of committee members apply and that we keep the Initiative limited to one undergraduate working group in the coming year.

**Action item: The EC curated State of the Profession and “Legacy” panels at 10am**

**MOTION**: To continue the EC Curated State of the Profession Panel for the 2023 conference.

Motion unanimously approved

**MOTION**: To end the EC pilot that required a plenary panel consisting of best papers from the previous year to be considered for the next year.

Motion unanimously approved

(From the agenda) The Board needs volunteers that can create documents and recommendations on the Undergraduate Initiative and EC Curated State of the Profession Plenary (including instruction sheets, timelines, and changes that we would like to make for next year’s conference)

**10:15 BREAK 15 for minutes**

**Discussion on BIPOC/Global Majority Presence in ASTR/Conference at 10:30am**
The Board discussed that there is a disconnect between fields of research of early and late career scholars, which complicates mentorship. It is also true that there is a small percentage of senior scholars coming to ASTR in recent years. While new areas of study have emerged, others are not being replaced. Some members noted that scholars of color have been over-mentored, in what feels as a patronizing way of supporting their scholarship.

How can the conference be a presence in our lives throughout the year? One idea would be to invite non-members to come to the conference, another to add a meet and greet reception. The Board also discussed how ASTR is doing with respect to the article 4 of the bylaws (on representation). The VP for Conferences added that the 2023 conference will include plenaries for BIPOC scholars.

**BREAKOUT GROUPS for 40 minutes at 10:45am**

(From the agenda) Goals: to brainstorm and come up with ideas that can be executed in preparation for the next conference. Areas to consider: programming and support that is not part of the conference; mentorship, graduate school, and the job market; and events/initiatives at the conference.

**Reported back to the group at 11:25am**

**LUNCH BREAK for 75 minutes at 11:45am**

**Action item: Board size and discussion on budget implications at 1:00pm 25 minutes**

**MOTION:** To decrease the number of general Executive Committee Board Members from 11 (not including Executive Officers) to 5.

(From the agenda) For consideration: This would require a change to the Bylaws, Article VIII, section 1. The amendment would read: “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 eleven five elected members. These elected members shall be elected for three-year terms by a majority of those members in good standing voting by ballot.” The entire working of the bylaw would have to updated to accurately reflect these changes, as would the Handbook.

Discussion ensued that given the current financial pressure, cutting conference expenses from eleven to five EC members would be best for ASTR’s budget. Furthermore, it is rare that all eleven board members attend meetings. Is there a need to have eleven board members?

The Board did not feel ready to vote. Discussion on this motion was tabled until the spring EC meeting.
Questions to consider about the future of the annual conference at 1:25pm

The Board discussed the need and cost of continuing to book hotels for future conferences, as we need to cut expenses.

The Board considered that ASTR may need meeting rooms more than sleeping rooms, since our contractual obligations with hotels are behind the financial stress; whether or not we should investigate holding future conferences at universities; and the future of the annual conference in its current model.

As planning happens two years in advance of a conference, it is important to assess now why members would attend the 2024 conference. There should be consideration of what ASTR means for its members, and its relationship to their careers and intellectual life.

Fundraising updates, ideas, and questions at 1:50pm

Brainstorming was done over various fundraising suggestions for the coming year. Group suggested to include this discussion in the afternoon breakout groups. One general suggestion was that members of the EC consult with the Advancement offices at their home institutions for ideas on how to fundraise. The Lifetime Membership has been launched.

BREAKOUT GROUPS ON FUTURE VISIONS FOR ASTR at 2:00pm

The agenda listed:
1) Virtual programming and opportunities to reduce demands on the conference
2) Fundraising
3) Other areas determined at meeting

The Board changed the umbrella of these breakout groups to:

1) Conferences: the university option
   Board members proposed that the EC leverages their networks and investigate with peer associations who already do that (IFTR, for example). Report expected by spring EC meeting.

3) Conference programming that recenters arts and intellectual communities

Action items for spring meeting

Laura: researching affinity receptions
Paula and Angela: researching alternative conference sites
Amy: reaching out to heads of PhD programs
Jimmy: percentage of time spent by EC members on ASTR work to determine board member involvement

**Report back at 2:30pm**

**Discussion items: Next steps and wrapping up at 2:45pm**

**MOTION:** to extend the meeting by 15 minutes

Motion unanimously approved

**MEETING ADJOURNED** at 3:00pm