Saturday, April 17
12:01pm CALL TO ORDER

1) Meeting called to order at 12:01pm.

2) Roll Call
   Present: Marla Carlson (President), Jimmy Noriega (VP for Conferences), Katherine Zien (VP for Awards), Dorothy Chansky (VP for Publications), Amy Cook (Treasurer), Claudia Tatinge Nascimento (Secretary), Sarah Bay-Cheng, Shamell Bell, Aparna Dharwadker, Eric Glover, Baron Kelly, Paige A. McGinley, Shayoni Mitra, Analola Santana, Margaret Werry, Lindsay Barr (GSC Rep)
   Administrators Present: Aimee Zygmonski (Executive Director)
   Not present: Nicole Hodges Persley

3) The Agenda for the Spring 2021 EC Meeting was approved.

4) The Consent Agenda was adopted, 13 to 1.

   Included Minutes of the January 2021 EC Meeting and motions to extend the Muñoz Travel Grant; and from ASTR Commons Committee, Mentoring Committee, the VP Publications; and the 2022 Conference Program Committee.

5) Opening Remarks (President)

   General plan for the weekend includes motions in the agenda and discussion about ASTR’s future.

6) Update on 2021 Conference (VP For Conferences)

   VP for Conferences and Executive Director extensively researched costs for in-person, online, and hybrid conference formats. Their research included conversations with officers in other learned societies, who conveyed that virtual conferences led to a 50% drop in attendance. We cannot afford a hybrid conference. The only financially feasible option for ASTR is to hold an in-person conference with a few virtual sessions for those who are unable to travel to San Diego, CA. Field conversations will also remain online—
they grant an opportunity for those who cannot attend to continue to engage with ASTR; help us cut the number of meeting rooms at the hotel; and ease program scheduling.

7) Old business

Action item: BIPOC data collection in awards (VP Awards)

One of the recommendations of the Decentering Whiteness committee was to collect BIPOC self-identification information.

MOTION: to include a question for optional BIPOC self-identification on the award application and nomination forms.

Discussion about the purpose of collecting such data, pros and cons of sharing data from self-identification with the various award committees; suggestion that each of these committees keeps a record of the subjects/fields of research they recognize so as to facilitate assessment of diversity in scholarship as well.

Motion passes: 13 yes, 1 abstention.

8) New business

Action item: increase conference registration fees (Treasurer)

The budget for FY2022 presumes that registration fees for the 2021 conference increase by $25 over the 2019 rate.

Treasurer opened conversation explaining that ASTR has not raised conference registration fees since 2019; fees must cover conference costs.

MOTION: to increase conference registration fees for FY2022 year by $25 over the 2019 rate as indicated in the attached.

Discussion about the timing of the raise, given that many members have has salary freezes, cuts, or lost institutional support this year. Suggestion of pro-rating the increase of conference fees according to rank.

Friendly amendment offered to rephrase motion: “To increase conference registration fees for FY2022 year by $10 for graduate students, contingent faculty, and independent scholars; and increase fees for those in categories A, B, C by 15%.”

Motion passes 13 to 0.
Action item: FY2022 budget (Treasurer)

As indicated in the budget, option A presumes a standard, in-person conference for 2021 in San Diego

**MOTION:** to approve FY2022 budget option A.

Motion passes 13 to 0.

**MOTION:** to approve Budget Option B without the cancellation fee as an emergency measure to be adopted by consultation between the President, VP for Conferences, Treasurer, and Executive Director in June if Covid-19 pandemic conditions have changed so that we must cancel the in-person conference for 2021 and shift to a virtual conference format.

Motion passes: 11 yes, 2 abstentions

Action item: proof of vaccination for conference (VP Conferences)

The action item comes in anticipation of travel and hotel requirements. This is important information for members as they plan and consider submitting applications.

**MOTION:** to require proof of vaccination for those members who wish to attend the San Diego conference in person.

Discussion about those who cannot be vaccinated for health reasons. There will be room for necessary exceptions. Privacy compliance costs have been included in the proposed budget.

Motion passes: 12 yes, 1 no

Action item: virtual working sessions pilot (VP Conferences)

**MOTION:** to pilot 2-3 virtual working sessions for the 2021 conference. These will be curated specifically for those members who are unable to travel to San Diego because of COVID-19 health concerns (age, disability) and international travel restrictions.

VP for Conferences answered a few questions and received offers to help curate those sessions.

Motion passes: 14 yes, 0 no

Discussion item: focus and size of ASTR (President)

Prior to the meeting, a document with anonymous answers to the question: “What has been ASTR’s value to your growth as a scholar at different stages of your career?”
Additionally, some members answered the following question: “Given ASTR’s role in your career and its place in the broader constellation of other learned societies, what do you think should be its size? Focus?”

President provided a summary of replies and background on ASTR’s history with regard to size and focus, rationale to move conferences to hotels (as opposed to universities or colleges).

Conversation ensued about issues of inclusion, working groups, calendar, size. Members voiced their opinions as to what would be the single most important ASTR activity or task for them. The majority replied “annual conference,” some expressed special interest in ASTR’s working groups and plenaries; its networking opportunities; and outreach to BIPOC scholars.

Meeting adjourned 2:02pm.

Sunday, April 18
12:03pm CALL TO ORDER

1) Meeting called to order at 11:03pm.

2) Roll Call
   Present: Marla Carlson (President), Jimmy Noriega (VP for Conferences), Katherine Zien (VP for Awards), Amy Cook (Treasurer), Claudia Tatinge Nascimento (Secretary), Sarah Bay-Cheng, Shamell Bell, Aparna Dharwadker, Eric Glover, Baron Kelly, Paige A. McGinley, Shayoni Mitra, Margaret Werry, Lindsay Barr (GSC Rep)
   Administrators Present: Aimee Zygmonski (Executive Director)
   Late: Dorothy Chansky (VP for Publications, arrived at 1pm)
   Not Present: Analola Santana, Nicole Hodges Persley

Sunday’s meeting aimed to create a list of key answers to the questions below, so that the EC may research and consider alternatives for the organization in preparation for discussion at the Fall 2021 meeting. The EC did not arrive at consensus or take any actions.

First Round of Questions: What is the core mission of the organization in terms of its research focus? How is ASTR different from other organizations, and what aspects of this do we want to enhance?

Second Round of Questions: How can we change in order to adapt to increasing employment insecurity in our field and academia generally? What are the implications for size of the organization and the size and structure of its conference?
Much of the EC’s conversation at this meeting was based on personal experience. In order to make recommendations, the EC needs specific data. Once we better understand our membership, as well as its conflicting views and interests, we can move to develop a clear vision for ASTR’s future and set the organization’s priorities. Next steps will include review of data from the membership survey currently underway. The President and the Executive Director will circulate notes from the weekend’s discussion and be in touch with the EC about next steps.

**Meeting adjourned at 3:20.**