

**Executive Committee Meeting**  
**February 16, 2023 1pmET // 12noon CT // 10am PT**  
**Via ZOOM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88380532619?pwd=MXpYVG5nbDZlNWlURENuRHdXeWJzUT09>

**Documents to review prior to meeting:**

1. November 2022 Minutes
2. Po-Hsien Chu Award Revisions
3. 2023 Nominations Slate – for EC terms 2023-2026

**AGENDA**

**CALL TO ORDER, 1pm**

**5 minutes**

1) Roll Call

Present: Jimmy Noriega (President), Laura McDonald (VP for Conferences), Noe Montez (VP for Publications), Katie Zien (VP Awards), Cláudia Tatinge Nascimento (Secretary), Shamell Bell, Laura Edmonson, Eric Glover, Paola Hernandez, Nicole Hodges Persley, Michelle Liu Carriger, Angela Marino, Jonah Winn-Lenetsky, Mysia Anderson (GSC Rep).

Late: Sukanya Chakrabarti, Lilian Mengesha.

Administrators Present: Aimee Zygmanski (Executive Director)

Not present: Amy Cook (Treasurer)

2) Approved: Adoption of November 2022 EC Meeting Minutes

**1:05 Opening Remarks (President)**

**5 minutes**

Brief welcome of those attending the meeting.

**1:10 Update on Conference (VP For Conferences)**

**10 minutes**

The VP for Conferences reported an increase in mentoring matches at NOLA and that she received positive feedback about the social programming at the conference. She noticed a new attendance pattern, in that many participants did not attend all days of the conference.

There were questions and feedback about the blind peer review of proposals. This practice is not new, but has been the standard for ASTR. Proposals will be blind reviewed for Providence initially, unblinded for final stages of selection.

For the conference in Providence, the conference organizer has decided to hold concurrent plenary sessions so as to offer more presenting opportunities. There was a question about the fact that at the EC meeting in NOLA it was discussed that it would be desirable to make ASTR conferences more intimate so as to build community; planning should happen in alignment with EC discussions. The VP for Conferences replies that the Providence conference organizer preferred holding concurrent sessions. The President added that we should consider recent EC discussion as we plan the 2024 conference.

The Providence conference organizer is seeking sponsorship to cover mentoring sessions and other events, and it seems possible that fundraising will also support digital programming. The number of submissions is promising; while in NOLA we received submissions for 44 working sessions and 82 plenaries, for Providence we have received proposals for 57 working sessions and 98 plenaries.

As we investigate potential sites for the 2024 conference, the committee is checking a variety of costs, including flights. Currently, Seattle appears as the top choice. The call for conference organizers will be out in March.

The president noted that we cannot leave the hotel system quickly. We have already contacted a few potential institutions of higher education, though none acknowledged our email. It was discussed that we may need a targeted outreach, that is: that members of EC are involved in introducing the Conference Manager to staff at institutions they know well and that have a history of hosting conferences. A few EC members volunteered to initiate this process.

**1:20 Action item: Po-Hsien Chu Award Final (VP Awards) 20 minutes**

**MOTION:** Approve the formation of the “ASTR Po-Hsien Chu International Scholar Award” as outlined by the awards committee’s documents. This research award will be given to up to two winners; to be eligible, applicants must be either an Asian international graduate student or contingent faculty currently studying and/or working in the United States who do not hold citizenship or status as Permanent Lawful Residents of the United States. The award will be given out through the term of the funding provided.

*(Please refer to the Fall 2022 meeting minutes for concern/questions that were previously brought to the Board’s attention)*

The VP for Awards explained that the broader goal of this new award was to support scholars who do not have legal protection to work in the United States. A discussed about the connection between this new award and ASTR ensued, and concerns as to how a new committee will increase volunteer labor. While it is problematic that our awards do not require that recipients are ASTR members or attend the conference, we should not start with the Po-Hsien Chu International Scholar Award so as not to single out people of color. The discussion turned into how to include international scholars who are not of Asian origin, including those who are not persons of color or citizens from post-colonial countries. For that, the EC moved to revisit the previous award description and offered it as an amendment.

Approved with this amendment, the ASTR Po-Hsien Chu International Scholar Award. 93% yes, 7% no

**1:40 Action Item: 2023 Nominations Slate (President) 5 minutes**

Approved, the 2023 ASTR Executive Committee Elections Slate. 93% yes; 7% abstain

**1:45 Discussion item: Committee Changes (President) 10 minutes**

The President has focused on lessening the workload on members and reduce the number of ASTR standing committees. He continues to seek volunteers for remaining committees.

The Finance and Fundraising committees are now one; the same is true for the Graduate Student and the Mentoring committees, which have been merged. ASTR is sunsetting the Empowering committee; the Munoz Assessment committee, and the Membership committee.

**1:55 Discussion item continued from fall meeting: Board size and discussion on budget implications 20 minutes**

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

The VP for Finance proposed this change at the EC meeting in NOLA because of ASTR's deficit—we have been operating in the red for several years. Cutting 6 board members represents a savings of \$3,000. Discussion followed. EC members expressed concern with diminishing the number of opportunities to serve; others highlighted that ASTR members can serve in committees but not be members of the EC. Some suggested that EC members should receive clearer guidance as to how they may contribute service to the organization or be assigned specific roles in committees, task forces, etc. It was noted that it is rare to have all EC members attend a given meeting; typically, three or more are either absent or late. There was consideration of how a larger EC in which members are either absent or late hurts the committee's efficiency.

Approved to include this motion at the next EC meeting. 83% yes, 8% no, 8% abstain.

**2:15 Other Business**

**15 minutes**

At the next EC meeting we will discuss whether or not we should continue to work with hotels for ASTR conferences; vote on the number of EC members; and BIPOC and transnational scholars at ASTR.

**2:30**

**ADJOURN**

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