Governing Council Meeting
Thursday, May 7, 2020
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 a.m. EDT
Via Zoom
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83391212655
Meeting ID: 833 9121 2655

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 11:35 a.m. EDT.

Members Present: Josh Abrams, Chase Bringardner, Carla Della Gotta, Suzanne Delle, Ann Haugo, D.J. Hopkins, Kelly Howe, 1 Karen Jean Martinson, Noe Montez, Dassia Posner, Emily Rollie, Lionel Walsh

Members Excused: Jon Rossini, Harvey Young

Staff Present: Shaun Franklin-Sewell, Aimee Zygmonski

Membership Renewals
So far, 171 renewed/ joined; 18 organizational membership renewals. The next round of emails to be sent 5/14 (memberships expire 5/15). We are getting renewals at the higher income levels, and have had very good returns on emails (25%). There may be institutional restrictions on disbursement of money. We will look at previous years to see how the income tends to flow.

Professional Development
Noe stated that the PDC just published the white paper on assessment. It also hosted the third virtual chairs and deans colloquium, with good participation. It provided a space to talk about the current moment. Dissertations-in-progress data just came in; Noe will work with Shaun to digitize and handle. Thanks to Josh and Lionel for gathering information from institutions in the UK and Canada.

Research & Publications
D.J. noted that ASTR has formed an Open Access task force, and he and possibly Emily will represent ATHE on it. D.J. also serves on the ASTR Publications Committee, and can be a liaison between those two committee as he cycles out of his VP role. He also informed the GC that the Outstanding Book Award process is complete; he is grateful to the committee members who read all of the submitted books.
Awards
Dassia submitted the awards slate for approval. The Jane Chambers/Judith Royer awards will not have results until 5/18, which follows their normal timeline. She reminded the GC that if it wants more oversight/approval over their process (as ATHE due diligence), we would need to formally make changes to. This would need to be done in advance because they have several rounds of review.

The awards committee has implemented honorable mentions. It is very exciting to highlight the range of scholarship undertaken by our members. The finalist list will be announced in advance, at the beginning of June to coincide with the Jane Chambers and Judith Royer awards. The winners will be announced to coincide with the conference. This year we will mail out plaques; it will be fun to publicize the winners with their plaques. Aimee and Shaun will check in with Dassia and use these images as part of conference rollout to build excitement.

Dassia would like to have a discussion at a future GC meeting to reconsider the submission requirements of the two categories of editing awards (editing achievement and single monograph). Some edited books have virtuosic qualities in editing, but do not showcase scholarship in the same way. D.J. agreed to help review the historic record. He added that his committee members felt one of the runners-up they reviewed would have won the editing award if it was in that category, though it did not win the book award.

Action Item: D.J. made a motion to approve the awards slate, seconded by Karen Jean. Approved by voice vote. Yes = 11. No= 0. Abstain=1.

Conference
Josh noted that there is great work being done. He has crafted a statement discussing the value of a conference. It is important to recognize and acknowledge the work that has been done by the Conference Committee. Though we know that a virtual conference (especially a virtual conference proposed as a late change, due to circumstances of the pandemic) is not going to be the same thing, it still has a role.

Aimee is trying to balance the review of different software platforms and the importance of having an appealing interface (so that it isn’t just a list of Zoom links) with staff workload. We will need to decide about the platform very soon. She and Devon are looking for certain things: a clear landing space, a dedicated tech person, the ability to house asynchronous content. Most providers have their own platforms and then use Zoom or GoToMeeting for the video. This means it will be familiar to people. They have a clear favorite. Devon is also speaking with a producing company, though she and Aimee would like to avoid that route if possible. They are both trying to ensure that we have a few things that are really done well rather than 100 things done poorly. They have a conference call set up with Lionel/FGRs next Friday to get sense of FGR needs and expectations. Some of the software platforms will really help with organizing.
Several people have asked about the two-week timeframe. This is meant to help participants avoid Zoom fatigue. The two-week period will help balance time commitments and provide flexibility. It also allows for pre-con participation. There will be a theme for each week to provide focus without overwhelming. Some concerns involve

- People not having blocked out that time
- Difficulties of content spread
- Extended focus may be difficult – two weekends, with one week in between might work better
- IFTR still happening – leads to a lot of conference weeks.

Live events will be programmed within the original conference time. Weekday slots will be for asynchronous content as well as business meetings. The conference weekend includes synchronous content. There is a plenary each weekend. We will need clear communications about the mix of synchronous and asynchronous content.

We expect that many sessions will not want to move forward. The in-person conference features 400 hours of content – we do not want to do that.

If people are receiving updates from other conferences that are going virtual, please share with Aimee so she can review their communication strategy.

Aimee will continue to think through fundraising options, including ideas about sponsoring a membership/conference fee for those in need. Much of the process of the “ask” will depend on the software platform.

Josh is meeting with Charlotte Canning tomorrow to prepare a statement about the recognition of research activity in this particular moment, with a focus on Tenure Track faculty and graduate students around public-facing work. They hope to have a draft to approve shortly.

We also want to think carefully about how to have productive organizational meetings at the conference, especially how to move ahead with by-laws changes.

**MAL Positions**

Carla updated the GC about a MAL meeting, during which they reviewed the current MAL structure. They came up with suggestions generated by discussing the following questions:

1. Should an organization ATHE’s size have four MALs?
2. Should the MALs have different responsibilities or not?
3. MAL positions are structured to not have a lot of responsibilities - do we want to maintain low responsibility or change?
4. Should the MAL positions be divided differently?

Ideas/possible changes include:
MAL FG might become the FGR Liaison Officer: the job would remain the same, but would no longer be a MAL position. It would still be elected by FGRs
MAL Finance might become the MAL Finance & Strategic Planning
Outreach position raised questions around how much one person could do – might make sense to support Advocacy & Awards
Do MALs continue as oversight, or become more involved?
MAL Operations currently sits on OC, perhaps could also sit on CC
Regarding committee membership, there are more committees identified than MALs; all agreed which committees they should sit on as non-voting members. This did raise the question of what is the purpose of being on a committee as a non-voting member? We would want to be clear about this.
How do we make MALs more accessible to the membership?

Adjourn
With all business concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 12:39 p.m. EDT

Matters Arising

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Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Jean Martinson, ATHE Secretary