

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
November 8-10, 2015
Chicago, Illinois**

**President's Report
(Prepared by Dennis Meissner)**

IMLS Grant Application: Data-Informed Advocacy

- Prospected for a principal investigator on the planning grant, should it be awarded. Rob Spindler, Arizona State University, has agreed to assume that role. With Rob's facilitation and project management experience, this leaves us in a solid position to move the effort forward.
- Submitted a slightly revised preliminary application for the planning grant in the last week of September, thanks to the efforts of the Executive Director and CFO. If we are invited to present a full application, we will probably be informed in late November.

Vacant Council Seat

- Worked with the Executive Director and Council to develop and approve a constitutionally-acceptable plan to fill the vacant Council seat as soon as possible.
- Appointed a team from the Nominating Committee—Council members Tim Pyatt and Helen Wong Smith—to recruit two former Council members to run against each other for a temporary and non-extendable seat that will commence as soon as possible after the 2016 election and end at the close of the 2016 Joint Annual Meeting.

Washington, DC, Trip: October 5-7

- At the invitation of the ARL Executive Director, I attended the annual membership meeting of the Association as a guest. I participated in discussion sessions and social activities. I took what opportunities occurred to talk about SAA's agenda and our desire to collaborate with ARL on mutually helpful ventures. Members and staff seemed generally aware of, and appreciative toward, the Mosaic Scholarship.
- Made Capitol Hill visits to Minnesota legislators, getting oral assurances that they will sign on to the History Caucus.

- Met with Archivist of the United States David Ferriero to discuss mutual interests. He professed strong support for SAA's advocacy agenda, and he committed himself to increasing the participation of NARA staff in SAA (publishing and attending annual meetings). He also seems committed to partnering with SAA on re-launching the Modern Archives Institute.

#AskanArchivist Day

- Helped archivists at my institution get a Twitter feed going, and made a couple of (pathetic) attempts to participate during the day.

Executive Activities

- Participated in weekly policy and process calls with the Vice President and the Executive Director to deal with current issues and prepare items for the Council.
- Participated in monthly calls with leaders of SAA, CoSA, and NAGARA to work through issues of mutual concern.
- Worked with the Executive Director, CAPP chair, and Executive Committee on moving forward issue briefs under current consideration.
- Worked with (primarily) the Executive Director and the Vice President to develop the agenda for the November Council meeting.

2016 Joint Annual Meeting Preparations

- With the Executive Director, the Vice President, and CoSA President, began discussing plenaries for the Joint Annual Meeting – especially on how we might best engage David Ferriero.
- Worked with CoSA leadership to appoint a new Program Committee co-chair, following the resignation (due to employment changes) of Mark Shelstad. Barbara Teague is the CoSA co-chair.
- Discussed and approved plan for the All-Attendee Reception.