

Council Minutes

September 1, 2001

Washington Hilton & Towers

Washington, DC

President Steve Hensen called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Present: Vice President Peter Hirtle, Treasurer Elizabeth Adkins, and Council members Thomas Battle, Danna Bell-Russel, Tom Connors, Jackie Dooley, Mark Greene, Becky Haglund-Tousey, David Haury, Richard Pearce-Moses; Megan Sniffin-Marinoff, Executive Director Susan Fox, Karen Benedict, Chair of the Committee on Ethics and Professional Conduct.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Adkins moved and Tousey seconded adoption of the agenda. PASSED.

REPORT FROM CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Benedict reported that the Committee on Ethics and Professional Conduct received a letter asking that SAA investigate a possible ethics violation. Benedict said the Ethics Committee would meet to review the submitted materials and the committee planned to respond to Council with recommendations on whether or not there were grounds to move forward with mediation. She asked Council to advise. Since the Ethics Committee did not have a full committee convened and would need to deliberate fully, would it be agreeable to do so via email as a primary means of communication and as a method of documenting the process?

Council agreed that it would be best for the Ethics Committee to do so and to conduct some of its deliberations via conference call.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Hensen reported that he contacted as many SAA units as possible during the annual meeting, including the SAA-ARMA Joint Committee and a separate meeting with ARMA Executive Director Peter Hermann. He gave great praise to Scott Schwartz, Chair of the Membership Committee, for his work in raising funds for the Donald Peterson Student Scholarship and for making the business meeting such fun. He said that the 2002 Program Committee had met and was putting together a dynamic program for the Birmingham annual meeting.

He said he also had breakfast with Anne Newhall, Executive Director of NHPRC. They discussed the status of conference committee negotiations on the NHPRC budget and the composition of the Commission. Hensen said if necessary SAA would need to be prepared to issue a letter of support on behalf of the Commission's budget allocation.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Hirtle said his first task as Vice President would be appointments. Michael Fox and Janice Ruth agreed to co-chair the Program Committee for the Los Angeles Meeting in 2003. They discussed themes, and wanted to stress the diversity of the profession and the different types of archival enterprises encompassed within the profession. He was open for suggestions regarding plenary speakers. He spoke with Paul Duguid, author of the Social Life of Information, and was optimistic about his participation. He said he was beginning to construct a Host Committee, some individuals had already agreed to serve, but he still needed a chair. He planned to approach the appointments process by issuing a call on the Archives & Archivists and SAA leadership listservs for nominations. He asked that Council liaisons serve as his appointments committee. Council members would be expected to contact their units and solicit suggestions for new chairs/members once the final list of 2001 appointments were ready. Special provision would be made for the Awards Committee, given the size of the committee. His goal was to complete all appointments by March 1, 2002.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Fox reviewed possible dates for the Winter Council meeting and asked that Council respond to her as soon as possible upon return from the annual meeting. She said that Fynnette Eaton recommended that a Washington, D.C. based member of Council observe NHPRC Commission meetings. She asked that Council liaisons help solicit new leadership information for the 2002 leadership list, always a large task post meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Greene reported on items emerging from the Committee on Education and Professional Development (CEPD) meeting. SAA still needed to appoint a representative to the American Library Association Task Force on Accreditation. Up until recently, Bob

Martin had looked out for SAA's interest, but with his appointment as Director of the Institute for Museum and Library Services, it was especially important that SAA have an official representative.

CEPD approved the mission statement for the SAA Education Office: *To develop and offer quality continuing education that is relevant and accessible to professional archivists via a variety of delivery methods. To promote and uphold standards of education as stated in the Archival Education guidelines.*

Greene said that CEPD was concerned about EAD workshop participants receiving a coupon for \$100 off the retail price of XMetaL Software. The coupon included the SAA logo as co-sponsorship. CEPD did not think the endorsement appropriate and requested that Council approve a policy on how to handle such requests in the future. Fox said that she would work with the education directors to develop a policy and would present it to Council for discussion at the winter meeting.

Greene said that in the Forum on Graduate Archival Studies several archival educators expressed significant concerns and comments about the proposed revised M.A.S. Guidelines. It was quite possible that the next draft of the guidelines would be somewhat different than the last.

Pearce-Moses said the Nominating Committee made a great deal of progress. He was optimistic that they would achieve a full slate within the next few weeks.

Hirtle said he wanted to give early notification of discussion occurring within the Working Group on Intellectual Property with Laurence Lessig, the lawyer for Eldred v. Ashcroft. Lessig was taking the case to the Supreme Court and had indicated he would appreciate an amicus brief in support of SAA's position on copyright extension. Hirtle was now exploring the cost of developing the brief and said he may have a proposal on how to proceed at the winter Council meeting.

Battle reported that the Museum Archives Section wanted to expand the ALA-SAA Joint Committee to include a member from the American Association of Museums.

Bell-Russel, Connors, Dooley and Pearce-Moses agreed to serve on Council's Archives & Archivists Listserv Committee.

Pearce-Moses bequeathed the shovel to Dooley.

Adkins read the To Do List.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.