

**Society for Anthropological Sciences Business Meeting  
American Anthropological Association  
Denver, Colorado  
Colorado Convention Center rm. 607  
Friday, November 20, 2015, 7:45 - 9:00pm**

Ben Blount, President  
Robert Trotter, President-Elect  
Carol Ember, Past President  
Douglas Hume, Treasurer  
Stephen Chrisomalis, Secretary  
Stephen Lyon, Senior Board Member  
+11 general membership

B. Blount welcomes the group and discusses the agenda, including the approval of the minutes. As of 2016 meeting in Minneapolis the minutes will be circulated in advance.

D. Hume moves to approve, R. Trotter seconds. No discussion. Approved.

**Treasurer's Report (D. Hume):**

Tracking our membership over time - we did dip below 225 members for a while but we have recovered from that. We currently have over \$14000 in the SAS account. We are in good financial shape in both the SAS and SaSci accounts currently with revenues exceeding expenditures.

Discussion of the prospect of quasi-endowment through AAA, minimum of \$10,000.00 earning 4% interest per year. We could do this and earn money for awards in addition to income from members. In general our income from dues exceeds our expenditures and this would be an additional source of revenue. If we had a named award we would consult the membership for a list of nominees on which we would vote. That decision would be made by the membership, not the board. What would the nature of this award be? SAS student paper award would be funded by this quasi-endowment. For the first time, AAA is allowing us to fundraise directly for the quasi-endowment, to solicit donations from membership.

Carol Ember moves to accept treasurer's report. Bob Trotter seconds. No discussion. Approved.

Carol Ember moves to begin the process of creating a quasi-endowment to fund the SAS student paper award. Stephen Lyon seconds. No further discussion. Approved.

### **Webmaster's report (D. Hume):**

D. Hume notes the new Wordpress website for SAS at <http://sas.anthroniche.com>. Contact Doug Hume to become an author to allow web posting of blog-like posts.

There will be added a new list of SAS officers, the history of our meetings at AAA and apart from AAA, and the minutes of our business meetings as a permanent public record.

We now have a new listserv for email with members. SAS members are all automatically invited to that list as well as SaSci.

### **Secretary's report (S. Chrisomalis)**

SAS minutes from Pittsburgh and Washington have now been sent out by email. In future, starting with 2016 meetings in Minneapolis minutes will be sent out in advance one week before the AAA meetings for review by the membership.

Doug Hume moves to approve. Stephen Lyon seconds. No discussion. Approved.

### **Program Chair (B. Trotter)**

2 workshops conducted on Tuesday  
Café Scientifique held off-site on Thursday evening  
5 sponsored or co-sponsored sessions with papers  
A number of posters: would like to organize a full poster session

Sections are assigned a certain number of points to determine how many invited sessions they are allowed at AAA. There is no limit to the number of submitted sessions above that. The average number of sections that anthropologists belong to is 2.

Glynn Custred raises the prospect that engagement with communities outside the AAA in bringing in new sorts of events at our meetings.

Ben Blount notes that organized sessions / volunteered sessions for next year in Minneapolis, especially student sessions.

Doug Hume, who is on the Executive Program committee for the 2016 meetings, has been asked to put together an executive session on some of

the issues in anthropological sciences concerning evidence, the theme for those meetings.

Ben Blount explains the three ranks of session: executive, invited, and volunteered.

### **Student Prize Committee (S. Lyon)**

The committee consisting of Steve Lyon, Margo-Lea Hurwicz, Rosalyn Negron, decided to award three student prizes.

Student Travel Award: Dori Beeler (Durham)

Student Poster Award: Sarah Carson (Pennsylvania)

Student Paper Prize: Grace Pappalardo (Wayne State)

### **President's Report (B. Blount)**

SAS is entitled to nominate non-AAA members for a waiver of registration fees for international scholars or non-anthropologists who would not otherwise be able to attend the meetings. Nominations should be sent to R. Trotter at least by March 1.

Section Assembly would like to promote mentorship events across the career / lifespan for members in future. There will be a lot of discussion about mentor / mentee issues. Would SAS mentorship only be open to SAS members? No, presumably not - we could think in terms of getting information from our members and targeting specifically to our members. We can collaborate with other sections in offering up mentoring sessions. We also know that mentoring is across the lifecourse and career and would not be limited to students.

C. Ember announces that there will be a pot of money from AAA for professional development and mentorship activities which need not be at the meetings. AAA is just getting organized on this and its work on this is ongoing.

B. Blount notes that there has been a proliferation of new sections forming (now 40, plus 10 interest groups). The AAA staff is stretched thin to meet the needs of all sections and some smaller sections have been worried whether they have enough membership to maintain their status. We are one of few sections to have gained members over the last year. We need to try to figure out ways to create new membership, because a task force has been appointed to look at these issues - the average # of sections for members is 2. Murray Leaf asks about question of scheduling of business meetings which split people apart. Also notes that SAS may on average

have more than 2 sections. Jeff Johnson is going to do a network analysis of co-membership to determine how we might proceed.

B. Blount raises the issue of student paper prizes. The prize committee for next year (chair: Margo-Lea Hurwicz) will come up with some recommendations for how to proceed with next year's prizes.

B. Blount notes the issue of membership is complex and we want more members but have not been able to do as well as possible.

## **New Business**

S. Chrisomalis discusses the CafeSci2 event, which was an excellent public science event with a wide attendance. However, it did not raise our profile of SAS in AAA.

S. Chrisomalis raises the broader issue of how to increase our submissions to SAS for next year including students, people not previously involved with the Society, more broadly, so that our footprint at the Minneapolis meetings will be greater.

G. Custred discusses how we might use media more effectively to promote our work.

D. Hume raises the possibility of reaching out to local colleges/universities to do local engagement with public / students on college campuses. We could create good publicity for us within AAA by having that sort of engagement. There are very few restrictions on special sessions and events.

B. Blount notes other ways to increase attendance, such as having a distinguished lecture and/or a reception. These events require good attendance to be successful so we may not have the membership numbers yet for this to work.

## **Officers and Elections**

Student Board Members:

Outgoing: Caitlyn Placek

Incoming: Wesley Allen-Arave

Board Members:

Outgoing: Stephen Lyon

Incoming: Stephen Chrisomalis

Secretary:

Outgoing: Stephen Chrisomalis

Incoming: Toni Copeland

Treasurer:  
Doug Hume (continuing)

Past-President:  
Outgoing: Carol Ember  
Incoming: Ben Blount

President:  
Outgoing: Ben Blount  
Incoming: Robert Trotter

President-Elect  
Outgoing: Robert Trotter  
Incoming: Murray Leaf

Bob Trotter thanks Carol Ember and Ben Blount for their leadership.

Move to adjourn. No discussion. Meeting adjourned.