

SECOLAS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

April 19, 2007
San José, Costa Rica

MINUTES

(Recorded by Angela Herren)

In Attendance:

Elizabeth Barrett Kidder (Editor Blackwell), Isabel Brown (2007 Conference Chair), Richmond Brown (SECOLAS invited member), Jürgen Buchenau (Co-Editor Annals), Gregory Crider (Co-Editor Annals), Angela Herren (Secretary-Treasurer), Paula Heusinkveld (President Elect), Jimmy Huck (At Large Member, 2008), Stephen Morris (President), Blake Pattridge (SECOLAS invited member), Gregory Weeks (Editor, The Latin Americanist), Bruce Willis (SECOLAS invited member), Bruce Wilson (At Large Member, 2007), Margaret Zusky (Associate Publisher, Blackwell).

President Stephen Morris called the meeting to order. The meeting agenda and the Secretary-Treasurer's Financial Report were distributed.

Approval of 2006 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

The Executive Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes from the 2006 Executive Committee Meeting in Charlotte. Paula Heusinkveld moved that the 2006 Meeting Minutes be approved. Jürgen Buchenau seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the 2006 meeting minutes.

Secretary-Treasurer's Financial Report

Angela Herren, Secretary-Treasurer, presented the financial report. The Committee voted to accept the report.

Vote to Raise Dues in 2008

Discussion: Stephen Morris proposed that SECOLAS raise dues in 2008 to \$40 for regular membership, \$20 for student membership, \$100 for a three-year membership.

Bruce Wilson moved that SECOLAS advocate the dues increase at the General Meeting.

Gregory Crider seconded the motion. The Committee voted to propose the dues increase at the General Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Changes to the By-laws

Stephen Morris raised the issue of a by-law change to fold the Annals into The Latin Americanist. The by-law should also clarify that the Annals and The Latin Americanist are still to be run by separate editors. According to the Constitution, by-law changes must be mailed out

to the membership. The committee decided to raise this issue at the General Meeting. The finalized version will be emailed out and people can vote. The Committee also discussed the quality of the Annals. The issue of copyright on the Annals was discussed. It was suggested that selection of fewer articles may raise quality.

Support for Graduate Students

The Committee discussed the fact that the 2005 decision to support graduate students at the conference has not been implemented. The Committee discussed that the host institution receives profits from the conference, so they shouldn't be responsible for the graduate student support. The Committee discussed formation of a new endowment and how much should be allotted for awards (figures ranged from \$150-\$300). The Executive Committee decided that schools with Ph.D. programs should decide how to implement graduate student support. Jimmy Huck, Richmond Brown, and Paula Heusinkveld volunteered to be on this sub-committee. The Executive Committee also decided to raise this issue at the General Meeting.

Web Site Formation

Gregory Weeks indicated that he is working on a website for The Latin Americanist and that the process of transition from UCF is taking place. The conference website was separate from the journal website.

Reports from the Editors of The Latin Americanist and SECOLAS Annals

Jürgen Buchenau and Gregory Crider indicated that the Annals is almost ready. Gregory Weeks reported that the content for the first issue of TLA under his editorship is set and will be out in late May or early June.

Report on Future Conference Sites

Richmond Brown reported that next year's conference takes place April 17-19, 2008 in Tampa, Florida. The University of South Florida will host the conference. The conference will be co-hosted by ENLACE FLORIDA and the Institute for the Study of Latin America and the Caribbean at The University of South Florida. The proposed theme for the conference is: "Engaging Latino Communities and Rethinking Latin American Studies." Paula Heusinkveld reported that she is negotiating hotel possibilities and would like input on Program Chairs. Jimmy Huck reported that he is planning the New Orleans conference in 2009. Jürgen Buchenau reported that he is organizing the Mexico conference in 2010 with the help of the Instituto Mora.

NEW BUSINESS

Awards Rules

The Committee discussed the need to incorporate wording on the awards qualifications into the by-laws. The Committee discussed the policy on co-authorship. Isabel Brown suggested a new award with a focus on literature.

List Serve

The Committee discussed the idea of implementing a list serve or other device for ongoing communications.

Partnership with Blackwell Publishing

Jürgen Buchenau began by providing a background on the Blackwell proposal which outlines a partnership for the production and distribution of SECOLAS's journals.

Margaret Zusky of Blackwell reported that they are the strongest and largest publisher for scholarly societies. For example, Blackwell published the Journal of Finance, the American Psychological Association journal, the International Communications Association journal, the Journal of Popular Music Studies, etc. She said they work with small and large societies and are adaptable to different needs. They borrow ideas and best practices and can serve as a guide and mentor in publishing. She clarified that SECOLAS will remain in charge of content.

Elizabeth Barrett Kidder of Blackwell discussed the proposal she authored. She reported that Blackwell hopes to:

- Increase market exposure (especially international markets (from the approximately 65 current subscribers)
- Safeguard profitability. Blackwell absorbs costs of production and collects revenues. When revenue exceeds \$150,000 SECOLAS gets a 10% royalty.
- Promote electronic workflow and provide training on this. Online content offered through "Synergy." Makes journal available online. Password specific.
- Help SECOLAS advance their mission by advertising at other conferences.
- Recommend an increase in library subscriptions price
- Charge \$28/individual member per volume
- Become Co-owner of the journal. To Serve as Creative advisors.

A Question and Answer Session Ensued:

Stephen Morris asked who maintains control of the price of subscriptions.

Margaret Zusky responded that Blackwell and SECOLAS would be co-owners, so both would decide.

Stephen Morris commented that SECOLAS would rely on their expertise for library subscription prices but had greater concern about membership prices.

Margaret Zusky responded that membership rate lock-in was possible.

Stephen Morris suggested a rate lock-in for individual members for five years.

Margaret Zusky responded that that was acceptable.

Jimmy Huck commented that the insitutional rate will provide the greatest revenue. He commented that 400+ institutional subscriptions will be necessary to achieve the 150K revenue.

Margaret Zusky responded that the consortium generates a lot of subscriptions with links in Greece, Brazil, Ohio, etc. Consortia members pay a lower rate. She said that revenue is also generated through rights and permissions and paid advertisements.

Gregory Weeks asked if Blackwell intended to provide input on content. Do they try to influence content in any way?

Margaret Zusky responded that they may have strategy sessions, but do not have a direct agenda on this. She indicated that at meetings in Boston the editors would meet with the Blackwell team, discuss bibliometric analyses, make comparisons to other journals, etc. She commented that Blackwell is sensitive to publishing more than one journal in this field. She indicated that Blackwell will make suggestions, especially to separate the SECOLAS journals from competing journals by other publishers, but will not try to influence the content.

Jürgen Buchenau commented that LASA had a “meet the editor” meeting. He commented that the Annals had minimal peer review and that a full calendar year would be needed for this. He asked if last year’s Annals should be postponed?

Margaret Zusky responded she did not have enough knowledge to respond.

The Committee discussed how to deal with the Annals and numbering and timing issues.

Jürgen Buchenau suggested that on a one-time basis SECOLAS produce extra hard-copies of the Annals for 2007 members.

Gregory Weeks suggested having a “Meet the Editors” event to emphasize that we are associated with Blackwell. He suggested that this event take place at LASA this September in Montreal.

Stephen Morris had questions about the Blackwell contract and how subscription prices are controlled. He asked if the price is based on the number of pages per year.

Margaret Zusky responded that the editorial office discusses page budgets after each issue. She indicated that Elizabeth Kidder will correspond regarding timing and that there are no financial penalties.

Stephen Morris asked if the cover design is still SECOLAS’s domain.

Margaret Zusky responded in the affirmative. She said that there is no limit on black and white images or color images on the web. She reported that there are guidelines on how to get best quality.

Margaret Zusky mentioned that there is an escape hatch in the contract in case either side doesn’t like the arrangement.

The Executive Committee agreed that this is a great opportunity.

Paula Heusinkveld moved that SECOLAS pursue the Blackwell proposal.

Jürgen Buchenau seconded the motion. The Executive Committee unanimously voted to approve the motion.

NEW OFFICERS/ELECTIONS

President Elect

Stephen Morris moved to nominate Blake Pattridge for President Elect. Jimmy Huck seconded the motion. Jürgen Buchenau moved that nominations be closed. The vote will take place at the General Meeting.

At Large Member to Replace Bruce Wilson

Stephen Morris nominated Richmond Brown as the At Large Member to replace Bruce Wilson. Jimmy Huck seconded the motion.

Awards Committees

Jürgen Buchenau volunteered to replace Martin on the Thomas Book Award Committee; Isabel Brown will stay on the committee. The policy on co-authorship on the Leavitt award was discussed. The Committee agreed that both awardees must be SECOLAS members, but they may join when they find out about the award nomination. This decision requires a by-law change. The Committee discussed that the by-law change should also state that book chapters may be considered for this award. Bruce Willis and Stephen Morris will continue on the Moseley Award committee. Nominations to replace Hall will be taken from the floor at the General Meeting. The Executive Committee discussed increasing the monetary awards and creating an award on Literature and the Humanities. Some Committee members expressed the opinion that the pool would be too small for this award.

Stephen Morris adjourned the Executive Committee Meeting.