

**SECOLAS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Thursday, April 16, 2009, 3:30-5:30 PM**  
**Urusuline Boardroom on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of the Conference Hotel**  
**New Orleans, Louisiana**

**MINUTES**

**In attendance:** Rich Brown, Jürgen Buchenau, Gregory Crider, Jerry Davila, Tim Hawkins, Angela Herren, Paula Heusinkveld, Jimmy Huck, Steve Morris, Blake Pattridge.

**1. Approval of Minutes from 2008 executive committee and general committee meetings in Ybor City, Florida.**

- The 2008 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

**2. Reports**

**a. Financial report – Angela Herren, Secretary/Treasurer**

- Angela Herren reported that the organization is financially healthy with \$57,133.87 total in the treasury. In 2008 we settled accounts with Blackwell and they are now handling all of the finances related to the institutional subscriptions. We continue to pay Blackwell \$28.00 per person for individual membership subscriptions. Despite the financial crisis this past year, our accounts show modest gains. The Oppenheimer account saw a gain of \$530.57 (roughly half our normal gain) and stands at \$26,998.25. We hold \$4,775.78 in funds that are reserved for operation of the journals and \$25,359.84 in our general accounts. Angela Herren indicated that we may want to consider raising the student/international rate to \$28.00 to cover minimum expenses owed to Blackwell.
- On the secretarial side, Angela reported that the membership database was transitioned to Filemaker Pro, a much more efficient database program. She has been working on cleaning up the database this year and is better able to target individuals whose membership status has lapsed. The membership count is up for this time of the year. This year we had 143 members at the time of the conference, while last year we had 104 members at the time of the conference.

**b. Report from editor of *The Latin Americanist* – Greg Weeks)**

\* Greg Weeks reported that The Latin Americanist journal is doing well. There is no increase in submissions, but the submissions are of very good quality. This year (2009) is the beginning of the publication of four issues per year. The last one will be on the Mexican Revolution. We will have guest editors for a few years until the four issues per year become established. Next year Greg will solicit a report from Blackwell on the status of the library memberships to present at the annual conference.

**c. Report from editor of the Annals edition – Jürgen Buchenau)**

- Jürgen mentioned that this year's edition is very large because there were very long article submissions. He raised the issue that this year's Moseley Award Winner had the lowest rated article and questioned our practice of automatically publishing the Moseley Award Winner's article as has been our practice. Discussion ensued. It was pointed out that there is no statement in the by-laws that we will automatically publish the Moseley Award Winner's paper in the Annals. Going forward, we will encourage them to submit their paper for publication and external review but will not guarantee publication.

**d. Report on Website – Steve Morris**

- Steve Morris reported that the website is up, accessible, up to date, and easy to get to. Steve suggested publishing the conference papers online. Everyone agreed that this was a good idea.
- Jürgen suggested that Steve Morris remain on the Executive Committee as a non-voting, ex-officio member. It was moved, seconded, and approved.

**e. Report on the Newsletter – Paula Heusinkveld**

- Paula Heusinkveld reported that no newsletter was produced and suggested that the newsletter may not be needed anymore. Steve Morris and Blake Pattridge agreed to put together one newsletter, written as a conference update, and post it to the website. The Executive Committee determined that this would be a good practice to follow in future years.

**f. Report on Implementing Graduate Student Support**

- The Executive Committee determined that this is still a worthy goal, but given the current financial situation, we will table this subject for a few years.

**3. Announcements**

- No announcements

**4. Old business - Discussion of future conference sites:**

**a. Mexico City 2010 (Carmen Collado)**

- Carmen was not present but provided information by email prior to the meeting. Jürgen spoke with her and reported that the conference dates will be April 7-10, 2010. The theme will be "Memory and Revolution." This will be a three day conference instead of the normal two and will run from Wednesday to Saturday.
- It was noted that the by-laws say "Thursday" night reception. Paula moved that we change the wording in the by-laws from "Thursday" to "Opening" night reception. It was seconded and approved unanimously.
- The issue of providing digital capability was raised and the Executive Committee also discussed the loss of knowledge that results from different individuals and

institutions taking on the conference duties each year. Rich Brown agreed to write a set of guidelines for conference organizers to help pass on helpful knowledge.

**b. Mississippi 2011? TBD at Executive Council Meeting**

- The Executive Committee discussed different possibilities for the 2011 conference. It was suggested that there should be geographical distribution. It was determined that Executive Committee members would approach individuals at Mississippi and Memphis with UNC Charlotte as a back up.

**c. 2012**

- The Executive Committee discussed different possibilities for 2012 including a Winthrop/UNCC co-host, and Charleston, SC. It was discussed that SECOLAS had decided not to hold a meeting in SC until they remove the Confederate flag from the State House. Jürgen pointed out that the confederate flag is now on state grounds, but not technically on the State House. Rich Brown agreed to speak with Doug Sullivan Gonzales.

**d. 2013**

- The Executive Committee discussed the possibility of a meeting in Cartagena or Havana.

**5. New Business**

**a. The Executive Committee unanimously voted to raise the student/international dues fee to \$28.00.**

**b. The Executive Committee unanimously voted in favor of changing the by-laws to state that the Moseley Award is for the best paper at “the current year’s meeting” and not at “the previous year’s meeting”.**

**c. The Executive Committee discussed how to respond to the occasional complaints that the SECOLAS annual meeting conflicts with other conferences.**

- It was determined that members with scheduling complaints should be reminded that the meeting is planned a year in advance according to the needs of the host institution.

**d. Jimmy Huck raised the issue of technology needs at the conference and the increasing expectations of members that technology will be available.**

- It was determined that some technology should be available to accommodate disciplines like art history that cannot present without digital capability but that members should be warned that technology is limited. Conference hosts will compromise to keep costs at a reasonable level.

## **5. New Officers/Elections**

### **a. President elect**

- Carmen Rivera was nominated. She agreed to serve if elected.

### **b. At large member to replace Ana-Isabel Aliaga Buchenau and Carmen Rivera**

- Tim Hawkins agreed to replace Anabel's 3-year term.
- Liz Moran agreed to replace Carmen's 2-year term.

### **c. Award Committees.**

#### **a. Awards committees – rotations and replacements (3 year staggered appointments)**

##### **i. Alfred B. Thomas Book Award – (3 year staggered appointments)**

- Isabel Brown and Jimmy Huck are rotating off. Magdalena Maiz-Peña will serve a 3-year term; Scott Beck will serve a 2-year term; Jürgen Buchenau will serve a 1-year term and will be the chair of the committee.

##### **ii. Sturgis Leavitt Award**

- Angela Willis is rotating off. Michael Pisani (the 2009 winner) will serve a 3-year term; Tom Rogers (the 2008 winner) will serve a 2-year term; Lyman Johnson (the 2007 winner) will serve a 1-year term.

##### **iii. Edward Moseley Student Paper Award**

- Steve Morris is rotating off. Hal Jones will serve a 3-year term; Paula Huesinkveld will serve a 2-year term; Rich Brown will serve a 1-year term and will be the chair of the committee.

**Everyone thanked Blake Pattridge for his service and the meeting was adjourned.**