

Friday, March 18, 2011, 11:30-12:30 PM
Leutze Hall, Room 143, UNC Wilmington
Wilmington, North Carolina

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

In attendance: Twenty-six SECOLAS members were in attendance.

1.) **Acknowledgements.**

- President Carmen Rivera thanked Jennifer Horan for producing this year's SECOLAS conference at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington: "Nation Formation and the Diaspora of Race." Jennifer reported that 120 members were listed on the program at this year's conference, a few didn't show, and about 55 registered and paid membership dues on site.

2.) **Reports**

a. Financial report – Angela Rajagopalan, Secretary/Treasurer

- Angela Rajagopalan reported that the organization is financially healthy with \$53,166.78 total in the treasury. Our Oppenheimer investment account is very conservative, so we had no losses and a modest gain of \$2.80, ending at \$27,018.84. We hold \$2,397.58 in our savings account (\$654.65 is SECOLAS money and \$1,742.93 is money that was deposited by Greg Crider's university to cover his travel expenses to the conferences). The savings account saw a gain of \$9.52 and the checking account balance is \$10.00 higher than this time last year. Our expenditures included \$5,376.00 paid to Wiley-Blackwell for member journal subscriptions (a lower number than last year that reflects the growing profitability of the journal), \$800.00 in award prize money, and a nominal amount for materials to produce the award certificates.
- On the secretarial side, Angela reported that prior to the conference, we had 110 current 2011 members, 39 members are paid up through 2012, and 18 members are paid up through 2013. The two-year out numbers are slightly higher than last year. The current membership total is slightly lower than last year (110 members in 2011 vs. 146 in 2010), but that may be partially due to the fact that this conference is almost a month earlier.

b. Report on *The Latin Americanist* – Greg Weeks, Editor

- Greg Weeks reported that The Latin Americanist journal is doing well and growing in subscriptions. There is an upward trajectory that we hope to keep. He encouraged members to make sure that your own institution subscribes to the journal if they don't already. He stated that the exposure that we're getting from the journal is very good. Blackwell does a lot of advertising, free virtual issues that combine articles from different journals, etc. He reported that the number and quality of submissions is continuing to grow and encouraged SECOLAS members to promote submission to the journal. The official report from Blackwell will come in April/May. The special issue this year is on the theme of "Immigration."

c. Report on the Annals edition of *TLA* – Greg Crider, Editor)

- Greg Crider reported that each year there are more submissions to the Annals.

The Annals is a peer-reviewed edition and it's indexed like the other volumes of *TLA*. Greg reported that there were 25 papers submitted last year and the acceptance rate was 20%.

3.) Announcements

- No announcements

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

- **Gainesville, FL 2012 (Richmond Brown)**
- Richmond Brown has a preliminary schedule outlined for the conference which will take place at the University of Florida campus in Gainesville, FL on March 28-31, 2012. He reported that this could be a somewhat larger meeting because a lot of UF departments will be involved and they have built extra slots into the program. The three keynote speakers (Joseph Foweraker, Oxford University; Paul Drake, UC San Diego; Deborah Yashar, Princeton University) have been invited and confirmed.

b. Latin America in 2013

- SECOLAS members discussed where the 2013 conference in Latin America should be held. Discussion centered around Panama City, Panama and Antigua, Guatemala. Many members were interested in Panama because we have not had a conference there. Richmond Brown advocated for Panama because 2014 will be the 100th anniversary of the Panama Canal. He pointed out that Florida State has a long institutional relationship with a campus in Panama and agreed to help explore options for U.S. and local hosts. Ann Gonzalez also agreed to look into a possible contact in Panama. Blake Pattridge suggested that while Panama should be our first priority, we do have contacts in Antigua at CIRMA as a backup. There was some discussion of Cuba. It was suggested that the University of Charleston has a semester program at the University of Havana. However, there were no concrete host options to pursue. Steve Morris pointed out that LASA may start meeting every May, so we have to make sure we don't overlap with them. Carmen Rivera proposed that the Executive Committee members convene with those who are pursuing conference possibilities in September 2011 to discuss results of contacts.

c. Western States Region in 2014

- Members raised Alabama, Arkansas, and Mississippi as possibilities. Sarah Wamester Bares mentioned that Mississippi might have the same confederate flag issue as South Carolina, although another member raised the point that we do not have a resolution in place with regard to that state.

5.) Elections

a. President elect

- The Executive Committee nominated Tim Hawkins. He agreed to serve if elected. He was unanimously elected.

b. At large members to replace Elizabeth Moran and Timothy Hawkins

- Sarah Wamester Bares, Millsaps (Humanities/Literature) was nominated, agreed to replace Liz's 3-year term, and was unanimously elected.

- Frank Robinson, Vanderbilt, was nominated, agreed to replace Tim's remaining 1-year term, and was unanimously elected.

c. Award Committees. (3-year staggered appointments)

- **Alfred B. Thomas Book Award – (3 year staggered appointments)**
- The current committee is: Scott Beck (East Tennessee State University) (Chair, 2011), Magdalena Maíz-Peña (Davidson College) (2012), Stephen Morris (MTSU) (2013). Scott Beck is rotating off. The new committee member has not been determined and will be announced.
- **Sturgis Leavitt Award**
- The current committee is: Thomas Rogers (UNC at Charlotte) (Chair, 2011), Michael J. Pisani (2012), Timothy Hawkins (Indiana State University) (2013) Tom Rogers is rotating off. This year's winner will be appointed to the committee. [Retroactive note: Natalia Milanesio was awarded the Sturgis Leavitt Award and will replace Tom Rogers for a 3-year term.]
- **Edward Moseley Student Paper Award**
- The current committee is: Paula Heusinkveld (Clemson) (Chair, 2011), Halbert Jones (US Dept of State) (2012), Elizabeth Moran (Christopher Newport University) (2013). The new members of the Moseley Award Committee had not been determined and are to be announced. A replacement is being sought for Paula Heusinkveld who is rotating off and Elizabeth Moran who had agreed to fill in for one year when Geoffroy de Laforcade resigned.

6. New Business

a. South Carolina Confederate Flag Resolution.

- The Executive Committee proposed that since we are not planning to go to South Carolina in the near future, we should table the issue so that we can take into account the circumstances and membership feelings at that time, with the understanding that whenever we do consider South Carolina we will revisit the issue.
- Sarah Wamester Bares commented on the double-edged nature of the resolution. If we avoid the state, we're not bringing alternative viewpoints to the region.
- Greg Weeks noted that we will need to create a new resolution if we decide anything different, because we are bound by the old resolution.
- It was discussed that this resolution is driven by NAACP boycott of the State. The NCAA also doesn't hold athletic events there.
- Paula Heusinkveld agreed with other members that the SECOLAS boycott wouldn't make an economic impact. Paula voiced that our good being there would outweigh the effectiveness of a boycott.
- Blake Pattridge remind the members that the resolution is on the books. He announced that if someone wants to bring a new resolution with language to the Executive Committee, they should please do so.
- Jim Henderson, an original author of the resolution, stated that the boycott does have an impact from time to time. Although we might not have a big impact, it's a cumulative thing.
- Steve Morris agreed to post the resolution on the website.
- Richmond Brown reminded the members that SECOLAS Article 1 says that we're

not a political organization. The question of a press release was raised last year and our inability to publicize a boycott because of this article.

- Greg Crider reminded the members that this shouldn't be a divisive issue. Even if we overturn the boycott, that doesn't mean we have to go to South Carolina if members oppose it.

b. Website Issues

- Ann Gonzalez voiced concern about the South Alabama SECOLAS website still being up and causing confusion.
- Steve Morris explained that he has requested several times to have the old website removed. MTSU is the correct one.
- It was suggested that we could purchase a domain to avoid this problem in the long term.

c. Program Chairs for next year

- The Program Chairs for next year's conference will be Tiffany Sippial, Auburn (History/Social Sciences) and a University of Florida person that Richmond Brown will sort out; he is the head of the local arrangements committee. [Note: Tace Hedrick, University of Florida, was subsequently appointed as the Literature/Humanities program Chair.]

7. Final Remarks

- Carmen Rivera reminded everyone of the banquet at 7:00 pm and that tomorrow the final panel sessions will be from 9:00-11:00 am.

Meeting Adjourned