

**THURSDAY, March 29, 2012, 12:15-2:08 PM**  
**Reitz Union, Room 283, University of Florida**  
**Gainesville, Florida**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**In Attendance:** Richmond Brown, Jürgen Buchenau, Tim Hawkins, Angela Rajagopalan, Greg Weeks, Carmen Rivera, Jimmy Huck, Frank Robinson, Steve Morris, Ann González, Rachel May, Sarah Bares, Osvaldo Jordán

**Welcome and thank you to Richmond Brown for a great conference!**

- **Reports**
  - **Financial Report – Angela Rajagopalan, Secretary-Treasurer**
- Angela Rajagopalan reported that the organization is financially healthy, with \$48,736.31 in the treasury. Our Oppenheimer account is very conservative, so we had no losses and a modest gain of \$3.33, ending at \$27,022.17. In our Savings account, we hold \$1,215.03 (the remaining money from Wingate University that was set aside for Greg Crider's travel). This money is not counted in the total SECOLAS funds of \$48,736.31. The current total in our Checking account is \$20,340.33 (plus pending Paypal funds of \$1,373.81). The total SECOLAS funds of \$48,736.31 includes these pending Paypal funds.
- The Secretary-Treasurer has reconfigured the reporting format to report financial accounting on an annual basis (rather than conference to conference basis) in order to make more accurate comparisons between fiscal years.
- Overall, our finances show a slight downward trend. We are required to pay Blackwell a base fee for 200 individual subscriptions and our membership generally falls slightly below that. It is recommended that we do not incur any out of the ordinary expenses and that we promote membership growth.
- Last year, we paid a fee below the normal rate and it was assumed that the journal had achieved profitability, but that turned out not to be the case as Blackwell made a mistake and later billed us the remainder.
- In 2011 the Secretary-Treasurer implemented the capability for online Paypal payments for membership. We are still working out the details of this, but it seems to be functioning fairly well.
  - **Report on *The Latin Americanist* – Greg Weeks, Editor**
- Greg Weeks reported that TLA is going along well as normal.
- Wiley-Blackwell is proposing all-electronic formatting to reduce carbon footprint. However, they are not reducing costs for SECOLAS. We can provide an option for

people who do not want paper copies. Overall, Greg Weeks suggests that we stay with print copies for now. Currently there is an electronic and a print version.

- **Report on the Annals edition of TLA – Jürgen Buchenau, Editor**

- Jürgen Buchenau reported that the Annals is coming out any day and looks good with seven articles.

- **Announcements**

- Jürgen followed up on the South Carolina issue and the 2000 resolution regarding the confederate flag at the State House. In 2000 a resolution was passed that we not meet in SC until the flag was removed from the State House. It has come down, but NAACP recommends that the boycott continue because the flag is still on the grounds. We are not bound by the 2000 resolution technically and if we want to bar it, we need to create a new resolution.
- Discussion ensued regarding the issue and it was determined that we would inform the membership at the Business Meeting that the resolution is no longer valid.

- **Old Business**

- **Panama, 2013**

- Rachel May reported. USF could be a hosting institution because they have an office in the City of Knowledge, Panama. USF administration is interested in expanding their presence there. She toured some conference sites and identified two large potential conference hotels. Her concern is lack of staff. There is a full-time staff member in Panama but there is a fee for her to organize logistics. Cost may be high since Panama uses dollar and the hotel is a resort.
- Frank Robinson reported. City of Knowledge is former US military base and a bit removed from downtown but close to canal. Gamboa rainforest retreat is another location – isolated, but self-contained. It's about half an hour from the city. Staying in Panama City has the advantage that you can go out at night and walk to things. His institution (Vanderbilt) may be able to help. Gamboa was discussed as a possibility. It's remote but great for zoology and botany.
- Osvaldo indicated that University of Panama could help, but mainly if it's in the City of Knowledge.
- It was determined that Frank Robinson and Vanderbilt University will take the lead. The only concern is how much up front money would be needed. University of Panama and USF will assist as possible. SECOLAS may be able to front money that will be reimbursed.
- Greg Weeks raised the question of whether a theme was needed. It was determined that

an open-ended theme would be used for next year, but with no detailed paragraph description: “Latin America at a Global Crossroads.”

- **Western States Region in 2014**
- Jimmy Huck and New Orleans was discussed.
  - **Eastern States Region in 2015**
- No specific locations were discussed.
  - **International in 2016**
- Sarah Bares said that Millsaps has a base in Yucatan and that could be a possibility.
- Cuba is still on the table but there are legal issues, including blocked funding for people coming from FL. We also have to see what policies may change after the presidential election.
- **New Business**
  - **Program Chairs for next year**
- Tim Hawkins reported that the Program Chairs for next year have been selected: Sarah Bares (Humanities/Literature) and Marixa Lasso (History/Social Sciences).
  - **Carmen Rivera would like to resign from the Executive Committee**
- **Elections**
  - **President Elect**
- Tim Hawkins will be the next President. Magdalena Maiz-Pena was discussed as a possible President-Elect. Jurgen will discuss it with her. Ignacio Rodeño was also discussed.
  - **At Large members**
- Current members are Frank Robinson (2012), Ann Gonzalez (2013), and Sarah Wamester Bares (2014). Frank Robinson is rotating off and Jimmy Huck is rotating on.
  - **Award Committees**
    - **Alfred B. Thomas Book Award – (3 year staggered appointments)**

- Current committee consists of: Magdalena Maiz-Peña (2012), Stephen Morris (2013), and Frank Robinson (2014). Magdalena is rotating off.
- Ann Gonzalez will replace Magdalena Maiz-Peña.
  - **Sturgis Leavitt Award – (3 year staggered appointments)**
- Current committee consists of: Michael Pisani (2012), Tim Hawkins (2013), and Natalia Milanesio (2014). Michael Pisani is rotating off.
- This year's winner will be appointed to the committee. [Retroactive note: Rebecca Atencio was awarded the Sturgis Leavitt Award and will replace Michael Pisani.]
  - **Edward Moseley Award – (3 year staggered appointments)**
- The current committee is: Halbert Jones (2012), Liz Moran (2013), and James Wood (2014). Hal Jones is cycling off. Jimmy Huck will replace Hal.
  
- **Meeting Adjourned at 2:08 PM.**