

SECOLAS Executive Committee  
Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2016  
Hotel Caribe  
Cartagena de Indias, Colombia

*Present:*

Angela Willis (presiding), Steven Hyland (Minutes), José M. Batista, Reginald Bess, Jürgen Buchenau, Gregory Crider, Tim Hawkins, Tim Henderson, Jimmy Huck, Stephen Morris, Blake Patridge, Frank Robinson, Peter Sanchez, Jackie Sumner, Alejandro Velez, Greg Weeks, Paul Worley

*Next Meeting:* March 2017, TBA

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President Angela Willis called the meeting to order at 2:00pm, giving special mention of thanks to the Local Arrangements co-Chairs Jürgen Buchenau and Greg Crider, Steven Hyland and Patty López de Arcia

Committee members and attendees introduced themselves

Steven Hyland gave the **Treasury Report**, noting the organization earned a surplus of \$5,034.92. He also indicated that SECOLAS could expect a small surplus from the Cartagena conference. Finally, Hyland stated that there more than 230 people on the program.

Greg Weeks then offered a report on the **The Latin Americanist** (TLA), stating that Wiley-Blackwell was moving the journal to the ScholarOne online submission and editorial platform. He also said that he is working with the publisher to produce an Impact Factor rating, but that discussions were on-going.

Greg Crider gave the report on **SECOLAS Annals**, which was soon to be published. Crider revealed that he and co-editor Jürgen Buchenau received 30 submissions last June. The number of articles led them to establish 2 rounds of review, with an initial assessment conducted by the co-editors followed by external review. Crider and Buchenau settled on 15 submissions for external review.

Jurgen Buchenau then discussed the Moseley Prize, saying SECOLAS' promise to publish the annual winner's paper in the *SECOLAS Annals* is unwise. Rather, the winner should be encouraged to submit the paper either to the *Annals* or to the regular review process for TLA.

**Announcements**

Alejandro Velez asked what SECOLAS was doing to reach out to the community. Steven Hyland responded by saying that the organizing committee had worked with Dr. Maribel de la Cruz of the University of Cartagena to disseminate information about the event. Hyland then expressed that the intent was to have developed a media plan, but for a variety of factors it was never implemented. It is an area that can be better utilized in future meetings.

Paul Worley raised a question about increasing the size of the Executive Meeting, asking if we dedicate a seat on the EC to non-Tenure Track faculty? He further questioned how SECOLAS could encourage greater participation from this portion of the professoriate

Dr. Reginald Bess suggested the organization could raise money for first time attendees. Alejandro Velez sees this as an important way to socialize non-Tenure Track faculty. Angela Willis agreed that SECOLAS needs to have more people involved. Jürgen Buchenau said an appropriate manner of doing this was to grow the size of the EC. Buchenau, Willis, Hyland and Steve Morris put forward a variety of ideas and suggestions.

The EC agreed on a proposal to amend Article V of the SECOLAS Constitution that would give voting status to the webmaster (5 year term coinciding with Secretary-Treasurer), add two extra at-large positions (3-year term) and a position to be held by a graduate student.

Steven Hyland then raised the need to amend Article I and to create an eighth article regarding dissolution of the organization. Both are needed if the organization wants to attain 501(c)3 non-profit tax exempt status with the IRS. As it stands, SECOLAS current position with the IRS is unclear. The Charleston, SC accounting firm Moore Beuston Woodham is representing SECOLAS on a pro bono basis. SECOLAS can pursue more remunerative investments with the new IRS designation than currently possible. In the long term, this would allow SECOLAS, for instance, the possibility of offering more travel funds for graduate student participation. The EC approved the proposals.

In addition, Hyland asked the EC to consider changing sections 1 (The Annual Meeting), II (Sponsorship of the Secretariat), and V (Prizes) of the SECOLAS Constitution By-laws. In regard to the annual meeting, Hyland asked that the Secretary-Treasurer has maximum flexibility in partnering with host institutions or going it alone. The meetings in Charleston and Cartagena clearly show the financial benefit of seizing more control of the organizing. As it stands, the current by-laws prevent this flexibility.

President Angela Willis raised the issue of how to address EC members who are not responsive to our conversations, to do not attend conferences, etc.

After brief discussion, the EC clarified/agreed that it would be the president's job to reach out and ask such individuals if they wish to continue serving or not.

Willis noted that it is not always immediately obvious when EC members are not responding on a repeated basis

### **New Business:**

Jürgen Buchenau put forward the lone bid for SECOLAS 2017, scheduled for Chapel Hill, NC from March 23-26, 2017. The Carolina Inn would serve as the conference hotel. UNC and Duke would co-host the event, giving SECOLAS access to the classrooms in the FedEx center. The EC approved the proposal.

Frank Robinson and Steve Morris offered to host SECOLAS 2018 in Nashville, TN. Vanderbilt would be the host institution. The EC approved the proposal.

The EC contemplated Cuba or Mexico for SECOLAS 2019. Steven Hyland said he would ask Conferences Direct to price properties in Havana.

José Manuel Batista [Literature/Humanities] and Jackie Sumner [History/Social Sciences] will serve as the Program Chairs for SECOLAS 2017.

### **Elections:**

#### Officers

Steven Hyland will continue as Secretary-Treasurer.

The EC nominated Jimmy Huck of Tulane University to be President Elect, with a term as president in 2017-2018.

Blake Pattridge at-large term ends now. The EC nominated Jackie Sumner of Presbyterian College as his replacement.

Pending approval by membership vote of amending Article V, the EC nominated Dr. Reginald Bess of South Carolina State University and Steven Taylor of Troy University as the additional two at-large members. Dr. Bess agreed to a 1-year term and Steven Taylor accepted the 3-year position. Patty López de Arcia was nominated to be the first graduate student elected to the EC.

#### Awards Committees

The EC nominated Joseph Lenti of Eastern Washington University for a three-year term to the Alfred B. Thomas Book Award Committee.

Aaron Coy Moulton of the University of Arkansas will join the Sturgis Leavitt Award Committee for a three-year term by virtue of winning the 2016 award.

The EC nominated Melissa Birkhofer of Western Carolina University for a three-year term to the Edward Moseley Student Paper Award.

**Closing:**

Angela Willis adjourned the meeting at 4:30pm.

[Minutes were approved by the Executive Committee on May 13, 2015.]