

Minutes of the SECOLAS Executive Council Meeting
Thursday, April 6, 2006
In the Mint 1 Room at the Charlotte Holiday Inn Center City

President Murdo MacLeod called the meeting to order at approximately 4pm. In attendance were President Murdo MacLeod, President-Elect Stephen Morris, *The Latin Americanist* editor Bruce Wilson, Executive Council members Gregory Crider and Jimmy Huck, immediate past-Presidents Isabel Brown and Thomas Schoonover, and invited SECOLAS members Richmond Brown and Jurgen Buchenau, who was also this year's Local Arrangements Chair. Paula Heusinkveld, the third Executive Council member arrived late. Absent were Secretary/Treasurer Yvonne Unnold and *SECOLAS Annals* editor Nancy Shumaker.

President MacLeod started the meeting by providing a meeting agenda to all attendees.

Jurgen Buchenau then gave the Secretary/Treasurer report. The Secretary/Treasurer's report on the current state of SECOLAS finances was presented in a detailed spreadsheet. Jurgen then discussed the decline in the SECOLAS membership rolls, noting that we seem to be finally turning a corner and once again are witnessing a slight increase in memberships. The Secretary/Treasurer's report was accepted, without discussion, by acclamation by the Council.

No report was provided on the *SECOLAS Annals*.

Next, Bruce Wilson provided a report on *The Latin Americanist*. Bruce commented that the current edition of the journal is in the final stages of production and should be available for distribution shortly. He also discussed problems with planning the publication timeline due to the irresponsiveness of authors who were asked to revise and resubmit their articles. The main issue regarding the journal, however, concerned the end of Bruce Wilson's tenure as editor and the transition of the journal's publication and editorial duties away from Bruce and the University of Central Florida to its successor. The Council accepted Bruce's report by acclamation and thanked him for his work on the journal and his service to SECOLAS in his capacity as editor.

Immediately following Bruce's report, Jurgen Buchenau presented a proposal, co-sponsored by Greg Crider, for the University of North Carolina – Charlotte and Wingate University to assume joint responsibilities for the editing and publishing of both *The Latin Americanist* and the *SECOLAS Annals*, as well as to house the SECOLAS Secretariat for the period 2006-2009. Jurgen provided a detailed written memorandum to this effect and discussed the staffing and budget of various parts of the proposal. Based upon Jurgen's presentation and clarification of various related issues and questions, the staffing and budget elements of the written proposal were accepted with the striking of one sentence in the proposal that addressed the potential need to collect additional

revenues to support the publication and distribution of the journal should the SECOLAS membership rolls increase to above 150. Based on Steve Morris's suggestions, the Council decided that, should the need arise, any surplus funds generated by the annual meeting be allocated to the costs of publishing and distributing the journal and that, if necessary, funds in the SECOLAS savings account could also be used for such purposes. The budget will be reevaluated on a yearly basis to determine if any additional financial measures need to be taken to support SECOLAS's commitment to maintaining its important publications. The Council also discussed the possibility of merging the *SECOLAS Annals* with *The Latin Americanist* by making the *Annals* one of the three issues of *The Latin Americanist*, though retaining the function of the *Annals* to publish works exclusively presented at the Annual Conference. This change will require a modification of the SECOLAS by-laws, and Steve Morris volunteered to work on crafting an amendment to the by-laws accordingly.

Following this discussions, in accordance with SECOLAS by-laws, a series of motions were made on each of the individual parts of the proposal for Council vote. First, Steve Morris moved to vote on approving the proposal submitted by Jurgen Buchenau and Gregory Crider regarding the editorship of the *SECOLAS Annals*. Isabel Brown seconded the motion, which received a unanimous vote of approval by the Council without additional discussion. Next, Isabel Brown moved to vote on approving the future editorship of *The Latin Americanist* as presented in Jurgen Buchenau and Gregory Crider's proposal. Thomas Schoonover seconded the motion; and, without further discussion, the Council voted unanimously in support of this aspect of the proposal. Finally, Thomas Schoonover moved to vote on approving the nomination of Angela Herren, from UNC Charlotte, as the new SECOLAS Secretary/Treasurer and forwarding this nomination for consideration at the SECOLAS business meeting. Jimmy Huck seconded the motion, which was followed by a brief discussion on changing the terms of the Secretary/Treasurer appointment from 5 years to 3 years, with the possibility of reelection to a second 3 year term, consistent with the terms of other offices. Again, this requires a change in the by-laws which will be presented for a vote at future meetings. Following this brief discussion, the Council voted on the original motion, which passed unanimously.

Next, the meeting turned to the election of a new President-Elect, and, after some discussion on possibilities, the Council recommended that Paula Heusinkveld be nominated by the Council as its recommendation to the general membership for the position of President-Elect. With Paula's expressed willingness to accept this nomination, Thomas Schoonover moved that the Council approve this nomination. Steve Morris seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Then the Council turned its attention to election to the Executive Council. Greg Crider moved to nominate Bruce Wilson as a one-year replacement appointment on the Executive Committee to occupy the slot vacated by Greg Crider upon Greg's assumption

of his appointment as Co-editor of the *SECOLAS Annals*. Isabel Brown seconded the motion, which the Council approved unanimously. Finally, Isabel Brown moved to nominate Anabel Buchenau to the Executive Council for a full three year term. Steve Morris seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The next item of business was a discussion of upcoming Conferences. Isabel Brown reported on discussions regarding the 2007 Conference in San Jose, Costa Rica. Conference dates have been proposed for 12-14 April 2007 and proposals for hotel accommodations were also included in her written report. Her work will continue in this regard. The 2008 Conference is tentatively scheduled to be held in Ybor City/Tampa, FL, sponsored by the University of South Florida; the 2009 Conference in New Orleans, LA, hosted by Tulane University, and the 2010 conference in some as yet unidentified city in Mexico.

Finally, the Council discussed as New Business the nomination of an individual to the Thomas Prize Committee. Paula Heusinkveld moved, and Jimmy Huck seconded the motion, that Isabel Brown be presented to the general membership as the Council's nominee to sit on the Thomas Prize Committee. The Council voted unanimously in support.

At this point, the business of the meeting had effectively concluded and Thomas Schoonover moved to close the meeting, which was seconded by Steve Morris, and approved unanimously by vote of the Council.

Minutes Recorded by Jimmy Huck