

FRIDAY, March 13, 2015, 5:00-6:00 PM
Pinckney Room
Francis Marion Hotel
Charleston, SC

GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Welcome and thank you to Jurgen Buchenau and Greg Crider for serving as conference organizers!

1) Reports

- **Financial Report - Steven Hyland, Secretary-Treasurer**
 - Steven Hyland reports that the organization is financially healthy, with \$69,250.01 in the treasury as of March 11, 2015; of which \$17,663.84 dedicated to conference, leaving \$51,586.17 in non-conference funds.
 - Our Oppenheimer Money Market account remains very conservative, so we had no losses and a modest gain of \$3.64, new total of \$27,032.67.
 - In our Savings account, we currently hold \$21,808.66.25. There were no withdraws in Quarter 1 of 2015. Only two withdrawals in 2014
 - The current total in our Checking account is \$16,771.17.
 - 2014 expenses were to Wiley Blackwell and the award winners
 - 2015 expenses to date include payment to Wiley Blackwell and conference related expenses
 - We have \$4,021.70 in the Paypal account that will eventually be transferred to Checking.
 - Regarding Membership: As of March 11, 2015 membership is up 8% over 2014 from 177 to 191 paid members; SECOLAS was able to pay the Wiley Blackwell dues solely from 2015 membership dues
 - Steven Hyland noted that it made financial sense for SECOLAS to organize the annual conference and thus benefit from any surplus to grow the organization's reserves
- **Report on *The Latin Americanist* - Greg Weeks, Editor**

- Greg Weeks reported that TLA is going very well. Relationship with Wiley Blackwell is very good; readership is growing and visibility is increasing
- Will send out the annual report
 - lists the most read/clicked on articles
- from a strictly utilitarian view, relationship works well
 - want to discuss with Wiley how we can enhance the journal
 - SECOLAS is stuck with the current contract
- Anne Fountain informed Greg Weeks that San Jose State University is dropping TLA. She then asked how do members get electronic access.
 - Greg Weeks said he would contact Wiley's Martha Lovvell to find a solution
- **Report on the Annals edition of TLA - Jurgen Buchenau, Co-Editor**
 - Only 12 papers were submitted last year; need to grow the numbers and pay attention to CFP, but still ended up publishing 8 great articles
 - Annals is peer-reviewed
 - need volunteers to help with peer review
 - not a detailed process
 - need critical mass of submissions
 - Annals consistently have high popularity
 - Steve Morris asked if we have a book review editor
 - Greg Weeks responded by declaring TLA has a routinized system in place
 - if one wants to review, email Greg Weeks or Steven Hyland

2) Announcements

- Angela Rajagopalan made several announcements
 - i. the EC approved a proposed amendment to the constitution that would add graduate students to the Executive Committee
 1. Steven Hyland will send out a ballot to the membership for a vote
 - ii. SECOLAS 2016 will be held in Cartagena, Colombia
 1. Alex Vélez commented on why Cartagena and why Colombia
 - a. so many good and important things going on right now
 - iii. SECOLAS 2017 - Duke/UNC
 - iv. SECOLAS 2018 - Have sites compete?; Steve Morris proposed Nashville in the Executive Committee meeting
- Steven Hyland also noted that roughly 1/3 of presenters were graduate students

3) New Business

- Program Chairs for next year
 - (Humanities/Literature) Christopher Dennis, UNC-Wilmington
 - (History/Social Sciences) Steven Taylor, Troy University
 -

4) Elections

- Steven Hyland will continue as Secretary-Treasurer
- **President Elect**
 - The Executive Committee nominated Paul Worley
 - v. approved by attendees
- **At Large members**

- Current members are Jimmy Huck (2015), Blake Pattridge (2016), and Rebecca Atencio (2017). The Executive Committee nominated Alejandro Velez to serve as a new At-Large member until 2018, replacing Jimmy Huck
 - o Approved by attendees
- **Award Committees**
 - vi. Alfred B. Thomas Book Award - (3 year staggered appointments)**
 - Current committee consists of: Ann Gonzalez (2015); Steven Taylor (2016), and Tim Hawkins (2017). The Executive Committee nominated Rebecca Atencio (2018) to be a replacement for Ann Gonzalez.
 - o Approved by attendees
 - ii. Sturgis Leavitt Award - (3 year staggered appointments)**
 - Current committee consists of: Rebecca Atencio (2015); Matt Childs (2016); Carmen Collado (2017).
 - This year's winner will be appointed to the committee. [Retroactive note: Ben Cowan was awarded the Sturgis Leavitt Award and will replace Rebecca Atencio]
 - iii. Edward Moseley Award - (3 year staggered appointments)**
 - The current committee is: Jimmy Huck (2015); Matt Childs (2016); Oscar de la Torre (2017). The Executive Committee nominated a replacement for Jimmy Huck: Mike Pisani (2018)
 - o Approved by attendees

5) Final Announcements

- Graduate student E.J. Basa (the lone graduate student at the general business meeting) asked about how to best optimize the SECOLAS website
- Angela R reminded that all conference attendees are welcome at the Graduate Student Networking Event following the banquet
- Jurgen Buchenau thanked Angela Rajagopalan for her service as President and previously as the Secretary-Treasurer

6) Meeting Adjourned at 6:00 PM.