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 withdrawals 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
  o lists the most read/clicked on articles

• from a strictly utilitarian view, relationship works well
  o 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.
  o 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
    o 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
    o 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.