

Southeastern Archaeological Conference
Pre-Business Meeting of the Executive Committee
4 November 2022

In attendance (remotely): Ramie Gougeon, Maureen Meyers, Autumn Melby, Asa Randall, Jon Marcoux, Emily Beahm, Karen Stevens, LeeAnne Wendt, Lindsay Bloch, Meg Kassabaum, Patrick Livingood, Robbie Ethridge, Tony Boudreaux, Scott Jones, Kandi Hollenbach, Rob Beck, Ben Steere, Shane Miller, Jane Eastman

[R Gougeon, reporting]

President Maureen Meyers opened the meeting at 11 AM (Central) and acknowledged the newly elected board members. Emily Beahm was called upon to give an update from the organizers of the pending annual meeting. Beahm reported that the meeting app was 'live' and some 476 participants have already registered. The hotel block was adequately filled as per our contract. The organizers informed the Executive Committee (EC) that they were over budget. They had over \$10,000 in donations with another \$10,000 in donated in-kind services. They reported having over \$42,000 from pre-registration. The three planned excursions paid for themselves through registration fees. What was breaking the bank were hotel catering and AV costs, and the fees to use meeting spaces. Meyers offered 'kudos' to the organizers for their work to date.

Officers' Reports

President Maureen Meyers gave some highlights of her pending report to be delivered in-full at the annual business meeting in a week's time. This included information about future meeting sites: Chattanooga (2023), Williamsburg (2024), and Baton Rouge (2025). A site and organizers are still needed for 2026. Other initiatives started during her term are reported elsewhere in these minutes. Outstanding issues include a need to review SEAC's bylaws, the re-forming of a curation committee, and possibly a policy committee. Meyers reported that the CRM Award is a good start and asked the EC if they thought any other awards were warranted. Lastly, Meyers suggested that a dues increase will be necessary in order for SEAC to remain fiscally solvent.

Treasurer Patrick Livingood noted a third straight year of deficit spending for SEAC, albeit smaller this year. The good news is that SEAC has \$139,000 in operating funds. This was offset by the news that the EC would not be able to withdraw money from the Life Fund due to the markets being largely down this year. He anticipated a \$26,000 shortfall in the coming year. Therefore, spending needs to be brought in line with funding and income. Livingood echoed Meyers' suggestion that a dues increase is needed along with other adjustments in spending.

Journal Editor Rob Beck noted that the last issue of volume 42 of *Southeastern Archaeology* will be out in December. He suspected that the organization will still be able to create four (albeit thinner) issues per year. Having a formal copy editor at the press has been a godsend. The editors requested more reports (and articles, of course). Bloch noted that *Southeastern Archaeology* is always in need of more reviewers. Beck anticipated overseeing a special issue and then handing the editorial reins over to Lindsay Bloch and Tony Boudreaux. Ben Steere continues in his role as Book Review Editor.

Social Media Editor Megan Kassabaum reported that contact/engagement with SEAC's social media has increased. She continues to clean up the website in spite of its age and increasing technical issues. Kassabaum noted that the EC will need to spend money on an updated website and host in the near future. MailChimp seemed to have problems getting email to all of the members on our membership list, an issue that may be related to the aged coding of our website and the information contained within. We are also running into issues with hitting the maximum number of email addresses our MailChimp subscription allows. She offered to assist with the development of a social media policy in the next President's term after Karen Stevens takes over as Social Media Editor.

SHARP coordinator Carol Colannino-Meeks was unavailable for this meeting, so Robbie Ethridge gave highlights of SHARP activities since the taskforce became an official SEAC committee. Online workshops on reducing and eliminating sexual assault and harassment in field schools were successful in 2021 and student-only workshops are planned for the 2022 annual meeting (and beyond). Ethridge reminded the board that EC members are the adjudicating body for any sexual harassment or assault issues brought to SHARP's attention during the upcoming annual meeting.

Other Reports and Topics

The Investment Committee reported that the fund is down 19% so far this year.

The Native American Affairs Liaison committee (NAALC) reported that they need a new Chair as well as new members. They also suggested that a new charge or direction is warranted, as well as more formal policies to guide their activities and discussions. President Meyers suggested that the EC take on these requests ourselves rather than forming a committee.

LeeAnne Wendt reported on behalf of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee and noted that over 60 student memberships have been donated so far.

The Student Affairs committee report was given by Autumn Melby. She noted that they have revamped their committee post-Covid and have planned a student luncheon for the 2022 annual meeting that is half-full already.

Meyers noted that Erin Nelson is the new Chair of the Nominations committee and will be seeking nominees for various roles in the coming year.

Meyers reported that the Public Outreach Grant committee issued a survey in order to assess this SEAC grant program. In addition to revising how the grant application will work, they have increased the amount of the award and are holding a Q&A webinar in advance of the next award cycle. There is a need to restructure the committee in the coming year so that the three members will rotate through as Chair in their final year (with new members coming in).

The Mentoring Committee is going on hiatus for the coming year after an evaluation by a steering committee initiated by Meyers.

President-Elect Kandi Hollenbach gave an update on a revised image policy for *Southeastern Archaeology*. A task force of editors (Lindsay Bloch, Rob Beck, Tony Boudreaux), Tribal representatives (Beau Carroll, LeeAnne Wendt), people with other editorial/web experience (Sarah Herr, Ed Gonzalez-Tennant), and Hollenbach worked over the past months to develop an image policy. A policy was proposed as photographic images of funerary objects are generally viewed as inappropriate by

southeastern Native nations. (SEAC currently follows SAA's style guide and does not publish images of human remains or burials.) The task force is assessing whether line drawings would be appropriate and whether or how to draw up guidelines for consulting with appropriate Native groups when such images accompany journal manuscripts. A discussion followed regarding whether this may become burdensome to already over-taxed and under-resourced THPO or Native groups. This concern was raised within the task force, too, but the number of such requests per year are thought to be somewhat small in number. Additionally, some measures to streamline the consultation process can be developed to make this request less of a time sink for Native groups. Hollenbach also noted that having a policy in place may cause authors to more carefully consider whether inclusion of images of funerary objects are truly necessary to support their article or report. The editors noted that some manuscripts already in the pipeline independently chose to not include images and in at least one case are already collaborating with an appropriate Native group in their study of a burial assemblage. Another point of concern was raised regarding what might be next in terms of archaeologists' need to seek consent to use, for instance, particular data.

A vote was taken by the EC regarding the acceptance of the policy as circulated, which passed with an overwhelming majority of the voting members of the EC.

The SEAC/Archaeology in the Community (AITC) partnership does not have a report *per se*, but Alex Jones will attend the annual meeting in Little Rock.

A plenary session for the annual meeting in Little Rock has been developed around the topic of climate change and southeastern archaeology. The EC is strongly encouraged to attend. A new task force headed up by Lindsey Cochran and Emily Jane Murray has been initiated by President Meyers.

Meyers noted that the various awards committees are prepared for the annual meeting. She noted that Janet Levy's report on the Rising Scholar Award (formerly CB Moore Award) included suggestions for needed changes, many of which were noted (with solutions) in Greg Wilson's report last year. The EC needs to take these issues up in the coming year. Step one was getting the name changed. The next step involves changing how this award is issued. Meyers offered to head up a committee in her role as Immediate Past President.

The Hudson Award committee issued an award after SEAC's 2021 annual meeting and will have an awardee for 2022. The Patty Jo Watson Award committee needs additional members. They will have a winner to announce for 2022 at the annual meeting. Three Lifetime Achievement Awards will be issued for 2022 and presented at the annual meeting in Little Rock (alongside last year's winner). A committee needs to be formed for the newly created CRM Award.

Meyers announced the revival of the President's Reception in her suite at the annual meeting on Thursday evening. Scott Jones provided an update on the planning for the 2023 Chattanooga meeting. The convention center and hotel are under contract along with two spillover hotels. A reservation for the location for the reception is nearing completion.

Meyers reminded the EC of our year-long discussion of the need for an Executive Director, a discussion that will continue during Hollenbach's term as President.

Lastly, Asa Randall and Shane Miller looked into a Volunteer Policy to protect both SEAC and our many volunteers. Our legal counsel provided a template, but several members of the EC felt it was a little too

heavily written in 'legalese' and could use some plain language and clarity. Several sections of the template may not be needed as they don't pertain to our organization or anticipated needs. Other questions included who this policy would apply to (all volunteers at the annual meeting, only the EC, others?), and how/when/where signatures would be collected. The EC generally felt that a volunteer form is needed. Randall is rolling off this task, and Miller could use additional assistance. One of the new members of the EC may be asked. More discussion by the EC is warranted, so this issue will also continue in the new year.

Meeting adjourned at 1pm (Central).