

Southeastern Archaeological Conference
Quarterly Meeting of the Executive Committee
29 August 2022

In (remote) attendance: Maureen Meyers, Patrick Livingood, Carol Colaninno, Lindsay Bloch, Shane Miller, Asa Randall, Kandi Hollenbach, Karen Stevens, Meg Kassabaum, Ramie Gougeon

With: Lindsey Cochran, Amanda Thompson, Emily Beahm, Autumn Melby

[R Gougeon, reporting]

President Meyers opened the meeting at 1pm (Central) and then turned to Secretary Gougeon for an overview of the pending election. Gougeon reported that the ballot was nearly ready pending final confirmation of a candidate for Executive Officer II. The election is anticipated to go “live” in early-mid October 2022 and will be open for two weeks. President Meyers noted that Exec Officer II is a good introduction to service with SEAC, and that it is impactful but perhaps not as time intensive. Students have served in this capacity in the recent past.

Lindsey Cochran joined the meeting for purpose of making the pitch for a “heritage at risk” task force for SEAC (proposal is attached to these minutes). Cochran and Emily Jane Murray see a need for Southeastern archaeologists to become leaders in the discussion of the impacts of climate change on archaeological and heritage resources. A task force can develop best practices for communicating the effects of climate change to different audiences, professional and non-professional, as well as finding ways for SEAC members to work with impacted communities. President Meyers provided some context for this initiative, noting that this specific initiative has been in the works for over a year, but has gained more momentum following the heat-related death of an archaeological field technician in Louisiana in summer 2022. Comments from the EC included a thought by Treasurer Livingood that establishing a climate fund is a good idea but likely cannot be supported by SEAC’s coffers. Cochran replied that the task force can develop a list of grants and other funding sources to point people to. Webmaster Kassabaum added that a webpage can be added to the SEAC website if the content is provided by the task force. Lindsay Bloch asked if this initiative overlaps with any current committees or task forces (like Diversity and Inclusion). Both Meyers and Cochran noted that there is some overlap in the foci of a number of committees at present largely due to the intersectionality of these issues. Gougeon brought up a recent attempt to establish just such a task force in Florida. He encouraged the task force to seek buy-in from State-level entities, particularly in regard to compliance/review issues related to triage-level responses to site loss. Cochran replied that has been a subject of discussion by their working group and agreed that it is worth pursuing.

Amanda Thompson presented a request for funding for a post-panel meet-and-greet hosted by SNACP (Southeastern NAGPRA Community of Practice). The panel discussion is to highlight successes in NAGPRA practices, followed by an opportunity to make connections between panelists and the audience. Funds in the amount of \$454 (a fixed conference center cost estimate supplied by annual meeting organizer Emily Beahm) is requested to cover light snacks for 50-75 attendees. (A donation of \$100 was received, so total request is for \$354.) Livingood gave an overview of other anticipated annual meeting costs vis-à-vis current financial capacities. SEAC is looking at a \$12,000 deficit this year but our reserves are able to support us for the foreseeable future. A discussion followed about whether funds

offered by the Native American Speakers Fund are actually available. Livingood noted that no committee has a recurring budget line: funds not spent in the past don't roll over into the next year. That said, the monies allotted to NASF for the current year were not yet used and are available for other uses. Emily Beahm reported that it is a little early in the registration period to know how much money from fees and donations will be available to pay for other activities at the annual meeting. A brief discussion followed about whether this panel and reception are open to all attendees (they will be) and also the ability for SEAC to fund events by unofficial committees, task forces, etc.

Another idea raised in conversation included the need for the SEAC EC to develop a process for groups and committees to request funding for special events. Meyers noted that at present, standing committee chairs are asked to anticipate financial needs as part of their annual reporting, but this obviously doesn't cover 'unofficial' committees or working groups. Other requests, such as the one discussed above, are considered on an as needed basis.

The Student Affairs Committee was represented by Autumn Melby in a request to the EC for \$2500 to support a panel at the annual meeting on the subject of "collaborative archaeologies." They are currently exploring other funding options to augment any funding the EC might provide. The SAC was also under the impression that the Native American Speakers Fund might be used to support this request (it is not; see above). Funding would be used to offer honorarium and/or other forms of travel funding to their 5-6 panelists. Livingood asked whether registration fees could be waived for the panelists. Melby replied that two have already received waivers, another may have other support, a fourth may not be allowed to receive compensation in any form for their participation.

The Sexual Harassment Committee (formerly Sexual Harassment and Assault Response and Prevention [SHARP] task force) requested \$76 for support of a student luncheon (n=30 students). SHARP has held similar student luncheons since 2018. They have already secured a \$500 donation for this activity. There may be some additional expenses for SHC's activities at the conference itself (ex., t-shirts for volunteers at the meeting).

Meyers turned to a call for decisions about the three budget requests. Eligible EC members sent their votes to Gougeon individually and he recorded that the \$354 request from SNACP and the \$76 request from SHC passed unanimously. Following additional discussion, the EC asked that the SAC revise their request once more details about specific expenses are ironed out.

SEAC Grievance Policy – Colaninno reported the current state of a grievance policy developed under SHARP (now SHC). She noted that two of our lawyers have reviewed past and current drafts and think this is a solid policy. The draft of the policy was circulated in advance of the meeting and is included with these minutes. Meyers called for any last discussion or questions before the policy is put to the vote. Livingood asked if this was to be an EC vote or brought to the membership. Meyers envisioned this as an EC decision, citing a recent similar move by the board of the Society of American Archaeology (SAA). Gougeon suggested that the EC is elected to make decisions on behalf of the organization and many will continue their service on the board to respond, adjust, and adapt to any new circumstances these policy changes may encounter. It was also noted that the previous board was considering voting on a sexual harassment policy (etc.), that is – they felt this was in their purview, even if there was no final decision from that group. Lastly, a question was raised as to whether bylaws changes were needed. Meyers noted that the lawyers suggest bylaw updates are needed, but not specifically for this grievance policy. Ultimately, due to the absence of a couple of board members (in spite of having a quorum), the EC

decided to post this question to the entirety of the EC via email and hold a vote digitally. (The vote was closed on 5 September 2022 with a majority of the EC voting in favor of adopting the grievance policy.)

A number of short updates followed. Meyers reported on the effort to get donations for memberships to increase student participation and more diverse participation in SEAC. The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee developed the “Widening the Circle” initiative for specific outreach to HBCU, HSI, tribal colleges, and similar groups as well as a media blitz to gather membership donations. After the New Year, the recipients of these donated memberships will be made into a “class” and paired with mentors.

Future annual meeting locations are continuing to be negotiated. A bid for meeting in Richmond, Virginia has proved challenging, but a new proposal for Historic Williamsburg (2024) is nearly ready to circulate to the EC. The board should anticipate meeting virtually in September. There is some talk about meeting in Columbia, SC in 2025 and Baton Rouge, LA in 2026. The EC are encouraged to encourage colleagues who are in places that may be able to host a SEAC annual meeting to consider doing so.

Meeting was called to a close at 2:32pm (Central)