

## Meeting of the SEAC Executive Committee

8/10/2021, 10:00 – 10:45AM EDT

<https://zoom.us/j/96229146126?pwd=bUhJMHY5MkszSGFoNjFZV2d3M1Rydz09>

Maureen Meyers, President  
Lindsay Bloch, Editor-Elect  
Meghan Buchanan, Executive Officer I  
Ramie Gougeon, Secretary-Elect  
Kandace Hollenbach, President-Elect  
Patrick Livingood, Treasurer  
Asa Randall, Executive Officer II  
Chris Rodning, Secretary

Margaret Scarry, SEAC 2021 Coorganizer  
Heather Lapham, SEAC 2021 Coorganizer  
Steve Davis, SEAC 2021 Coorganizer

Maureen Meyers called the meeting to order at 10:00AM EDT.

### I. SEAC 2021 Annual Meeting Updates

- A. Margaret Scarry provided updates on plans for organizing and hosting the 77th Annual Meeting in Durham, NC, 10/24/2021 – 10/27/2021 (<https://www.southeasternarchaeology.org/annual-meeting/details/>).
  1. Plans are moving ahead for conducting the annual meeting in person and on site at the Durham Convention Center (DCC).
  2. Conference coorganizers are attentive to recent developments in COVID cases, but conditions are not as bad in Durham as in other places, and the City of Durham recently issued an ordinance mandating masks throughout the city, applicable for an indefinite period.
  3. Conference coorganizers plan to require masks but feel they cannot go so far as to make COVID vaccinations or testing mandatory for conference attendees.
  4. Plans are to hold the meeting in person, in accordance with contractual commitments, and there are no plans for hybrid or online meetings, which would be cost prohibitive and very difficult to organize.
  5. There are roughly 32 people registered for SEAC 2021 (as of 8/9/2021), slightly lower but not dramatically lower than registration numbers for SEAC annual meetings in previous years at this point in the calendar.
    - a. Maureen noted the expectation that numbers would likely be slightly lower this year but hopefully at least about 70 to 80 percent of “normal” numbers of conference participants and attendees.
    - b. Maureen noted that for SEAC 2019 (Jackson), numbers of registrants spiked dramatically during the last week of August before abstract submission due date, and more attendees who are not presenting typically register in September and October and on site. It was not visible on Zoom during the meeting, but later in the day, Maureen circulated an Excel spreadsheet by Karen Smith with worksheets illustrating low numbers of registrants for SEAC 2018 (Augusta) in early-to-mid August, with dramatic increases in mid-to-late August.

- c. The size of the SEAC 2021 annual meeting will be difficult to determine and to predict until after the abstract submission deadline (8/31/2021).
  - d. *As an update and addendum to these EC minutes from 8/10/2021—as of 9/8/2021, there were 317 registrants in total, including presenters for 182 papers and 62 posters; this number of registrants is 70% of the number of registrants (N = 426) by this point in early September in 2018 (Augusta), and 89% of the number of registrants (N = 355) by this point in early September in 2019 (Jackson).*
- B. Heather Lapham summarized specific plans for events at the conference and fundraising efforts.
- 1. There will be three or four food trucks (more if needed) outside DCC for lunch, with the possibility of food trucks for breakfast and/or dinner depending on availability of nearby restaurants.
  - 2. There will be a reception in association with a poster session at DCC on Monday evening (10/25)—please encourage prospective attendees to consider preparing and presenting posters at this event.
  - 3. There will be a trivia night at a local brewery and a band (perhaps two) playing indoors or outdoors at DCC on Tuesday evening (10/26)—the goal is to have music to enjoy, but not the normal dance environment because of social distancing considerations.
  - 4. Heather has contacted more than 100 companies and individuals (mostly within CRM) with invitations for donations and sponsorships, and \$14,000.00 raised to date with pledges for additional amounts as well.
    - a. Heather has composed a schedule of sponsorships at varying levels of conference donations for companies and individuals to consider.
    - b. Maureen noted that many CRM companies may be much more in need of hiring, visibility, recruitment, and so on in 2021 with forthcoming infrastructure planning and spending than was the case in advance of SEAC in 2019.
- C. President Meyers encouraged communications soon to the SEAC membership about definitive plans for SEAC 2021; noted that the American Society for Ethnohistory (ASE) plans to hold its annual conference in Durham in early November 2021 (although Margie noted that ASE may have access to space and supports from Duke University without the same kinds of contractual obligations that SEAC has for hotels, venues, vendors, and so on); and noted that the American Anthropological Association (AAA) is going ahead with plans for its hybrid annual meeting (in person and online) in Baltimore in late November 2021.
- D. Chris Rodning asked if there about any relevant policy regarding refunds if SEAC registrants wind up not attending the conference in person.
- 1. The refund policy is posted on the SEAC annual meeting registration web page (<https://www.southeasternarchaeology.org/annual-meeting/registration/>)—75% refund through 9/30/2021, registration fees transferable to another individual.
- E. Margaret Scarry asked if it was normal for book publishers (Florida, Alabama, Tennessee) and vendors to sign up for book room space by now or later.
- 1. Maureen Meyers consulted her notes from SEAC 2019 in Jackson and said that several vendors signed up later than this point in the annual calendar.
  - 2. The due date for vendor requests for book room space has been extended through 9/15/2021 (<https://www.southeasternarchaeology.org/vendor-registration/>), after the conference abstract submission due date of 8/31/2021.

## II. SEAC Public Outreach Grant Committee

- A. The recipients of the grant in the 2021 cycle have asked that the grant period be extended for one year due to complications related to the ongoing pandemic, as was done for the recipients of the 2020 grant.
  - 1. Treasurer Patrick Livingood said that he was not opposed to doing so from the perspective of managing SEAC finances, and that he supported the idea given complications related to COVID.
  - 2. Formal approval of this change will require EC approval, and President Meyers plans to send out a call for an email vote by EC members soon.
- B. As discussed during the EC meeting on 5/17/2021, members of the committee are considering the amount of the award, the requirements of applications, and procedures for identifying recipients; they are developing a survey to seek feedback from the SEAC membership; and President Meyers has requested that the survey be shown to EC members for comment before it is sent out.

### III. SEAC Nominations Committee

- A. The committee is considering names of potential nominees for Treasurer-elect, Sexual Harassment Response and Prevention (SHARP) Coordinator-elect, Social Media Editor-elect, and Executive Officer I, with the candidate slate and candidate statements needed relatively soon for announcements in the SEAC newsletter (*Horizon and Tradition*) and social media, and the online election itself through VoteNow.
- B. In the short term, it would be helpful for the committee to have more names to consider for the SEAC 2021 annual election.
- C. In the long run, it would be helpful for SEAC to develop ideas for diversifying EC, encouraging members to self-nominate for specific positions or to express more general interests in serving in SEAC positions, and having more names for nominations committees to consider for SEAC annual election ballots.
- D. The SEAC 2021 election period will ideally close on or near October 10, in advance of SEAC EC annual meeting on October 24.

### IV. Announcements

- A. Members of EC are encouraged to register for SEAC 2021 if they are planning on attending in person.
- B. President Meyers has added contracts for SEAC 2021 to SEAC files; plans are taking shape for SEAC 2022 in Little Rock and SEAC 2023 in Chattanooga; and Maureen is continuing discussions with Tom Pluckhahn about the possibility of SEAC 2024 in Tampa.
- C. Members of EC are encouraged to complete diversity training, as discussed on 5/17/2021, and details about accessing the online training module will be sent soon via email (it may take between 4 and 8 hours to complete, and a certificate of completion is available).
- D. Members of the C.B. Moore Award task force are dividing their work into two areas, with the idea of eventually making recommendations for a staged approach to implementing possible changes in: (1) the name of the award; and (2) how candidates are nominated and then evaluated and selected for the award.
- E. Please note the recent SAA statement about plans by the U.S. Department of the Interior to consider changes to NAGPRA (<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nagpra/regulations.htm>), and the schedule for relevant meetings and the public comment period (<https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1335/events.htm>).
- F. There was some discussion of where to locate high-quality and high-resolution versions of the SEAC logo for SEAC award plaques and certificates; it was thought the journal editors

may have access to it; and after the meeting was adjourned, Patrick Livingood located an image file.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45AM EDT.