

Annual ANHS Executive Council Meeting 2017-2018

Boulder, CO

Call to order Sept 1<sup>st</sup>, 4:05pm

Attendance:

Drew Burditt - note taker

Heather Hindman

Debarati Sen

Pasang Yangjee Sherpa

Mark Turin

Sienna Craig

Jana Fortier

Jessica Vantine Birkenholtz

David Citrin

Mona Bhan

Galen Murton (via Skype)

**Motions**

- Motion to approve minutes from January 10, 2017 MT moved. Galen 2<sup>nd</sup>
- ALL in favor. Unanimous yes
- Approved for minutes from phone meeting. April 20<sup>th</sup> 2017
- SC motion to approve. 2<sup>nd</sup> JF. UNANIMOUS VOTE for those

**Report: prize committees.**

**Dor Bahadur Bista:** JVB: “ the dor bista prize was good”. 5 papers 5 fields. Good selection. Better papers every years. Fewer from Nepal than the past. Quality great due to better English, but wants more from Nepal. Working on more Nepali submissions. First submission from art history. More diversified submissions.

HH: Think about increasing diversity in discipline and geographic. Maybe networks can increase geographic areas. Increased publication of prizes and use connections. Relationship prize and journal.

JVB: winner not knowing if it was going to be published as is. Need to clarify in announcements. They need to go through full submission prices process

SC: benefit grad student (and all participation) gets better feedback

MT: quotes right of first refusal. It is part of process. Tighten language on website about it being potential to published.

**Senior prize:** HH Jen Brunson winner. 8 proposals. More than gotten in past

**James Fisher book prize:** HH 6 books this year. Slower process. Anticipates end of calendar year. How to get copies of books to the Himalayas. Networks of couriers.

MT: something to celebrate....on website. That books distributed. (possibly already on flyer?  
HH)

### **Travel grant (no motions)**

HH: Budget is 1500 dollars which is 1-3 people. Questions of what to do. Many EC members can not attend annual EC meeting it due to travel funding. Young scholars must decide between conferences for professionalization.

SC: one thought for EC members would be to waive the registration fee for KRC. Maybe a 500 dollar grant make it possible for someone.

HH: Funding may force a change in the EC in future? Need travel funding to increase diversity in ranks and institutions. We have people that we lost to the EC purely due to a funding issue. Question from HH do we invest more in 2018 for travel grants?

MT: Note: once EC members use this grant, you can't ask again. Use the grant once and then no more.

JF: how is it organized?

HH: Half of your cost, or 500 dollars, whichever is less. Applied equally to EC members or international scholars coming HSC and Madison. Also application possible for EC members or overseas scholars attending HSC or Madison on line. Closed it down due to getting far too many applicants.

JF: projected budget?

HH: no 2018 budget yet. 2017 there was \$ 1500 budgeted. (2015 - zero budgeted - \$782 spent - 2016 \$782 was budget \$500 was spent)

PYS: is it possible for EC members to get 500 each year?

HH: EC members have 4-8 year terms, can apply as EC once.

DS: Is it possible to have 1 larger grant for a scholar and 2 500? \$500 is not much money for a foreign scholar Possibly good to support one person who puts in a lot of work. While this is on our resource page, who do people figure out how scholars are getting here.

HH: Comparing to other CAORC. At HSC events, we accepted international scholars who dropping out. Website has funding opportunities section. But it has not had any input from people.

DS: People at some institutions have limited resources

**BUDGET/PUBLICATION (no motions):**

**Key discussion points:**

DS - Budget looks good - please take a look at summary tab - any questions?

HH: John's work is great

DS: membership good this year. Making money from conference. Accountant support, but need to think about this. Regular monies feed into journal fund and travel think about.

HH: In the past treasurer paid in past hourly costs, about 4000 in 2016. Changed accountants from 2016-7. Our payment for John in 2017 will be very low as funds come from CAORC for this and limited hourly costs. We have to return to paying our accountant in 2018, which will be about the same to costs of hourly costs in past years (eg. 2016 about \$4000).

MT: Income from this HSC 2017 conference? It looks like we have lots of money, but expenses have not been paid

HH: No clear idea of income from Boulder conference as expenses have not been charged. Preliminary costs suggest similar from Yale/Austin of \$3000. So far expenses from CU Boulder are not applied.

MT: Registration and membership required. Both separate. How is this accounted?

HH: Registrations and new memberships associated with HSC are put on separate lines.

DB: Clarification - all conference participants must be members as well as register - HH yes.

HH: As of now, all registrations have come in - but no costs have been introduced.

MT: Could an invoice be MORE than the cost of conference? HH: No, worse scenario, no income other than new members.

HH: Treasury report has details. Issues that look unusual for 2017. Questions.

HH: To date, journal income more than projected. KRC less.

HH: New process implemented in 2017, quarterly remitting back to Manohari. \$3000 sent for costs of KRC office expenses plus salary. MU expressed frustration that in 2015 he had paid costs out of pocket, we addressed this by forwarding funds for upcoming quarter (in advance). Net KRC income less than projected.

MT: According to 2017 projected budget at the end of year ANHS will roll forward 28,000 plus. This is good.

HH: This can in part attributed to membership strong. How should we change in 2018 budget?

JF: Suggest travels budget increase to 3000.

SC: Adding in money for John, which hasn't needed to come out of ANHS unrestricted cost. As for journal, things are going well. No guarantee for library subscriptions. Need to work towards improving and sustaining library subscriptions. Flag the importance of this to our budget.

HH: For the journal, we receive approximately 2500 from library subscriptions and \$2000 from people. Should those be, are they earmarked for the journal as needed? Have a journal sustainability account.

DS: Maybe increasing travel money so that more people apply so that international person. Maybe part of the journal income come support that travel fund

HH: More general question - should the about \$4700 that directly comes as a result of journal activities be allocated to the journal, (SC - yes).

JF: Encourage print subscriptions. People have benefit for paper copies. Which also increases revenue.

MC: Is any money that comes in explicitly earmarked for journal?

HH: No earmarking until 10 months ago. Previously, the journal was granted funds based upon expenses but no funds were set aside until the decision made at Madison 2016, when it was (re)decided to instantiate the Journal Sustainable Fund (JSF). The expenses basis cause the future of the journal to be unsure. The JSF was created to commit ANHS to the longevity of HIMALAYA. For many years, HIMALAYA's direct income to ANHS has significantly been greater than costs, even through the open source move.

SC: For last 2 years the journal has not have to use ANHS costs because of the large subventions, yet this cannot be guaranteed. I (Sienna) proposes motion about allocate money explicitly created to the journal (such as print costs and libraries) should be committed to the journal. Editors are committed to continuing to seek external funding, but this cannot be guaranteed.

JF: Recall that there has been a fluctuation in printing costs. Journal is the only money maker, it is the only a product.

DS: Open source makes the journal accessible for overseas scholars.

MT: Welcome historical perspective. Publishing printing changing fast. No economy of scale. So printing 100 is more or less the same cost of 1000. Publish is print of demand. We close to the number required, its close each time. Very few, if any back issues. One thing since it brings in revenue...then perhaps bolstering. "If we cut off the cash cow then the cash cow won't give milk."

HH: (Seeking to wrap out journal discussion) ANHS members do consider the journal the most aspect and most viable aspect of the organization. All should continue to continual push for subscriptions.

JVB: Two issues - library or print subscriptions are doing well and can be built upon - suggest that at least one of these (EBSCO, print, etc) should be committed to the journal. The journal is not allowed to spend beyond its costs, which have been modest. If funds are not used, they will be returned to ANHS general funds. Need the flexibility that funds are available if needed but will be returned if not.

HH: Need to decide what to do with these two funds. The sustainability fund is the safety net. Is earmarking print/EBSCO funds in addition to JSF?

JF: Publishing in Kathmandu? (Note: \$178 was received in 2015 \$65 was received in 2016 from Himal books publications)

MT: Have Himal books edition. Considered worked on moving publication to Nepal. Costs of printing were not improved. Non digital access in Nepal.

HH: Himal books special edition printing is dormant. Now revived with Kathmandu edition in Kathmandu, which is anticipated published in 2018. This generates very little income, but helps circulation of journal in the region.

DS: New editors, how are you seeking to get open access in Sub continent. Mention to members to get access for other people. A way of giving. "Maybe a tree gone helps." (FYI - it already is)

(Short gap)

MB: Move center to Nepal. Branding works. Export it to many regions, decentering the idea. How can we work to broaden the access and publication in the Journal - decenter Nepal - and bring in more interest in the journal across the Himalayas?

JF: Strengthen links to other regions and CAORC centers - which could help that. Uttarakhand as example, show scholars in the area that we are there for them.

HH: REPublication of HIMALAYA with Himal Books reduplicates - it is electronic available in the Himalaya for free, but some enjoy print copies. Why do this? Its because people buy the print issue. Establishing publishing relationships is a good way to get org out to other places.

DS: Tell new guest editors that there is an possibility to work with regional publishers.

SC: Music issue is a good opportunity.

HH: Had meeting about publishing/journal. Any other issues journal wise?

MT: Recognize the bravery of DC and MB to take on this journal and are excited and open to whatever direction they take the journal. We don't know the direction of academic publishing. Just past performance is no guarantee. The new editorial team and the EC are free to go other ways. New ways of doing things that can be inspiring.

### **MEMBERSHIP:**

#### **Key discussion points:**

**Do scaled memberships need rethinking due to new and prospective members?**

**Membership post-conference survey?**

**Personal and professional connections integral for membership sustainability. Rates need reassessment.**

**Galen: Appreciation for Ann for her help.**

HH: Welcoming Galen as new membership chair.

Galen: Membership levels strong. Slippage in institutional memberships. Institutional memberships need a personal touch. Incumbent on everyone to reach out and increase membership as well as visibility. Should we have a scaled level of membership, looking especially at institutes, which are of

different sizes. For example, field school in Bhutan SFS..does it make sense that they pay same fee as Yale? This would be similar to the scale for members...maybe something institutional side. (HH: currently 2 levels for institutions. ) Caveat, we have had a problem in the past many new and prospective members confused about where to go - don't want to exacerbate this. Might be a mutually beneficial solutions to ANHS and institutions who are able to join..

HH: The positive numbers on the membership report means that as an EC we should thank Steve, Galen and Anne who have worked hard to maintain and expand our membership numbers. Only one institution lost - all other numbers up.

JF: Had long conversation about how the WA page was complex and a problem.

HH: This was revised by me in early 2017 - problems fixed - many few options. Front page only seen by new members, so EC members might not have seen.

GM: Membership is good - conference help numbers - student fellowships being offered (13) - Anne really helpful.

HH: 3 worries. 1. Institutions need work these numbers but are challenged given in the academic budgets declining, it is difficult for institutions to pay. 2. We have 493 wild apricot, max 500 contacts If we go over that number, significant additional costs. See if it's a ongoing problem. Have gotten that number by removing lapses members. . 3. Hard time keeping new members who join to attend HSC.

JVB: Do we do conference survey? Can we see how/how many joined for just HSC? (HH: survey done but not this issue.)

SC: membership rates? We have not raised membership costs for a long time. \$5 increase would be very helpful. It is still reasonable. We are so cheap.

JF: Didn't we increase membership costs a few years ago?

SC: No, we agreed to do so, but never implemented it.

HH: Will have to look at when that happened?

SC: Have been on the EC for many years and never raised in my tenure.

MT: Lifetime membership - how do we make it desirable to people but not too desirable. Is it the right amount? Only have a couple lifetime members. End of careers versus start of careers lifetime members?

JF: Discussion of setting lifetime at a multiple of 10 or 12 of annual membership.

MT: Currently at 30 times.

HH: Some become lifetime not because of cost but investment in organization

MT: Pitching at a different level.

HH: Added one lifetime this year.

JVB: Consider that institutions won't pay for lifetime memberships.

MT: Rethink lifetime memberships. Cost lowered? How do we increase this?

## **KRC**

**Key discussion points:**

**Need to work on MOU.**

**What use is the physical space, how can it be utilized?**

**Issues with figuring out how/if to house a larger language study within its mission.**

HH: Once again SSB conference this summer. 2 workshops on scholarly development prepping for SSB. (Thanks to Steve and Luke) Would like to expand workshop offerings connected with SSB and young scholar support in Nepal. Summer conference going along well. It was observed that there were more junior people there from ANHS than in the past.

KRC continues apace. Have discussed with the EC the need to establish an MOU. On issue raised on the MOU between KRC and ANHS is that it states that ANHS would need to commit \$25,000 a year to the Center. Currently, we send \$14,000. (JF - why would this be true?) The MOU accounting to Nepali government rules must state a maximum amount that ANHS would send to KRC, but unclear is this is a minimum.

(small gap in recording)

HH: ANHS would also need to make more formal documents with Nepali government. These have been discussed for several years but not forward in Kathmandu.

KRC uses the service of a Nepali lawyer to do some of this on an hourly basis. (JF: Is this our US lawyer?

HH: No, it is different.)

HH: Re KRC. Have bookshelves.

DS: Is the office used? Is this a good use of ANHS funds?

GALEN: We greatly underutilize the place and KRC. Need to get people in the door., for many reasons. For many of us, we have been trying for a long time, but not much progress. It is becoming frustrating. Thoughts about language survey utilized more as a language learning center. Great need for it. Fewer and fewer places. There is clearly a need and interest in language classes, is it possible for us to use KRC to use for that demand? Working toward that, but not yet. For example, AIIS in India has robust language study program. Smaller scale.

HH: Last years ago, we established a list of language instructors that offer language instruction, but mainly a matching source and only utilized a few times. Yet this does not enable us to access FLAS funds as AIIS does. In order to do this, we need more than list to receive FLAS money. Manohari has had plans for setting up language instruction classes or teacher training for the past many years (that I have been in this position), but with limited progress.

JVB: Could we ask Manohari to establish those classes next semester (Nepali, Newari), if they were offered, would it make a go of it? Would that make FLAS available and that makes it more organized?

HH: FLAS requires # hours per week. Also need more infrastructure. Need housing opportunities. To appeal to young students need more infrastructure, but the official FLAS requirements are just about hours required.

JVB: In other contexts, have used FLAS funds and made all the infrastructure myself. Is this possible.

MT: Is this informal or vote-able? Are the discussion around the KRC attached to the current director, or about the more direction of the institution overall? Are we invested more resources in the KRC without seeing more tangible outcomes?

(Off the record - discussion of personnel - work of the KRC committee in the US - response of the Kathmandu office. Frustration share by some KRC committee who suggest that no change has been happen even when specific. Spending a great deal on KRC relative to the benefits. All want KRC to be more but don't know how else to try. Discussion of the costs committed to the Kathmandu office. Discussion of comparison costs and salaries.)

Back on (11:52 #5)

MT: I have no prejudice against current director and have never visited the office. In talking with EC members and general members, I have never heard anyone saying that the director is doing a terrific job. Have hear "things are ok" "things could be better" - believe we have reached a crossroads where a great deal has committed to trying to change KRC with no response from Kathmandu. We need to close KRC and bring in back in a new form, when we have a better ideas of what direction the Center should be and the skills of staff needed. We have reconfigured many aspects of ANHS, such a member and the journal, why not KRC as well. The building has tied us in to a format that may not serve ANHS. Propose a motion to shut the whole thing down. There would need to be other steps, but start from a new basis.

HH: WOW - discussion first.

HH: Steve is now here to represent what I believe would be a different point of view. I can't speak for him, but I believe he would note that the director has help many members a great deal. He has provided great support with permissions, research assistance and other things that ANHS members have benefited from. There are a number of ways that he has helped members, although smaller in numbers.

GM: Can also say that director has been supportive in permits, including for him. But also share the frustration.

HH: Add information that changing KRC would NOT effect our CAORC status. There is a very small amount necessary to maintain status that could be achieved by an address and an email.

JF: Concerned that the director many not be open to these changes. He has done an excellent job at some things.

JVB: He was helpful to me in permission with short time. Director is good at such permissions, which I really appreciate and wonder if we could retain this specialized skill, but there are other needs that are being fulfilled.

HH: There are a lot of different ways that KRC and its staff could be rebirthed in a new instantiation. With or without a building, residential facilities not required nor well-utilized. As president, I feel guilty and remiss in not serving ALL of our members while expending such a large portion of our budget on

KRC when it is not of value to the majority of ANHS members. Must take the Himalayan seriously not just Nepal. 1/3 of our income goes to KRC.

PYS: The very valuable services provided by the office may not justify these expenses.

SC: Is it necessary to close completely or can we transform it enough? Agree that the physical office is not a good value. Is it possible to retain "fixer" skills of the current director, but not as a salary, but on an activity basis - whether by ANHS or those who seek that support. This is similar to what we doing already with language teachers.

HH: Running out of time!

HH: We must commit by the end of the year to establish a new pathway for KRC. KRC committee is working on this, welcome all at the EC and membership. Will also be working on other overseas relationships outside of Nepal. Invest money and time on other connections.

JVB: Downsizing KRC while also having similar services at other locations is very appealing.

HH: Manohari is aware that there are debates about the KRC, which may have effected his commitment. For his sake, we need to move towards another plan quickly so that he does not continue feeling in limbo.

MT: We need to thank Heather in pursuing a new formation and solutions for KRC within the year. We need to all understand we are committed to. Must have a plan and be clear about our plan.

HH: Must avoid stumbling and changing director for the success of KRC and fairness to the staff.

HH: Losing 3 EC members (Sya, Bill, Keshav). Which brings us in to a quorum issue. Require 9. We need to think about expanding. Have a problem meeting quorum and EC members (and their labor). Need to think more about this. Jana taking over with communication and grants. In the future think about talking to HSC organizers about how to make the conference work better. The conference is getting larger - how must this be addressed by new hosts. There are three institutions that have shown an interest in hosting next.

HH: CNAS new director is enthusiastic with possibilities in working with ANHS. Official appreciation to editors, Mark Turin and Sienna Craig.

DC: Also many thanks to Mark and Sienna.

SC: Thanks so much to Mona and David for taking this on.

**Adjournment: 5:35pm**