

Meeting of Executive Committee of ANHS

President Heather Hindman presiding

Secretary Ad-Hoc: Jana Fortier

Held at University of Texas, Austin, TX

Meeting began at 12:00pm, 2/26/2016

Present (8): Teri Allendorf, Mark Turin, Jessica Valentine Birkenholz, Steve Folmer, Galen Murton, Heather Hindman, Jana Fortier, Debarati Sen. *Absent* (7): Sya Kedzior, Mary Cameron, Keshav Bhattarai, P.P. Karan, Pasang Sherpa, Sienna Craig, Bill Fisher.

Approval of 2014 EC ANHS Madison, 2015 March Conference Call Minutes, 2015 EC ANHS Meeting Minutes. Approval of 2016 estimated budget, approval of final 2015 budget.

Teri Allendorf (TA) motioned approval, Galen Murton (GM) seconded; Motion was unanimously approved (quorum was not reached).

Minutes of EC Meeting

Item #1 Future Himalayan Studies Conference (HSC)

Teri (TA) asked that the timing and relationship of Himalayan Studies Conference (HSC) & South Asian Studies conference (SASC) should be discussed. It is currently required that HSC Executive Committee (EC) board members attend the SASC three out of four years. However, should we have the option or requirement to come to the HSC? Could HSC become our main meeting? TA noted that there should be a poll of our members. Running an HSC is extremely time and resource demanding. It was discussed that many EC members have limited travel funding to attend conference. TA and HH discussed how to have more presence at SASC - TA noted that Madison doesn't "need" us - they are receiving more panel proposals every year. We agreed to continue to discuss with the SASC organizers our HSC meeting and how it fits into their conference organization. Maybe a pre-conference workshop or set of panels at Madison would be of interest to our members. Mark (MT) pointed out that with HSC going to different places every time has benefits. Steve (SF) agreed that HSC conferences probably need to cycle through different locations. Also, if we have an EC member quorum requirement at either the HSC or the SASC, could we designate the meeting as the annual meeting? Also, if we have our HSC in the spring, it poses some problems with timing of going to the SASC, and of organizing panels for the SASC since the panel proposals are due soon after the HSA.

Heather (HH) brought in the related point that we could use a Skype Executive Committee meetings or other electronic ways to reach quorum. Jana (JF) noted that for many ANHS members, they would rank going to HSC conferences as more important than going to SASC if both are held in a given year and at different dates and places. SF pointed out that EC members are obligated to attend three of every four SASC conferences. He added that EC meetings elsewhere, particularly at HSC sites, do not count toward that obligation. Even though there will be lower turn-out of general members at SASC on the years that HSC conferences are held, EC members still need to attend SASC for our annual EC meetings, unless we hold the annual EC membership meeting at HSC meetings. Members discussed the possibility that EC meeting quorums at

the SASC be met using Skype when necessary. [Secretary: The Skype format was used for the 2013 EC meeting with 7 attending in person and 5 people attending via Skype. In 2014, about 10 people attended in person/none in Skype. In 2015, 8 people attended in person with none via Skype.] The consensus of the EC members seemed to be that face-to-face meetings were important for building EC cohesion, but that we should implement Skype or other virtual practices to meet quorum as needed for EC business.

Item #2 Boulder as choice for next HSC

HH offered that we should develop a list of which institutions are willing to host the HSC meetings in the future. Currently, the U. of Colorado, Boulder has offered to host the next HSC conference. University of Washington, University of Toronto and University of Montana expressed interest in holding one or more future conferences. We need a Wild Apricot poll or survey on these issues. HH had informal discussion with Carol McGranahan about holding the next HSC Boulder 2018 in the spring although which month is undecided. How would everyone like to proceed? Would the annual member's meeting at SASC be a time for discussion of where and when to hold the next meeting? Or should we put out a survey sooner?

There was discussion of the benefits of holding the next HSC conference in the fall of 2017 versus the spring of 2018. The general consensus seems to be for spring 2018 but EC members agreed that a survey of all membership should be conducted. EC members pointed out that organizing the HSC meeting requires students and volunteers to staff it and probably two years of time for planning. SF suggested that if we have written policies, such as concerning an 18 or 24 month period between HSC dates, we might accommodate the next organizer's schedule. GM and MT noted that the Boulder organizers wish to strengthen their new programs with Tibetan and Himalayan studies components and hosting the HSC conference would help them gain visibility, prestige, and funding from their University. The timing of the next conference will need to accommodate the institution's needs, and past HSC have been held in both spring and fall.

Item #2 Financial Issues

HH reported that about \$2,000 will go into financial sheet as proceeds from the HSC conference.

Item #3 Madison upcoming panels

HH suggested that EC members could encourage the general members to post their panel ideas on the <http://anhs-himalaya.org/> website or on the yahoo groups. Jessica (JVB) offered to organize a panel concerning humanities while TA offered to do one concerning environmental issues. Other suggestions were to create theme chairs in charge of broad headings humanities, social sciences, hard sciences, etc. JF suggested that general members be encouraged to write an abstract of their own choice and send to designated EC members, such as TA and JVB, who could organize them into panel topics. TA thought however that the SASC panel structure was complicated and would prefer ANHS members contribute papers to panels already organized by subject. TA suggested that while theme leaders were useful for HSC, the same may not be true for Madison.

Item #4 Committee /Board member contributions

HH suggested that we review how to divide labor among EC members. We have enough EC members but need to designate EC member tasks, such as website design. [Secretary: see <http://anhs-himalaya.org/executive-committees-pages/>. Currently, SF, TA, JVB, DS, SK, MT, HH, KB, JF, and PPK are listed on committees.] TA asked that we re-circulate the lists of current sub-committee duties and when the term of EC members ends. TA suggested the sub-committees hold separate meetings which HH agreed to facilitate. SF suggested we look at the International Association for Tibetan Studies <http://www.iats.info/people/> for guidance. HH discussed the by-laws method suggested by CaORC, versus constitution.

On related note, HH announced that there are 26 Asian student scholarships that need to be given away. Funds have been collected for 2 years so far but we don't have a method for selecting these scholarships nor publicity regarding their availability.

Item #5 How to Support the Kathmandu Research Center (KRC)?

There are a number of improvements needed at KRC. For example, bookshelves still need to be built and/or installed. Also, a number of American educational programs are interested in utilizing the services of KRC, such as finding them homestays and language instructors, but we need the Director to cultivate ties with these programs that want to use the KRC and follow up. HH noted that she circulated to us a letter to the Director asking him to describe how many contacts, how many meetings, a resource list, a list of language contacts, and other work he's done in the last year. He responded that he's making some connections for homestays and language instruction with a surcharge of 10%. However, the details were unclear, according to HH. As an EC, we should facilitate the KRC becoming more developed, but need the Director to be more proactive. Further, we could involve KRC in helping with awarding the Asian student scholarships perhaps as well.

The result is that HH wants to form an ad-hoc committee concerning KRC to look into how well the Center has been operating since there's underutilization of the Center. EC members (JF, SF) reported some good experiences using the Director's help in such as facilitation of permits and organizing public lectures successfully and these should be taken into consideration. Others expressed concern about the lack of change. HH discussed the review of KRC that was circulated to the EC before the meeting with concerns expressed by those who had recently visited the center (GM, Bill Fisher and Pasang Sherpa).

Item #6 Membership

Membership is up; 270 members; 15 more members in last month. However, institutional members are down, having lost 2-3 memberships.

Item #7 Web page Development

We need to find someone good with webpage editing skills using the current platform of word press and better integrate our webpage with WildApricot, yahoo groups and facebook. An announcement will be made at the HSC general meeting.

Item #8 Fellowship & Grants

Many applications for the CaORC multi-country fellowship were received
Asian Student awards need to start being distributed
EC Member stipend for travel to an EC meeting in Madison is available

Item #9 New Editor for Himalaya

MT reported that he is drafting materials for consideration and will send in the near future.