

Board of Directors First Meeting
79th Plains Anthropological Conference
12 October 2022, 6:00 CT

Present: Kelly Pool (President), John Hedden (Vice President), Spencer Pelton (secretary), Chris Johnston (treasurer), Bill Billeck (Editor), Courtney Ziska (webmaster), Alison Hadley, Brandi Bethke, Nancy Arendt, Adam Wiewel, Carlton Gover (pending member), Veronica Mraz (pending member)

Not present: Richard Meyers, Shawn Bubel, Cody Newton (pending member)

1. Welcome and Call to Order

- a. Called to order at 6:39pm CT

2. Approval of the Agenda

- a. Agenda approved, but did not catch motion or second

3. Conference Organizers' Remarks (Brandi Bethke and Sarah Trabert)

- a. Year long campaign for private donations
 - i. Most money from Thursday night networking event. Had local CRM companies pay \$1,000 a table.
 - ii. Beer donated from local distributor.
 - iii. ODOT and the University of Oklahoma (Anthropology and Geology) donated a bunch of money.
 - iv. Total raised around \$60,000 and total cost of conference around \$50,000. Preliminary profit estimate of around \$7,000 from this conference, taking into account PAS startup costs.
 - v. Currently, Bethke and Trabert's department covering Thursday catering bill because of tax exempt status. May ask for PAS to cover costs because of good profit. PAS will still make over \$4,000 on conference if they cover that cost.
- b. Have already made over \$1,000 in on-site registration as of this Board meeting.
- c. As of October 9th, registration includes 152 regular members, 133 students (57 of which from OU), and 26 tribal members.
 - i. A lot of OU students wouldn't have come if registration wasn't free (mostly undergrads). They tried to engage students by giving talks in classes and having professors make students come.
 - ii. Same with tribal members. Organizers sent letters to THPO offices and colleges announcing conference. There are 39 tribal entities in Oklahoma.
- d. Discussion about number of regular registrants being down.
 - i. Hollenback suggested it's because post-covid people were disengaged.
 - ii. Trabert offered Lincoln as example of big conference.
 - iii. Conference attendees not as much a concern as low numbers of presentations (80 submitted).
 - iv. Billeck noted that low presentations correspond with low articles.

4. Student Paper Award Committee Report (Hollenback)

- a. We had 7 students in competition, an increase from last year. All student paper applicants are graduate students.

- b. 2 papers were submitted late this year, so Board needs to figure out if those get disqualified. 2 papers are multi-author, and Board needs to decide if these should be considered as well.
- c. Discussion on multi-authored papers and late papers
 - i. Hollenback argues that archaeology is becoming multi-disciplinary. Hard science papers often have multiple authors. However, we should probably omit late papers from consideration.
 - ii. Billeck proposal is to incorporate a clear listing of roles for multi-authored papers or posters
 - iii. Pelton said that sticking to current award specifications as listed is probably best course for this year
 - iv. We decided not to consider multi-author papers not late papers this year because it is in the specifications of the award. We will consider multiple author issue next year.
- d. Discussion on increasing award amount
 - i. Someone (not noted) suggested that we increase the student paper award amounts
 - ii. Johnston moved to raise award amount by \$100 for all student awards starting this year (Bethke second). Unanimously approved.
- e. Further discussion
 - i. Hadley suggested removing undergrad presentation in favor of poster. Johnston suggested keeping it because we don't always award undergrads if paper is good.
 - ii. Board is counting on Hollenback to do student paper award again next year.

5. Webmaster and Website Report (Ziska)

- a. Most people using website for journal access and membership renewal.
- b. Ziska is resigning as webmaster
 - i. Has been managing mass mailers for Plains in addition to webmaster duties
 - ii. Website troubleshooting is really time consuming, which is likely a hosting issue.
- c. Pelton asked if website is free
 - i. No, at least \$2500 a year for hosting, maintenance, etc.
- d. We discussed options to streamline website.
 - i. Pelton suggested stripping website down to core functions and documents. Maybe moving registration and membership renewal to Squarespace.
 - ii. An issue is the membership credentials that our current website facilitates. Hard to move those over. Johnston says that maybe doing both, building conference website on easier platform.
 - iii. Johnston and Ziska will sit down and discuss alternatives to website hosting over next couple of months.
- e. Other website issues
 - i. Hadley asked about member/non-member fees for conference registration. The website doesn't discriminate, but abstract submission does rely on credentials.
 - ii. Ziska mentioned that dual-factor authentication goes to her phone, so others have trouble signing into gmail/mailchimp. Best solution is probably just remove authentication.
 - iii. Ziska says we should also consider digital archiving.

6. Approval of Summer Board Meeting Minutes (5 May 2022)

- a. Hedden motions to approve, Johnston second. Unanimous approval.

7. Officers' Reports

a. President's Report (Pool)

- i. This year seemed easy! Doing good job at meeting PAS goals. Financials are good. Students very engaged and we're giving them a lot of money.
- ii. Glitches: Has student affairs committee run its course? Carlton had to coerce people to join this year. People just don't know what to do.
 1. Hadley wanted to know if the head of the SAC is on Board and was told that they went to Board meetings until recently but were not on Board.
 2. There is a liaison position on Board.
 3. Last year, Board made a motion to give \$500 to SAC to support lunch, but this year conference organizers provided funds.
- iii. No ongoing ethics or inclusion complaints, developing codes of conduct, self certification, etc. Bethke used self certification to ensure that spouses or SO's registered for conference as well.
- iv. One issue is that we are not getting enough submissions for Plains.
 1. Discussion on why we're not getting more submissions. Maybe post-covid. Other options are crowded publication field (e.g., the various spinoff journal 'reports').

a. Treasurer and PAS Endowment Committee Reports (Johnston)

- a. PAS finances are great.
 - i. 2021 Boulder conference made \$7,000 and the City of Boulder wrote a check for \$2,000. We made a total of \$9,000 on conference.
 - ii. Investment accounts are not great because markets in general are poor. PAS endowment started at \$100,000, got to \$138,000 at peak, and is now at \$110,000. Roper account has lost money on investment but we've also pulled some money out for awards.
- b. Billeck asked if we would be alright if we didn't have meetings. Johnston says we'd be revenue neutral without them. Johnston sees that attendance is down in general.
- c. Hedden moved to accept Treasurer's report, Hadley second. Unanimous approval.

8. Committee Reports, new or follow-up discussions from Pre-meeting (4 October 2022)

a. Archives (Pelton)

- i. Pelton was asked if archivist needed help setting up new sub-series. Pelton said that everything is in Board handbook, so no need to duplicate committee reports when we can just submit the handbook.
- ii. Pelton will begin submitting handbook to archives in addition to conference program.

b. Bylaws (Hedden/Pool)

- i. see handout for 1 or 2 nominee scenarios for Business Meeting
- ii. It's complicated, so Pool and Hedden will tag team at business meeting.

c. Membership (Hadley)

- i. note updates since Pre-Meeting
- ii. Membership back to pre-covid levels

a. Native American Student Award (Meyers)

- a. Had 5 nominees. Hadley suggesting that each get \$500, pending approval of extra \$500.

- b. Discussion on how to allocate award funds with multiple applicants
 - i. Gover was only one to win when he applied. Wants people to feel good when they win rather than feel like they got a handout.
 - ii. Hadley clarified that it's a scholarship, not an award.
 - iii. Discussion on original intent, which was to engage more Plains tribal members with organization.
 - iv. If we impose a rubric, then it should probably be need-based.
 - v. Gover said he would take on duties on NASA committee
 - c. Johnston moved to allocate \$3,000 to award this year (Hedden second), motion passes.
 - b. Resolutions (Wiewel)—note updates since Pre-Meeting
 - c. Financial Review (Johnston, for Mitchell)
 - a. We're in sound financial standing
 - d. Undergraduate Student Travel Grant Award (Arendt)
 - a. Discussion of continuation of award
 - i. Johnston most comfortable doing this on an annual basis rather than taking money out of endowment now. \$5,000 a good number annually.
 - b. Arendt moves to continue on annual basis at \$5k, Johnston second. Unanimous.
- 9. Old Business
 - a. MAC's Sensitive Image Policy (Hedden)
 - i. Summary of policy
 - 1. Won't publish images of human bones anymore, but can use line drawings.
 - 2. Pathologies shown as small area.
 - 3. Suggest we form our own committee to figure out which aspects we want to accept or add to and run it by membership and Tribes.
 - ii. Johnston moves to form ad hoc committee to determine sensitive image policy (Billeck second), unanimous approval.
 - b. TDAR hosting conference abstracts (Kelly)
 - i. Provided brief update on conversations with Director, but not specifics.
- 10. New Business
 - a. 2025 meeting location—ideas or volunteers?
 - i. Wichita and Tulsa were thrown out as ideas. Also Laramie.
 - b. New webmaster
 - i. No updates
 - c. Website updates
 - i. No updates
- 11. Announcements
 - a. Arendt suggested making the student travel committee standing, but the Board decided to keep it ad hoc for now.
 - b. Arendt announced John Reynolds research fund

12. Adjournment

Wiewel moved to adjourn at 8:16, Billeck second.