

Plains Anthropological Society
Spring Board Meeting via Google Meet
May 8, 2024, 2-4 pm CT
Minutes

1. Welcome and Announcements

Called to order at 1:03

2. Approval of the Agenda

Newton move, Gover second, approved

3. Approval of Past Minutes (Spencer emailed April 18 for review)

Gover moved, Wowchuck second

4. Officer Updates

a. President

- Caught up with a few of us over the last couple weeks.
- Wants to chat about editorship, website, and to mention outcome of 2023 PAS incident
 - Technical issue at last year's conference related to projector
 - Moderator ended talk on time, but speaker lost 10 minutes of presentation
 - Other events made situation worse
 - Moderator's supervisor files initial complaint
 - Wiewel recommended just not speaking with each other next conference. Nothing else rose to level of ethics complaint.
 - Speaker didn't like that and said she wanted to cancel Plains membership

b. Treasurer

- Expenses all in order.
- Website no longer going to be supported very soon. Will be a big expense.
 - Drupel 8 is now on Drupel 10.
 - E.g., when a member renews with paper form, we have to hand key everything in but can't update anymore.
 - Fisher asked if there's a specific date.
 - Johnston said firm end date next spring.
 - Bubel's contact in Saskatchewan did it for less than 5k plus a store for 1k
 - Clark says they just went through a Drupel migration and will pass along some details

c. Editor

- We're behind, but May 2023 issue is at press
- Not falling further behind
- Submission rate is still low for structural reasons. Fewer academic positions and no credit for mid-level journal.
- Press would like 16 articles a year, which poses an issue for memoirs.
- Clark spoke with SAA president elect about partnerships with PA. Agenda for running was to create partnerships with regional societies. Wondering about ways to support submissions. If AA is getting Plains submissions, then they could maybe get kicked to PA.

- Launched conversation about hosting a Plains session at the SAA's. Possibly having a table to promote Society at meeting.
- Clark related a series of conversations he has had with SAA leadership about developing relationships with regional societies and fostering publications.
- Billeck's term ends in July but does not want to step down as editor until backlog is fixed. Talked to Kaycee Hollenback and Mark Mitchell, both of whom interested but hesitant until a year or more out.

5. Committee Updates (if necessary)

- a. Archives (Spencer)—sensitive archival materials
 - Pelton emailed Doris April 16th and heard back. No clarification yet.
- b. By-laws (Veronica)
 - No updates
- c. Distinguished Service Award (Veronica)—submissions due July 1
 - Updated on submission protocols
- d. Ethics and Inclusion (Gary/Adam)—2023 incident and plans for reporting system/guidance and outreach
 - Incident at last meeting called to attention deficiencies in code of conduct
 - Will develop some more defined protocols with how to deal with issues.
 - Will include guide on session moderation
 - Led to discussion between Wiewel, Wowchuck, and Clark about ethics policy and what to do to promote good conference conduct
- e. Membership (Chris/Abby)
 - About 240
 - What should we do about people who haven't registered but haven't yet received 2023 journal?
 - Should probably cut off, but they'll continue to receive correspondence.
 - Bubel asked how many haven't renewed membership
 - 474 last year. 240 right now.
 - Fisher suggested using journal access as incentive
 - Clark asked if this was typical
 - Yes, there's about 200-250 people that renew out of habit and the rest renew right before the conference.
 - Pelton asked if we can do rolling memberships
 - Johnston said it would be a pain
 - Billeck asked if people can see they haven't renewed on website
 - Johnston said they can, but you have to dig
 - Several people on Board realized that they have not renewed as a result of this discussion
- f. Native American Student Award (Carlton)
 - Will send an announcement early August

- Will have applicants by pre-conference Board meeting
- g. Sensitive Image Policy (Carlton)—recent committee meetings
- Fisher concerned about definition of sacred objects and overwhelms Tribal capacity
 - Gover explained it defers to NAGPRA definitions
- Pelton articulated concerns about omission of photographs from SI
- Fisher asked if we could add some intent to beginning of statement
- Bubel noted that we should use Lethbridge to gauge concerns
 - Gover reiterated that we should be talking to Tribal officials and not “Indian picking”
- Wiewel discussed polling membership because it’s going to be better to have more feedback. Open to pushing timeline back to facilitate that.
 - Gover totally down to push it back.
- Clark asked if we have obtained input from THPOs
 - Gover said none until we have a draft
- Wiewel said to take a look at it and provide Gover feedback

h. Nominations (Tim)—nomination forms and deadlines for nominations

- Set some dates that any recommendations of PAS Board should be received by June 12th.
- Summer will be spent obtaining information from candidates
- August 12th will be election
- September 9th will be election close

i. Resolutions (Cody)

- Soliciting names and will be until conference

j. Student Engagement (Shawn)—Student Travel and Student Poster Awards—questions of funding presenters with Student Travel and acceptance note (for university funding)

- Changed strategies recently due to burden of student committee on students
- Matthew Sawchuk will be leading students
- Have a bunch of undergrads and grads excited about it

k. Website & Social Media/Communications (Spencer)

- 3,474 followers
- No major controversies
- Lots of job postings

l. Donna Roper Research Fund Award (Bill)

- Gave 2 awards last year
 - Kelsey Hoppes for a ceramics study in central plains (\$5,000)
 - Sophia Lynch for travel to visit an art collection

m. Endowment (Spencer)—recent meeting

Pelton summarized Wowchuck conversation
Student assistance

Native student donation

Small grant program

Johnston clarified that Native American award would not be factored into endowment

Fisher asked if we could require students to submit a paper as a condition of grant funds

Pelton discussed that travel funding would be contingent on conference attendance and this idea could be extended to grant funds and publication

Reed totally supports some kind of a requirement for students to contribute to Society

Fisher thinks we should move toward membership requirement for receiving money

6. Old Business

a. 2024 PAS Conference (Lethbridge, Alberta) updates—need anything from BOD?

- Bubel has composed a bunch of text for website and wants to know how much appetite there is for conference information on website
- Thinking about organizing a bus from Calgary to do a big pre-conference field trip. Explained plan.
- Can have 3 concurrent sessions at venue. Is that enough?
- Bubel presented several conference ideas for discussion

b. Investment of cash in checking (on hold until website update cost is known)

c. tDAR—hosting abstracts and posters—need to check with Kelly

7. New Business

a. New Editor and Book Review Editor (Alison Hadley)

b. Reinstate Editorial Committee?

c. Website updates

d. NAGPRA roundtable at 2024 or 2025 conference (Andy)

e. Additional guidance for meeting speakers and moderators

e. SAA President Chris Dore—partnerships with regional societies (Andy)

f. 2025 PAS Conference (Iowa City, Iowa) updates

8. Adjourn