

American Folklore Society, Executive Board Minutes  
New Series, no. 76  
April 11-12, 2014  
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President Michael Ann Williams called the spring meeting of the American Folklore Society Executive Board to order at 9:40 am on Friday, April 11, 2014, in Room 320 of the Mershon Center on the Ohio State University campus in Columbus. Members present: Brent Björkman, Maria Carmen Gambliel, Past President Diane Goldstein, Maggie Holtzberg, Maggie Kruesi, David Todd Lawrence, Solimar Otero, Pravina Shukla, Diane Tye, Carolyn Ware, President Michael Ann Williams, and Juwen Zhang. Members absent: none. Executive Director Tim Lloyd, Associate Director Lorraine Walsh Cashman, and Administrative Associate Rob Vanscoyoc were also present.

As per the Executive Board directive of October 17, 1991, the proceedings of this meeting were recorded.

Michael Ann Williams welcomed new members of the Board Maggie Holtzberg, Maggie Kruesi, and Diane Tye, and asked them to introduce themselves.

After review of the draft minutes of the October 16, 2013, meeting, **David Todd Lawrence moved that the draft minutes of the October 16, 2013, meeting be approved as presented. Brent Björkman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Michael Ann Williams then delivered the President's report, citing the recent visit of AFS leaders to China, and noting her Presidential activities and plans for 2014: inviting Simon Lichman to deliver a plenary lecture at the 2014 annual meeting, creating a program focus on material culture and vernacular architecture at the annual meeting, and developing an intensive leadership workshop for young and mid-career professionals in the field.

Tim Lloyd then delivered the Executive Director's report, focusing on the Society's partnership with the China Folklore Society, the Society's financial performance halfway through fiscal year 2014, and the increased attention being paid by learned societies in the humanities to careers outside the academy. He then presented a proposal from the Indiana University College of Arts and Sciences to serve as the host institution for AFS. After discussion of this matter, the Board instructed him to continue to pursue this matter with Indiana University.

The Board took a short break at 10:50 am and returned to its agenda at 11:05 am.

Associate Director Lorraine Walsh Cashman then reported to the Board on plans for the 2014 annual meeting in Santa Fe, including the continuation and modification of several of the innovations introduced in Providence in 2013. Carolyn Ware then reported on the Society's annual meeting-based mentoring program, now entering its third year. Maggie Holtzberg, Solimar Otero, Diane Tye, and Carolyn Ware agreed to work on this project 2014.

The Board broke for lunch at 12:00 pm. The meeting reconvened at 1:00 pm.

Tim Lloyd introduced the search process that we are about to complete for the new editor of *the Journal of American Folklore*, describing the materials candidates were asked to provide, and the review process the Publications Committee has undertaken with the application packages. Michael Ann Williams provided responses from the Western Kentucky University editorial candidate collective to some of the Publications Committee's comments and recommendations.

Michael Ann Williams and Brent Björkman left the room at this point, and the recorder was turned off.

**Diane Goldstein moved that the Board accept the Publication Committee's recommendation that a collective of folklore faculty members from Western Kentucky University be selected as the next editors of the *Journal of American Folklore*. Maggie Holtzberg seconded the motion, which passed: 8 votes for, 2 abstentions, and 2 members absent, as noted above.**

Michael Ann Williams and Brent Björkman returned to the meeting at this point, and the recorder was turned back on.

Review committee member Diane Goldstein then delivered the report of the 2014 AFS Lifetime Scholarly Achievement Award committee. After discussion, **Diane Goldstein moved that the Board accept the committee's recommendation that Dan Ben-Amos receive this prize. Solimar Otero seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Board Nominating Committee representative Pravina Shukla then led a discussion of the Society's 2014 nominating process. Particular needs at this time for representation on the Board include: men, cultural diversity, strong leadership for the Presidency, and the need to place senior members on the Nominating Committee itself. The Board noted that we should try to distribute volunteerism opportunities among the candidates who are not elected.

The Board took a short break at 2:20 pm and returned to its agenda at 2:40 pm. Tim Lloyd then introduced the current version of the Board's 2014-2018 long-range plan, and provided a brief history of recent Society long-range planning efforts. Like the last plan, the current one is considered to be a flexible document, which can be altered over time as needs change and opportunities arise. After discussion, **David Todd Lawrence moved that the Board officially adopt the current draft of the 2014-2018 long-range plan, and that the staff should make it available to the membership. Diane Goldstein seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

The Board concluded its deliberations for the day at 3:47 pm, to reconvene the next morning.

The Board returned to order at 9:35 am on Saturday, April 12, in Room 320 of the Mershon Center on the Ohio State University campus in Columbus. Members present: Brent Björkman, Maria Carmen Gambliel, Past President Diane Goldstein, Maggie Holtzberg, Maggie Kruesi, David Todd Lawrence, Solimar Otero, Pravina Shukla, Diane Tye, Carolyn Ware, President Michael Ann Williams, and Juwen Zhang. Members absent: none. Executive Director Tim Lloyd and Associate Director Lorraine Walsh Cashman were also present.

The Board began its deliberations by conducting its annual review of the executive director's performance. During this discussion, the executive director and associate director left the room and the recorder was turned off.

The Board continued with its agenda at 10:30 am, at which time the executive director and associate director returned to the room and the recorder was turned on.

Lorraine Walsh Cashman then made a report on the Society's web site, citing in particular the difficulties of successfully encouraging contributions to the *AFS Review* and the Folklore Wiki from Society members. Learned societies in general are experiencing many of the same difficulties.

Tim Lloyd then presented the staff's budget proposal for fiscal year 2015 (September 1, 2014-August 31, 2015). After questions and discussion, **Maggie Kruesi moved that the Board approve the FY 2015 budget proposal as presented. Maggie Holtzberg seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Under the heading of Old Business, Tim Lloyd presented the plan the staff had developed for the creation of the Service to the Field award the Board had previously decided to establish. This award will be made from time to time as circumstances and nominees warrant. He suggested that Judy McCulloh would be an appropriate first recipient of the award for her years of publishing leadership and mentorship in the field. After discussion, **Maggie Holtzberg moved that the Board approve the staff plan for this award, and that Judy McCulloh be named its first recipient. Carolyn Ware seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

The Board broke for lunch at 11:55 am. The meeting reconvened at 12:55 pm.

Also under Old Business, Brent Björkman reported on the Public Program Section's "Advocacy Toolkit" project, designed to create materials to educate all AFS members about effective advocacy. The "Toolkit" is an organic document that will continue to be under development; it is possible that different versions will be created for different sub-communities within the field. The Board discussed the spectrum of approaches that learned societies take to advocacy matters, and the wide advocacy needs of our field and the communities with which folklorists partner.

Under the heading of New Business, Maggie Kruesi raised an issue for future Board attention: how (Skype, webcast, etc.) do we make the annual meeting more accessible to those who cannot attend?

**Diane Goldstein moved that the meeting be adjourned. David Todd Lawrence seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

November 5, 2014

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Timothy Lloyd  
Executive Director

Date

Approved by the American Folklore Society Executive Board:

November 5, 2014

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Michael Ann Williams  
President

Date