

NEASA Council Meeting
January 26, 2008

Present: J. Kehaulani Kauanui, Elif Armbruster, Mary Battenfeld, Renee Romano, Gretchen Sinnett, Richard Holtzman, Marta Rivera Paczynska, Michael Millner, Betsy Klimasmith, Eve Raimon, Mishuana Goeman, Nirmal Trivedi, Ben Railton, Sara Sikes, Anthony Antonucci

12:15 Introductory comments from Raimon, who introduces and turns things over to incoming President Kauanui. Introductions from all officers and Council members. New Secretary Veronica Savory McComb is taking her exams this week and thus absent; Council members can email her with any business.

Railton moves to accept November meeting's minutes, Sinnett seconds, and all approve.

President's letter: Kauanui notes that the website needs to be updated, including a letter from the new President as well as possibly archiving older ones. Raimon will post a reflective letter, and Kauanui one with plans for the upcoming year.

Ex officio appointees: Kauanui notes that Paul Grant-Costa was not reelected to the Council (possibly because his bio did not make it onto the website before the elections) but is still working on the 2008 conference committee, and asks that he be appointed as an ex officio member of the Council; the bylaws allow for such appointees, and this will allow him to continue his work towards the conference. Raimon moves to make Grant-Costa an ex officio appointee, and Klimasmith seconds.

A related question is raised of whether the site coordinator position should become an officer, or at least an equivalent (including invitations to the meetings). If so, it could be a two-year position, which would allow each coordinator to keep working with the next year's coordinator as well. Raimon moves to appoint Grant-Costa to this position for 2008 and Millner for 2009. Battenfeld will look at the bylaws and put something together to codify this change.

Regional rep's report: Klimasmith notes that the deadline for submissions for the next (March) ASA newsletter is 1/31; she will definitely include the 2008 conference CFP and the officer and council names, but wants other information, such as the award winners and descriptions, as well. There is also a separate CFP section in the newsletter to which our CFP will also be sent. Klimasmith asks that we all think of ways to increase our visibility and highlight our work further in future issues.

Secondary ed report: Sikes highlights our being awarded another ASA grant for \$1100, which will allow her and Al Flynn to continue their work on the database; one possibility is to put it online, both for NEASA use and for the schools and programs themselves. Sikes asks for suggestions for other ways to use the database, perhaps including bringing secondary ed teachers together at or around the conference. One possibility would be to reach out to specific groups, whether issue-based such as the Kids Vote Program or

discipline-centered such as NEETA, NEHTA, SSTA; participants could be featured in a panel similar to 2007's gay marriage panel. Key questions will be related to scheduling and payment for participants.

Webmaster's report: Trivedi mentions that he has not yet heard from Brian Sweeney, to receive any material or other details (including the website password) from him. He has looked at the website and has some starting point ideas for ways to improve it. Officers are asked to send him material related to their positions, and all members to send bios, as well as info on the prize recipients and descriptions. Sinnett volunteers to work with Trivedi on questions of design, a graphic for the CFP, and so on. Battenfeld raises the question of whether conference abstracts could be submitted electronically; after discussion it is determined to be too late to try it for the 2008 conference but that we'll consider it for 2009. A reminder that we all can check the group email address, neasacouncil@gmail.com, with the password "officers."

Treasurer's report: Armbruster highlights our financial gains over the past year, from a beginning balance of \$12,158 to an ending balance of \$16,089 (a net of \$3900 or so). We received \$1465 in sponsorships for the 2007 conference, with Brown contributing another \$3900. There is also an ASA rebate of \$2000 that we should be receiving shortly. We will definitely apply to renew the current ASA grant, as well as applying for a new grassroots grant; Klimasmith will write that application.

Quick break

Committees: The committees are formed:

Rudnick Prize: Romano (chair), Armbruster, Goeman

Kelley Prize: Railton (chair), Sinnett, Holtzman

MacFarlane: Antonucci (chair), Rivera Paczynska, Millner, Trivedi

Prize committees will send their descriptions and calls to various media, including the ASA newsletter, listservs and other email announcements, etc.

2008 Conference: Romano, Millner, Klimasmith, Flynn, Kauanui, Battenfeld, Goeman, Rivera Paczynska, Grant-Costa

2009 Conference: Millner, Railton, Antonucci, Battenfeld, Klimasmith, Rivera Paczynska

2008 Conference: Romano discusses her meeting with the Yale conference planner; things are moving forward with the hotel, panel rooms, space for the plenary and the wine and cheese reception, and so on. Extensive conversation about and suggestions for the CFP; Rivera Paczynska takes down the suggestions and will be the point person for revisions to the document, both the prose section and the list of topics. At least a short version of the CFP is needed by January 31 for the ASA newsletter. Trivedi suggests that we use Google Docs to post and work collectively on the CFP; he will use email

addresses from the list of officers and members to create accounts for all of us, and we will then be able to login at any time and make our contributions to the CFP.

2009 Conference: Millner discusses his preliminary conversations with UMass Lowell; the University is happy to host, with the Dean of Arts & Sciences already having promised \$3000 and other support forthcoming. The calendar around that time seems clear, but we do need to pick a date soon, so we can reserve space at the one hotel, the Doubletree. After some conversation and checking of calendars for Jewish holidays, two weekends seem especially promising: October 2-4 and October 16-18. The National Park seems to be a strong option for a site, since it is close to the hotel and the University and features extensive meeting space. A number of possible topics are raised, some around the areas of work/manufacturing/industrialization and others around the theme of the industrial and post-industrial city.

Next meetings: The 2008 conference committee will meet on Saturday 5/10. The next Council meeting will be Saturday 4/5, from 12-3, also at Wesleyan.

Motion to adjourn.