

## **NEASA Council Meeting**

Saturday April 21, 2007

Brandeis University

**Present:** Frank, Sweeney, Dean, Sikes, Gore, Flynn, Bergland, Battenfeld, Antonucci, Grant-Costa, Kauanui, Davé

**Meeting began at 1:30.** Kauanui is acting president in Raimon's absence. Minutes from Jan. 20, 2007, amended and approved.

**Treasurer's Report.** Bergland was acting treasurer in Cassidy's absence. NEASA has a surplus of over \$10,000. In recent years the balance had been as low as \$2000, so the '06 conference committee had been very cautious on expenditures. Even though NEASA broke even on the '06 conference, mailing costs were cut from a few thousand to a few hundred.

With the current surplus, Bergland suggested the council experiment with a sliding scale registration fee in order to widen '07 conference participation. A scale that merely separates faculty from all others was not complex enough, Bergland said, because reimbursement policies vary. Gore pointed out that state institutions often do not reimburse faculty for conference participation. Kauanui said more junior faculty would participate if their fees were reduced.

Frank and Dean suggested a sliding fee based on income and adopting ASA's income scale. The following divisions, based loosely on ASA's, were proposed:

- Undergrad student/ income less than \$12,000
- Grad student/ emeritus
- Income 12,000-36,000
- Income 36,001-60,000
- Income over 60,001

Frank and Bergland worried that NEASA would lose too much income if the fees were set too low, while Gore and Antonucci argued for very low fees. The following fees for the 5 respective categories (above) were suggested : \$20, \$30, \$50, \$75, \$100. Battenfeld offered to write the registration form.

Bergland encouraged all council members to solicit sponsorship of the conference from their institutions of at least \$125, or any amount. Frank said Brown's English and American Civilization departments had already contributed \$200 each. With this sponsorship, all undergrad and grad students from the contributing institution can attend the conference free of charge as "Regional Fellows." A minimal "drop-in fee" will be charged at the door of the Friday Plenary for those wishing to attend this session only.

**Regional Rep's Report.** Bergalnd fills in for Klimasmith. NEASA applied for a \$4500 regional grant from ASA, and will be notified in June. ASA urges that these funds be applied to grass roots and secondary ed collaborations. If the funding comes through,

part will be applied to—and matched by NEASA—the conference’s regional plenary and NEASA’s secondary ed initiatives.

Bergland asks what NEASA would like from the national organization. Frank asked if it would be possible to piggy-back on ASA’s electronic voting capabilities. Battenfeld, as chair of the Election Committee, said she would look into it.

Sikes asked if ASA could expedite putting NEASA’s Secondary Education materials on their website.

Davé asked if there were ways ASA might be helpful to NEASA’s grass roots initiatives, such as sharing any information archived at the national level on local museums.

Dean asked if NEASA could have a named panel at the national conference.

Bergland and Flynn pointed out how difficult it has been to collaborate with secondary teachers since “No Child Left Behind” has put new demands on them. Grant-Costa pointed out some very good secondary resources already exist on the web, such as those of the Connecticut Historical Society, which has a website for teaching American History. Sikes mentioned the website for the Chicago-based Council on American Studies Education (CASE). Bergland asked Sweeney if he could put links to such sites on the NEASA website and Sweeney agreed.

**Secondary Ed Report.** Sikes, chair of this committee, said she completed gathering information for Massachusetts, Vermont, and Rhode Island. She hopes this material will be mounted on the Crossroads website. Sikes reiterated suggestions that NEASA continue to promote workshops with secondary teachers and develop lesson plans. Bergland repeated a suggestion made by Romano that NEASA could facilitate workshops set up by the teachers themselves. Sikes noted the differing scheduling preferences of public and private school teachers.

Flynn said he has several ideas he would like to work on in this committee for working with secondary teachers. Bergland moves to give Sikes and Flynn a consultancy fee out of NEASA’s budget (inc. funds from the ASA grant if forthcoming) to present these options at the next council meeting. Frank seconds. Motion approved.

**Election Report.** Battenfeld said she would explore using ASA’s electronic voting capabilities for NEASA. Bergland reiterated that the vote occurs in December, with the ballot going out shortly before Thanksgiving, and results announced in early January.

**Conference ’08.** Grant-Costa reported that Matt Frye Jacobson, chair of Yale’s American Studies Dept., expressed initial interest in holding the conference at Yale. Grant-Costa will follow up. The council chose the weekends of Sept. 19-20 and Sept. 26-27 as possible dates. Possible titles related to the theme of American Democracy and Freedom were discussed. A working title of “Infectious Freedom: Histories and Cultures of American Democracy” was agreed upon. Council members agreed to explore a joint

conference with the New York regional ASA chapter, given their close proximity to Yale.

**Conference '07.** Grant-Costa reported that he sent out acceptances. He passed out a list of the 6 sessions with panel and paper titles. There are 25 panels, with 3-4 papers in each. Frank noted two other events: an S & M Workshop by the New England Leather Alliance and a reading from the authors of a book about their personal experience with sex change. Council members agreed that a good time for the reading would be during the box lunch on Friday, rather than after dinner Friday evening.

Grant-Costa said George Chauncey and Joanne Meyerowitz have agreed to do the keynote at Saturday's luncheon, but they have not decided if one or both of them will present. Once NEASA gets word on the ASA grant and a conference budget is finalized, the honorarium for the speakers will be determined. Frank asked about charges for the box lunch and keynote luncheon, and it was agreed that we could not charge more than \$8 and \$15 respectively. Brown catering charges about \$15 and \$25, so Frank said she would try to raise some more funds to cover the shortfall.

Grant-Costa said he would check that information about the Kelley prize reaches conference participants. Bergland reminded council members to seek out sponsorships from their institutions. Frank said the sponsors would be named in the program. Frank said she would ask Cassidy about invoicing the sponsors.

Frank noted that the session locations have gallery space that could be available for art or any other exhibit. Frank agreed to work on a poster.

Antonucci, Battenfeld, Frank, and Flynn signed up to chair specific panels, and other council members indicated willingness to chair.

#### **Prize Committees**

Lois Rudnick Book Prize: Hoberman (chair), Johnston, Martin, Sweeney.

Lisa MacFarlane Prize: Davé (chair), Bergland, Railton.

Mary Kelley Prize: Antonucci (chair), Battenfeld, Gore.

Meeting adjourned at 4pm.