

SHAFR Council Minutes

Thursday, June 18, 2020

8 a.m.-12:45 p.m. EDT

via Zoom

Council members present: Kristin Hoganson, presiding; Vivien Chang; Mary Dudziak; Peter Hahn; Andrew Johns; Adriane Lentz-Smith; Kyle Longley; Brian McNamara; Andrew Preston; Kelly Shannon; Lauren Turek; and Karine Walther.

Council members absent: Barbara Keys and Lien-Hang Nguyen.

Also attending: Amy Sayward (ex officio), Faith Bagley, Anne Foster, Petra Goedde, Mitch Lerner, and Patricia Thomas.

Introductory Business

Kristin Hoganson commenced the meeting at 8:05AM EDT. After thanking Council for its service, she proposed a procedure whereby business items not covered before 12:45PM would be divided into those items that could be tabled until the January 2021 Council meeting and those that should be discussed at an interim meeting before January. Additionally, she noted that there were items listed at the end of the agenda that would be considered the equivalent of “consent calendar” items, which would be handled administratively (by the President and Executive Director) unless a Council member moved that any item should be moved to the agenda for discussion and/or vote. There was consensus for this procedure.

Mary Dudziak moved to thank retiring committee and task force members:

- 2020 Conference Committee: Gretchen Heefner (co-chair), Julia Irwin (co-chair), Megan Black, Andrew Buchanan, Jeffrey Byrne, Emily Conroy-Krutz, Konstantine Dierks, Rebecca Herman Weber, Humberto García-Muñiz, Molly Geidel, Daniel Immerwahr, Kevin Kim, Jeannette Jones, Stephen Macekura, David Milne, Corinna Unger, Ngoei Wen-Qing, and Ronald Williams II;
- Development Committee: Richard Immerman, Robert Brigham, and Andrew Preston;
- Graduate Student Committee: Brian McNamara (Co-Chair) and Alvita Akiboh;
- Stuart L. Bernath Book Prize Committee: Madeline Hsu (Chair) and Amanda McVety;
- Stuart L. Bernath Scholarly Article Prize Committee: Tehila Sasson (Chair);
- Robert H. Ferrell Book Prize Committee: Susan Carruthers (Chair) and Nancy Mitchell;
- Norman and Laura Graebner Award: Edward G. Miller (Chair);
- Dissertation Prize Committee: April Merleaux (Chair);
- Michael H. Hunt Prize for International History: Alan McPherson (Chair);
- Myrna Bernath Book Award and Fellowship: Sayuri Shimizu (Chair);
- Marilyn Blatt Young Dissertation Completion Fellowship: Hidetaka Hirota (Chair);
- Conference Conduct Task Force and Reporting Team: Aaron O’Connell; and

- SHAFR Delegate to the National Coalition for History: Matthew Connelly. The motion was seconded by Brian McNamara and passed unanimously (8-0-0).

Amy Sayward recapped the votes that Council had made since its January meeting in order to reaffirm those votes. Those included Council decisions to approve the minutes of its January 2020 meeting, to cancel its face-to-face 2020 conference and related contracts, to roll the sponsorships of that conference to a future New Orleans conference, and to establish a virtual conference page. The affirmation of those votes was unanimous (8-0-0).

Financial Matters

David Engerman, the Endowment Liaison of the Ways & Means Committee, was admitted to the meeting to represent the committee, as its chair, Barbara Keys, was not able to attend the Council meeting. Sayward provided a brief overview of the financial reports provided ahead of time to Council.

Engerman reviewed the Ways and Means Committee's recommendations related to the 2021 conference hotel contract. Additionally, the committee recommended that Council 1) provide those planning the 2021 Conference with flexibility within the overall goal of providing a high-quality, fiscally-prudent conference, 2) step back from the membership rate increases passed by Council in January in light of current economic concerns, 3) add those who are precariously employed into the student rate, and 4) waive the membership fee of those who are precariously employed/low income and serve on SHAFR committees. Karine Walther joined the meeting at this point. A brief discussion ensued about the different types of conferences that might be possible (hybrid vs. entirely on-line) as well as their financial implications. Informing these conversations was an update on SHAFR's 2020 conference cancellation.

There was also discussion about membership rates. Differences in cost of living, the on-going uncertainty of the pandemic, and its financial implications—especially on higher education--were issues raised in support to rescinding the earlier rate increases. Arguments in favor of maintaining the increases for those with higher incomes and creating a higher-income bracket were that it is progressive and that it is in line with the suggestion of the Jobs Crisis Task Force to provide greater support for those who are precariously employed. Dudziak made a motion to postpone the membership increases for one year (to go into effect for the 2022 calendar year) and to include the precariously employed within the student rate category. The motion was seconded by Andrew Johns and passed unanimously (9-0-0). Engerman left the meeting, and Peter Hahn and Kyle Longley joined the meeting at this point.

There was a discussion of three other membership issues. There was general support for the idea of a one-time membership "sale," meant to encourage people who had not renewed to do so; these late renewers would not receive paper back issues of SHAFR publications but would receive all publications for the rest of the year. It was hoped that this invitation back—combined with the easier renewal process now available through the Member Clicks website—would result in a net gain in members. A proposal for a three-year renewal would lock in rates and would be

more convenient for some members. Hoganson moved that SHAFR provide a one-time discount of 50% for the remainder of the year and adopt a three-year renewal option. The motion was seconded by Adriane Lentz-Smith and passed unanimously (11-0-0). Dudziak suggested that SHAFR broadly advertise the membership discount in order to attract new members as well as encourage lapsed members to renew. Hoganson made a motion to adopt the Ways & Means Committee's recommendation to waive SHAFR membership fees for precariously employed/low income members serving on committees and task forces. Hahn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously (11-0-0). Dudziak left the meeting at this point.

Discussion of 2021 Conference Plans

Andrew Preston then talked about the discussions around and progress in thinking about the format for the 2021 Conference and why the task force had settled on the suggestion of a hybrid conference, meaning that some elements will be (potentially) in-person and others will be on-line or mixed. Preston explained that the difficulty of running a hybrid conference will be in making the in-person events and on-line events link up and work together. This will be complicated and will probably necessitate a new format that will be very different to the normal format of the annual conference. One suggestion was to potentially partner with C-SPAN to engage in some cost-sharing. Walther wondered if SHAFR might include information about international travel health insurance issues on its conference website. There was a discussion of the many unknowns related to a hybrid conference, especially the cost of a high-quality provider and what the conference rates might be.

There was significant discussion of satellite events that could be connected to the conference. These were seen as a way to keep overseas members of SHAFR meaningfully connected to the organization and providing, on a smaller scale, the in-person networking that members so appreciate at the conference. The downsides to these events would be the additional planning required in a year in which there will be an unprecedented amount of planning required for a hybrid conference. There would also be some expense incurred in order to support these satellite events and their participants on a fair and equitable basis, though potential satellite organizers anticipated that university facilities could be used without additional cost.

Hoganson moved to adopt the proposed budget (which included the hybrid conference and contractual reductions to the hotel obligation). The motion was seconded by Longley and passed unanimously (10-0-0).

Discussion of Council Representation Issues

Following a break, Mitchell Lerner of the SHAFR Nominating Committee joined the meeting to discuss the proposal for having a Council seat designated for a member in a teaching-focused position as a way of diversifying Council and representing this large segment of the membership. Council also entertained motions for a designated non-U.S.-based member on Council as well as a proposal to reduce the post-presidential term of Council service (which is currently three years). Lerner said that the Nominating Committee did not favor the designation of a non-U.S. designated seat on Council. In part, this was based on the fact that there are currently several

non-U.S. members who are serving on Council and others who have recently run for seats. He also argued that there might be more similarities between U.S. and non-U.S. members of SHAFR from research-focused institutions than between research-focused and teaching-focused institutions within the same country. Some concerns were also expressed about the prospect of a Council composed of members expected to advocate for specific constituencies, of which there are many in SHAFR.

After Lerner left the meeting, Council continued its deliberations. Most expressed the belief that a teaching-centered Council member would provide valuable input for Council discussions. There was also a discussion of including more non-U.S. Americans on Council, regardless of where they might live/teach.

In discussing the post-presidential term, there was discussion of the important institutional memory and guidance provided by past presidents serving on Council. However, reducing the term might attract others to consider running for the office. It was pointed out that reducing the post-presidential term by one year would open up a seat on Council and make “adding” a designated seat revenue-neutral. Additionally, the possibility of greater virtual participation in Council meetings (another proposal before Council) might make it easier for past presidents to continue their service and/or make it easier for SHAFR members located outside of the United States to serve on the Council. Hahn recused himself from further discussion at this point. Lentz-Smith moved the by-laws amendment that Council reduce the post-presidential term by one year, starting on January 1, 2022. Preston seconded the motion, and it passed with none opposed and Preston and Hoganson abstaining (7-0-2). Hahn then rejoined the meeting.

Longley moved a by-laws amendment to add an additional teaching-centered seat to Council, beginning with the 2021 election (if the by-law is approved by the membership). Lauren Turek seconded the motion, which passed unanimously (10-0-0). Brian McNamara then moved that at least one member of Council must be located outside of the United States (at the time of election), thereby requiring a pair of international Council candidates in a SHAFR election should the situation exist that otherwise there would be no non-U.S. based members on Council. Walther seconded the amendment, which passed 8-2-0.

Council also considered the report of the task force on remote participation, which recommended guidelines for what circumstances would justify remote participation by a Council member and recommended that Council re-evaluate the issue after its first “mixed” meeting (partly in person and partly remote). Hoganson moved to accept the report’s recommendations, Lentz-Smith seconded, and the motion passed unanimously (10-0-0).

Terms of Michael J. Hogan Fellowship:

Walther, former chair of the Hogan Fellowship Committee, had proposed in January that the terms of the fellowship be expanded to include those who want to conduct research in foreign-language archives as well as those who want to pursue foreign-language instruction. This would potentially expand the pool of applicants, which has been small, and would potentially be useful

to a larger number of SHAFR graduate student members. There was discussion about shifting the language in the fellowship's description to clarify the meaning of "foreign," especially given that many SHAFR members have acquired English through formal instruction, the context surrounding the founding of the Hogan Fellowship, and whether to prioritize training vs. research. Ultimately, Kelly Shannon moved to adopt the original language of the proposal from the Hogan Fellowship Committee. The motion was seconded by Longley and passed unanimously (10-0-0).

Publication Matters:

Following a break, Anne Foster and Petra Goedde, the editors of *Diplomatic History*, joined the meeting to discuss the written report they had made to Council. Foster talked about the desk-rejection process, which means that fewer low-quality pieces are being sent to referees, which explained the reduction in the number of reviewers listed. Longley thanked the editors for their work with the Open Access Task Force. Preston commended the editors for the high number of non-U.S. submissions and requested a breakdown the acceptance rate among this group of submitters. Foster mentioned that they are trying to figure out which international submissions could become publishable with additional work on English-language issues. She also talked about the COVID-19 feature and developing efforts to better utilize social media to promote *DH* content. Foster and Goedde left the meeting, and Council considered their proposal for new editorial board members. Hoganson moved to accept the recommendations, Lentz-Smith seconded the motion, and 9 voted in favor with McNamara abstaining (9-0-1).

Trish Thomas of Oxford University Press joined the meeting, highlighting some elements from the publisher's report. She stated that the pandemic had not significantly affected the printing and production of OUP journals to date, although international mailings had been held back. She lauded the *Diplomatic History* editorial team's timeliness in producing journal content. Asked about the likely long-term effects of the pandemic, she thought there might well be more of a focus on online-only subscriptions moving forward, even among libraries. Thomas then left the meeting.

Council reviewed the proposal to enter into a partnership with CIAO (Columbia International Affairs Online) utilizing *Passport* content that would be selected by the *Passport* editor in conjunction with the editorial board—ceding no rights and incurring no expenses. Hoganson moved to accept the proposal, Vivien Chang seconded the motion, and it passed (9-0-1) with Andrew Johns abstaining.

2022 SHAFR Conference:

Hoganson asked for formal Council approval for planning to have the 2022 SHAFR conference in New Orleans (with Toronto becoming the location of the 2024 conference), given the work of the local arrangements committee for the 2020 conference and the membership's excitement about the location. She also spoke about some of SHAFR's options for that 2024 conference. Her motion was to reschedule the 2022 conference for New Orleans--empowering the President and Executive Director to identify the best location for the conference--and to have Toronto

serve as the 2024 conference venue. Longley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (10-0-0).

Solidarity Statement:

The soon-to-be-renamed Committee on Minority Historians in SHAFR recommended that SHAFR adopt the following statement:

“The Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR) affirms that Black Lives Matter and condemns state and non-state violence against racialized communities in the United States and abroad. We stand in solidarity with those who have been fighting anti-Black racism and vow to continue working for the full inclusion and equality of all peoples in all institutions and communities to which we belong, including SHAFR.

“Consistent with SHAFR's mission to promote ‘the study, advancement and dissemination of knowledge of American foreign relations,’ we believe in identifying the inequities and imbalances of power and influence between and within states and highlighting the connections between racism, patriarchy, economic exploitation, and imperialism. We hope you will join us in fostering research and dialogue including diverse constituencies, working towards meaningful change, justice, and healing.”

Several members commented that the statement was better than others they had seen and commended the committee for its work. Hoganson said that Council should do more to center the goals of the statement within the organization. She moved acceptance of the resolution, Walther seconded it, and it passed unanimously (10-0-0).

Issues Related to Archives:

Hoganson highlighted the key elements of the proposal from Matthew Connelly to establish a Task Force on Advocacy to supplement and amplify the work of SHAFR’s Historical Documentation Committee, the State Department’s Historical Advisory Committee, and the National Coalition for History. Hearing no objections from Council, she stated that she would create the proposed task force on a three-year trial basis, which is within her purview as SHAFR President, instructing the Task Force to adhere to the following guidelines, to ensure compliance with not-for-profit and SHAFR policy:

- **Internal communications:** Working through a MemberClicks or other list-serve and social media to alert interested members to NARA and other SHAFR-related appropriations and policy matters. The Advocacy Task Force should work with the HDC, SHAFR representative to the NCH, and other professional associations (such as the AHA) to identify alerts and then to circulate alerts related to the kinds of research that SHAFR members conduct. If the implications for SHAFR members of some of these alerts are not clear, the Task Force can provide explanatory text, in consultation with the HDC. This work should be informational. In its general internal communications efforts, the Task Force must not urge or advocate specific actions to be taken by members.

- Agency advocacy: Mobilizing members to call for departments or agencies to change policies, rules, or regulations or adopt new ones.
- Legislation: Developing a slate of advocacy issues and general policy positions that are not reduced to specific legislative proposals that would go through the Council and membership approval process stipulated by our bylaws and then to engage in direct lobbying on those issues. (Since this would not be a funded effort, we would easily fall within the financial guidelines for non-profit organizations, and since it would represent a small fraction of SHAFR's overall work, it would fall within allowable limits for non-profits).
- External communications: Publicizing the general policy positions that are not reduced to specific legislative proposals that have been approved by Council and the membership.

Council then considered a proposal from the Historical Documentation Committee to establish the Anna Kasten Nelson Outstanding Archivist Award, which would not include a monetary award. Hoganson moved to accept the recommendation, which was seconded by Longley and passed 9-0-1, with Shannon as the abstention.

Business Tabled until January 2021:

- A proposal to host 1 out of 10 SHAFR conferences outside of the United States.
- *Passport* permission-to-publish template and draft MOU
- Evaluation of Conference Consultant
- Conflict of Interest policy clarification
- Proposal on recording Council votes and on publishing committee reports
- Proposal on public engagement podcasting

As no items were judged to require an interim meeting before January 2021, such a meeting will not be held unless urgent business requires it.

Concluding Business:

Hoganson reminded Council that she would be appointing a task force on the position of the executive director so that a review could be concluded by June 2021, providing sufficient time to either renew the current executive director or to ensure an orderly and timely transition to a new executive director.

Hearing no requests from Council to move any items listed in the agenda's consent calendar to the agenda for discussion, Hoganson affirmed her commitment to work with the committees to handle their requests and recommendations administratively, along with the Executive Director.

Meeting adjourned at 12:46 PM EDT