

SHAFR Council meeting
8 June 2022 via Zoom 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. US EDT

Present: Laura Belmonte (presiding), Shaun Armstead, Emily Conroy-Krutz, Ann Heiss, Kristen Hoganson, Kyle Longley, Sarah Miller-Davenport, Andrew Preston, Lauren Turek, Vanessa Walker, Karine Walther, Molly Wood, Kelsey Zavelo, Amy Sayward (ex officio)

Attending: Faith Bagley, Elizabeth Ferguson, Anne Foster, Petra Goedde, Amy Offner

Introductory Matters:

Laura Belmonte started meeting and asked for motion of thanks for outgoing committee, Council, and task force members and chairs:

- Ways & Means Committee chair Andrew Preston and member Mark Lawrence
- *Diplomatic History* editorial board members Lori Clune, Justin Hart, and Amy Offner
- Development Committee member Catherine Forslund
- Graduate Student Committee members Mattie Webb, Jeffrey Rosario, Koji Ito, and Katie Davis
- Stuart L. Bernath Book Prize committee chair Jeremi Suri
- Stuart L. Bernath Lecture Prize committee chair Brooke Blower
- Stuart L. Bernath Scholarly Article Prize committee chair Melani McAlister
- Dissertation Prize committee chair V. Scott Kaufman
- Robert H. Ferrell Book Prize committee chair Sheyda Jahanbani
- Norman and Laura Graebner Award committee chair Robert Brigham
- Peter L. Hahn Distinguished Service Award committee chair Mary Dudziak
- Michael H. Hunt Prize for International History committee chair Nathan Citino
- Link-Kuehl Prize for Documentary Editing committee chair Christopher Dietrich
- Myrna Bernath Book and Fellowship Awards committee chair Daniel Immerwahr

Andrew Preston moved, Ann Heiss seconded, and all voted in favor (13-0-0).

Amy Sayward then reviewed the motions voted on since the January Council Meeting:

- Approval of January 2022 Council minutes
- Approval of March 2022 Council minutes
- Approval of Sanctions & Appeals Committee operating procedures
- Endorsement of SHAFR statement on the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)
- Advocacy vote on Presidential Records Act (with membership concurring)
- Advocacy vote on CoSA statement on AOTUS characteristics (insufficient membership support)
- Advocacy vote on Ukraine (with membership concurring)

Advocacy Issues:

Belmonte reviewed issues with the current bylaws, which require a membership vote for advocacy statements passed by Council. No other historical organizations have such requirements. She also

posed the question of whether the scope of SHAFR's advocacy should be limited and opened the floor for discussion. Council members agreed that the current process is cumbersome, requiring a minimum of 7-8 days. Sometimes a decision is needed more quickly, which would require a more flexible policy. One member suggested that perhaps Council could simply vote on more professional concerns (as elected representatives of the membership), with the membership as a whole voting on more political concerns. But another suggested that some issues will not be clearly divided between professional and political concerns, and another suggested that Council needs and the membership has a right to provide input on advocacy issues. Another was worried about fatiguing members with so many advocacy votes and emails. Following on this concern, a member suggested possibly having a blanket authorization for certain issues core to SHAFR's mission but targeted advocacy, especially as the more statements are made the louder silences become. A Council member wondered aloud whether the bar might be set at unanimous Council support (which would suggest a core issue) else the motion should go to the membership for input, which would also eliminate the need to define issues as professional or political. This idea had general support. Since any such policy change will require an amendment of the by-laws, Council asked Sayward and Belmonte to work on language for a subsequent Council vote and then a vote by the membership in the fall election.

Amy Offner, SHAFR's representative to the National Coalition for History (NCH), then joined meeting and reviewed concerns about the NCH's advocacy on issues related to NARA access and declassification, which are of utmost concern to SHAFR. She stated that since the NCH is currently undergoing an internal evaluation, it might be an opportune time for SHAFR to initiate a discussion with NCH leadership. The question was raised whether it was appropriate for SHAFR, as an international organization, to have such a focus on U.S. issues, but another stressed how the issues in the United States – whether the jobs crisis or declassification of U.S. government documents – have implications for the entire global membership.

Sayward then referred Council to Richard Immerman's email discussing SHAFR's representatives on the ad hoc group formed to regularly discuss pressing issues with the U.S. National Archives. Council reached consensus that SHAFR's representatives should be the chair of the Historical Documentation Committee (currently Sarah Snyder) and the SHAFR President, in order to provide an element of continuity and also to communicate to NARA the importance of these issues to SHAFR. Council members pointed out the importance of maintaining a list of contacts within the organization with significant experience on these issues that both of SHAFR's representatives could and should reach out to ahead of meetings in order to be fully briefed and prepared.

Financial Matters:

Sayward reviewed her mid-year financial report and proposed fiscal year 2022-23 budget for Council. She noted boxes in blue, which could be affected by subsequent Council action. She also pointed out that the proposed annual meeting budget does not currently consider a virtual component, which would be about \$10,000 extra. Sayward also pointed out that Sherry Mart, SHAFR's external investigator for code of conduct violations, had retired and that her replacement charges \$7,500 for training and being on-call, with further expenses if there is an investigation.

Preston then reviewed the Ways and Means Committee report, as the committee had discussed anything with financial implications. However, he emphasized that the committee only makes suggestions, as only Council can vote on appropriations. The committee's first recommendation was for both the *Guide* and *Passport* editors to receive an annual stipend of \$7,000. After a short discussion, the committee's motion to raise the stipend for both to \$7,000 and to retain the *Passport* editor's \$650 in travel support was passed unanimously. The question of whether or not to include a virtual component for next year's conference was deferred to Council's September meeting, when it would have a membership survey as well as the Conference Coordinator's report on which to make an informed decision. Council then discussed what SHAFR's policy should be in terms of reimbursing Council members attending the June conference moving forward, since Council meetings will continue to be via Zoom for the foreseeable future. In the past, reimbursement of conference travel expenses was tied to attendance at the Council meeting during the conference. There was discussion of possibly having a pool of funds that Council members could apply to, and there was discussion about whether some positions (perhaps with specific constituents) should have priority for travel support. Sayward reviewed the previous policy, which allocated \$10,000 in the budget to reimburse Council members' airfare/mileage and stay at the conference rate (or lower). Karine Walther made a motion to maintain the current system for all in-person conferences, as Council members do need to engage with the membership, which happens most directly at the in-person conference. She subsequently amended her motion that the current policy and budget should give special priority to graduate students, international members (international to the conference), and teaching-centered members. Vanessa Walker seconded the amended motion, which passed with one abstention (12-0-1).

Publications:

Petra Goedde, editor of *Diplomatic History*, joined the meeting and reviewed the report that she and Anne Foster had written for Council. She noted that the transition of two assistant editors had happened smoothly. She noted that the journal's acceptance rate had gone down, which might be related to the increase in international submissions, which are not always submitted in a way that translates easily into the format of the journal. She introduced an idea that the editors had discussed, of having a mechanism to provide assistance to a committee/person who could assist promising rejections as part of an effort to increase international participation. Goedde also pointed to the journal's new concept series, which highlights new concepts as a think piece that could be good conversation starters; two sessions of the conference focus on these as well. A Council member asked if these concept pieces were peer-reviewed, and Goedde responded that they were peer-reviewed by members of the editorial board. She also pointed out that they had been made available as open access to be of greater use in teaching. There was further discussion about the idea of having a mentor for international submissions with language barriers and differing formats. Goedde pointed out that the editors could not assign a mentor, as this would create a conflict of interest. It was suggested that this might be an issue that the Task Force on Internationalization might flesh out for subsequent Council discussion. Emily Conroy-Krutz made a motion to approve the suggestions from the editors for appointment to the *Diplomatic History* editorial board. Walther seconded the motion, which passed unanimously (13-0-0).

Elizabeth Ferguson from Oxford University Press (who has succeeded Trish Thomas) then joined meeting and highlighted elements of the Publisher's report. She stated that the journal's readership is good, with most readers based in the United States and Europe, with a slight drop in East Asian readership.

People are largely going straight to the publisher's website to access articles, which is good. She explained the impact factor, which fluctuates significantly for historical journals, and explained that there had been a significant rise in 2021 in open access articles, in part due to several campaigns to increase readership. She happily reported that the publication schedule was back on track and that the type-setter issues that the journal had experienced previously were now resolved; Goedde seconded this observation. In response to questions about significant delays in getting members their missing or back issues, Ferguson reported that the issue was largely the result of an unreliable U.S. Postal Service and pandemic-related issues in OUP customer service. However, reforms had been made in customer service, and Ferguson fully expected all customer service issues to be addressed within 3-4 business days. Ferguson and Goedde then left the meeting.

Sayward also pointed out that SHAFR's first contract with Temple University is set to expire on June 30, 2024. She has asked Goedde to evaluate Temple's willingness to consider a renewal for an additional five years, conditional as well upon the editors' willingness to continue and Council's approval. Goedde was confident that she could ascertain this during the Fall 2022 semester.

Conference Matters:

Walther highlighted the proposed update to Code of Conduct Response Team (CCRT) reporting procedure. SHAFR's current policy calls for two members of the CCRT to do the initial interview with the reporter, but conversations with Paula Brantner, SHAFR's new external investigator ahead of the training earlier that week had revealed that it is generally Brantner's practice to be the "first responder," taking reports via a hotline number and email address and then reporting anonymized information to the CCRT, Executive Director, and President for a decision on sanctions. Sayward iterated that this procedure would uphold several key values that had emerged and crystalized in Council discussions over the past several years, including maintenance of anonymity and avoidance of any appearance of conflict of interest. Walther also stated that members of the CCRT felt underqualified (despite training) to handle these initial reports. Therefore, she made a motion that any report of a potential code of conduct violation should go to the external investigator first. Conroy-Krutz seconded the motion, and all voted in favor (13-0-0).

Sayward then reviewed issues related to SHAFR's presence at the annual American Historical Association (AHA) meeting, which also has financial implications. She explained that she had been unable to identify an off-site location for a reception and asked whether SHAFR wants to continue to host a luncheon and reception at the AHA, especially given the cost. This question was also animated by the fact that Council was not going to meet in-person at the AHA in the future. Sayward pointed out that a hotel reception required a bartender and cashier and generally attracted about fifty people before the pandemic and about a dozen at the most recent (pandemic-impacted) AHA meeting. Kyle Longley moved that SHAFR should continue to host a luncheon and sponsor AHA sessions, at least until more post-pandemic information is available. Sarah Miller-Davenport seconded the motion, which passed unanimously (13-0-0).

Sayward also briefed Council on SHAFR's new Conference Coordinator, Kaete O'Connell, who Sayward commended for doing an excellent job despite some challenges in the planning for this year's campus conference (especially related to the recent cancelation of our bus contract).

Financial Matters (continued):

There was general consensus, following from the Ways & Means Committee report, to ask the Development Committee to develop a campaign around issues of access, representation, and equity, as previously proposed by Kristin Hoganson.

Ann Heiss made a motion to approve the FY 2022-23 proposed budget, as amended by Council's motions. Conroy-Krutz seconded the motion, which passed unanimously (13-0-0). There was also general consensus to request that Brill cover half of the cost of the editor's increased stipend, in line with Council's previous discussion about a 50/50 cost-sharing with the publisher moving forward. ,

Membership Matters:

Sayward highlighted that there had been several recent polls (by the Teaching Committee and by the Graduate Committee) as well as proposed polls (of SHAFR members at "teaching institutions" and of recent PhD graduates). Therefore, she proposed to conduct an in-depth poll that would also gauge members' preferences in terms of conference format moving forward. She will circulate a draft survey to Council for its feedback before sending it to members.

Prize Matters:

Sayward raised the question of whether SHAFR wanted to have a prohibition on one person receiving two book awards. She pointed out that there is currently a prohibition on the same person winning the Myrna Bernath Book Award and either the Stuart Bernath or Ferrell Book prizes. However, Belmonte pointed out that there was no such prohibition by the AHA. And additionally, the donors to the Hunt Prize had not stipulated such a prohibition (unlike the Myrna Bernath Award). Council did not express a concern with one book winning multiple prizes where it was not prohibited.

Concluding Matters:

Sayward mentioned that her contract will expire on July 30, 2025, so next year's Council will want to begin the search process to ensure ample transition time. Council expressed a preference for January 3, 2023 for its first Council meeting of the year. Sayward will be in touch to confirm that date and to set a date for a September meeting.

Hoganson ended the meeting by thanking Belmonte and Sayward for their work on behalf of SHAFR.