

AAG Council Meeting Minutes **March 28–29, 2016 San Francisco, California**

Present: Sarah Bednarz, *President*; Glen MacDonald, *Vice President*; Mona Domosh, *Past President*; Melissa Gilbert, *Treasurer*; Thomas Mote, *Secretary*; Douglas Richardson, Executive Director; Stuart Aitken, Julie Cidell, Sara Diamond, Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, Richard Kujawa, Patrick Lawrence, Robert Mason, Scott Mensing, Gregory Pope, Darren Purcell, Susan Roberts, Jeremy Tasch, Susy Ziegler

AAG Staff: Sara Haywood, Michael Solem, Yonette Thomas, John Wertman

Observers: Derek Alderman, David DiBiase, Cathleen McAnneny

Opening of the Spring 2016 AAG Council Meeting

President Sarah Bednarz called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. on March 28 and introduced visitors and AAG staff.

The meeting agenda was accepted by acclamation. The following items were approved by unanimous consent: acknowledge approval of Fall 2015 Council Minutes on March 17, Report on Membership Services, Report on Guide to Programs in the Americas, Report on Communications, Report on AAG Resolution for K-12 Geography Education, Report on Funding for Geography and Social Sciences, Reports on Other Policy Initiatives, and Awards Announcements.

President's Comments

President Bednarz discussed the evaluation of the Executive Director, which was organized around the framework of five areas in the recently adopted Long Range Plan. The Executive Director Evaluation Committee praised the Executive Director for ensuring the financial stability of the Association and identified two areas for growth: electronic communications including the website and social media and the development of a clear succession plan for AAG leadership accompanied by statements of staff responsibilities and performance evaluation procedures. Bednarz suggested a preliminary plan be received by 1 September. Work is also beginning to consider procedures to use the earnings of the Richardson Endowment when it reaches the goal of 15 million dollars. Bednarz reported that during the Executive Committee meeting, Glen MacDonald and others discussed ways the Association can make regional meetings more robust and give graduate students more access to regional and national meetings. Bednarz said the membership survey was generally positive about the health of the Association, but it raised issues about engaging members in meaningful ways.

Vice President's Comments

Vice President Glen MacDonald said that previous presidents have accomplished much on outreach and diversity and inclusion, and he will seek to advance those efforts further. He indicated his support for ongoing efforts to reconsider the membership dues structure. MacDonald stated that Bednarz has been working on a Fellows program, and he supports that effort to recognize members. MacDonald described the Association as the international marketplace of ideas on geography, and he seeks to increase the scope of that marketplace.

MacDonald also said that he wants to reconsider the titles for national councillors. Furthermore, he indicated that he wants the Association to be in a position to offer assistance to other geography-focused organizations. Finally, he said that he wants the Association to embrace professional practitioners, such as planners and GIS&T professionals.

Past President's Comments

Past President Domosh said one important accomplishment from her presidency was the Association's first membership survey. She encouraged the Association to continue surveying members to ensure that voices of members are heard. One of her priorities as president was thinking creatively about interdisciplinarity, and she noted several sessions at the annual meeting on related topics. Domosh highlighted the task force that she spearheaded on diversifying the curriculum. She also highlighted a task force that was formed to address issues surrounding mental health of members, particularly students.

Reports from Regional Councillors

Richard Kujawa, chair of the regional councillors, provided a summary of regional division updates with the full reports to be provided on the Association website. The highlights that he presented for each region are as follow:

East Lakes

Extremely limited funding for replacing or hiring additional faculty and for purchasing improved and emerging technologies, especially Geo Info Systems and Remote Sensing. General decline in geography BA and MA majors over the last five years (although many departments still teach large and increasing numbers of service classes and students including those for general education requirements all students must meet).

Great Plains/Rocky Mountains

2016 GPRM Regional Meeting to be hosted by the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs on October 21-22. 2017 GPRM Regional Meeting to be hosted by the Department of Geography at the University of North Dakota (date TBA).

Middle Atlantic

The MAD-AAG, for the first time, is able to fully fund its student Geography Bowl Team (The Mad Hatters) to compete at the annual bowl competition in San Francisco. And to assist with this effort, the US Bureau of the Census, Geography Division, agreed to cover student team members' AAG Conference registration fees. Marking two concurrent developments, Towson University is the new host for the Maryland Geographic Alliance and hosted the 2015 Annual MAD-AAG Conference (if not for the first time, then certainly the first time for most of the region's current membership). Bringing together a record of almost 40 individual paper presentations, the keynote address drew attention to Baltimore's negative international publicity following the death of Freddie Gray, in order to reveal new research that points toward opportunities to reverse Baltimore's declining population and to revitalize the city's urban fabric.

Middle States

Several departments have expanded, adding faculty, majors, and programs. The growth in programs is especially encouraging. Additions include a Sustainability MA (Binghamton), Meteorology & Climatology, BS (Delaware), Environmental Sustainability major (Oneonta), Geography A.S. (Monroe Community College), BS in GIS (Farmingdale), Geography BA (College of Staten Island), and a Professional Master's in GIS (Temple). At the same time, there is much budget uncertainty and cutbacks. One major institution has had to eliminate travel funding for graduate students.

New England and Saint Lawrence Valley

In October 2015 Bridgewater State University hosted a successful regional meeting. There were approximately 135 registrations with more than half registering as students. Our keynote speaker this year, a tradition at NESTVAL to hold a public plenary, was Dr. Francisco Henrique de Oliveira from the State University of Santa Catarina in Brazil. He delivered a fascinating talk on cadastral techniques and their impacts on land claims and property ownership in Brazil. NESTVAL made a lifetime achievement award to Vernon Domingo whose tireless work on Geographic Education is known regionally and nationally through his work with the Massachusetts Geographic Alliance, his persistence, with colleagues, in trying to advance a state-wide curriculum in Geography, and through the Earth View touring globe. Our 2016 meeting will be held at Bishops University, near Sherbrooke, in the Province of Quebec. NESTVAL while a region within the AAG is also a bi-national Geography Society and we work hard to keep our Canadian colleagues engaged in our work. If you plan to attend, make sure you have a passport or enhanced license to cross the border. Bienvenue au Quebec, La Belle Province!

Pacific Coast

Across the Pacific Coast Region there have been a number of new programs created within the past year. A sampling of these includes at the Univ. of Southern California an M.S. in Spatial Informatics and Ph.D. in Population, Health and Place; at San Diego State three new research centers with foci in social media data analytics, water resources and climate, and security; at Cal State, Northridge a new curriculum on Water resources with 7 new courses; at Cal State Chico a new B.S degree; at Pierce College an AA-T in Geography (Associate in Arts degree in Geography for Transfer) and an AA degree in GIS; at Portland State a new minor in Water Resources; at San Francisco State a new B.S. in Environmental Science; and at the Univ. of Washington a new online Masters in and Sustainability Management. On the whole there has been more growth in new faculty than loss of positions, a welcome new trend following the severe budget cuts of a few years ago. At least eight departments indicate new hires (Univ. of Washington, Chico State, UCLA, UC Davis, Univ. of Nevada, Reno, Univ. of Oregon, Arizona State and Oregon State) which appear in most cases to be new additions to the faculty.

Southeastern

The division's Steering Committee approved the appointment of Hilda Kurtz and Deepak Mishra at the University of Georgia as the new editors of the *SouthEastern Geographer*. The journal is

published quarterly, has a robust queue of submissions, and continues to be managed and printed by the University of North Carolina Press. The incoming editors have discussed options for the journal name and publishing arrangements with the Steering Committee. The SEDAAG Executive Committee has discussed the name of the division in light of the AAG name change effective January 1, 2016. This topic will be considered further at the 2016 meeting.

Southwest

The University of New Mexico and New Mexico State University have proposed a New Mexico Joint Doctoral Program in Geography, to be offered collaboratively. The proposal is going through the review process on both campuses and will spend at least a year going through the approval processes on each campus before moving on to state-level review, pending institutional approval. Both departments are very excited about the PhD proposal. The program will focus on integrative human-environment dynamics and is designed to ensure that students master both theory and praxis, thus preparing them for scholarly and leadership roles within the academy and beyond. The University of Oklahoma Department of Geography and Environmental Sustainability developed an MS in Geography and a Graduate Certificate in Geospatial Information Technologies. Both programs are now awaiting approval by the regents. Additionally, a new concentration in the Geography BA, geohumanities, also awaits regents' approval.

West Lakes

While many states in the region are struggling with budget cuts, the state of Illinois' continuing failure to pass a budget has resulted in no state funding for any Illinois institution of higher education to date during the current fiscal year. Western Illinois University has put faculty and other employees on furlough or layoffs; Eastern Illinois University is deferring salary payments in addition to staff layoffs; and Chicago State University may not remain open for the current semester. Private universities such as DePaul and Augustana are affected as well, as state grants for low-income students are not being disbursed, and universities are providing the funding themselves. On a brighter note DePaul University won the first AAG Program award and Illinois State University received an Honorable Mention. Congratulations to both programs.

Student Representative's Comments

Student Representative Sara Diamond reported that the Graduate Student Affinity Group (GSAG) will submit a full statement regarding divestiture in fossil fuels to a future council meeting. Diamond has worked with Bednarz and others on "best practice" guidelines for how departments can interact with graduate students on a range of issues including matters that should be addressed in a graduate operations handbook and matters graduate program faculty should consider when managing a program such as ensuring stipends are in line with local living wages. She said some parts of the guidelines need further development, such as how to deal with matters that are controlled by departments and which by university policies.

Consideration of the best practices guidelines will continue, led by Diamond, Susan Roberts and Bednarz, who will work to bring a full document for review to the Fall 2016 Council meeting.

Discussion of Data collection template for AAG

As a way to inform general data collection efforts, Bednarz asked Council members for their impressions of the results of the membership survey. Domosh reminded Council that there were multiple purposes for the survey, including collecting baseline data related to diversity and contingent faculty. She said that the Association does not know the percent of members who are contingent faculty. Domosh also noted that a large number of members are interested in a new journal in environmental change. Dupigny-Giroux said the survey data do not necessarily match perceptions and deserve deeper drilling, particularly with respect to career stage and satisfaction. Roberts said that she was disappointed by the relatively low number of respondents who felt that the AAG values their opinion. She asked how the Association can improve communication so members feel their opinions are valued. Jeremy Tasch highlighted the responses in the survey regarding reasons for faculty contingency. Patrick Lawrence pointed to responses that indicate member satisfaction is tied to the annual meeting, and he asked Council and staff to continue to be mindful of the importance of this relationship. Richardson pointed to a high level of satisfaction among current members, noting that 92% of respondents said that they are satisfied with membership. Bednarz noted that satisfaction varies with length of membership; the most satisfied members are retirees. Scott Mensing mentioned the high response rate of human geographers and the relative lack of responses from physical geographers. Robert Mason commented that the mix of respondents may have a self-selection bias toward members who have been highly involved in the AAG. He said that members who did not respond may be those individuals whom the Association needs to reach as new or expanded constituencies. Darren Purcell emphasized findings regarding barriers to participation in the annual meeting. Julie Cidell said that she was surprised at the responses regarding the jobs and careers center given the large effort put into this by the Association. Hutchinson pointed out that while Council has discussed the cost of meetings as a significant factor affecting membership, the survey data did not confirm this.

Executive Director's Comments

Executive Director Doug Richardson encouraged the Council to consider proposals for new services and programs in historical context. He noted that when he started as Executive Director, there were few services provided to regional divisions, while a wide range of support services are now available. The Association now provides financial and bookkeeping services, technical and website support, interactive communications sites and other support for regional divisions and a growing number of specialty groups. The Association has provided a proliferation of new services to members, and he encouraged the Council to consider the cost and staffing needed to sustain these services. He noted the extraordinary increase in AAG membership and AAG Annual Meeting attendance during the past decade and that members are coming in larger numbers from more countries. He added that he has worked hard as Executive Director to take the organization from a time of financial need to a flourishing, financially strong organization. Richardson said that the Association has kept membership fees and annual meeting fees low compared to other similar organizations. Richardson indicated that he has facilitated additional revenue streams to the Association through gifts, research, grants and other sources. The Association has built a strong financial foundation and increased

revenue by growing membership numbers and annual meeting attendance not by raising member dues or annual meeting fees.

STATUS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Finance

Treasurer Melissa Gilbert reported on the Finance Committee Meeting held March 4 in Washington, D.C. with the AAG auditors and the Sun Trust investment adviser. Gilbert noted that the auditors were extremely complimentary and ranked the Association in the top 5-10% of organizations in accounting practices. The most recent audit of the Association was extremely positive and the financial standing of the Association is very healthy. Gilbert reviewed new accounting rules, the AAG Audit Report Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets, and the Statement of Financial Position, among other documents, with the Council members. Gilbert indicated that Association has had a conservative investment strategy during the past 15 years.

The Executive Committee and Council had asked the Finance Committee to begin exploring avenues for socially responsible investing; the Finance Committee received information from Richardson at the meeting on peer organizations' socially responsible investment policies but did not have sufficient time to make any recommendations.

The Finance Committee also discussed an Executive Committee proposal to change the membership fee structure. The Finance Committee did not have an analysis of the financial impact when they met on March 4, 2016. The Finance Committee asked that Council consider the financial impacts of restructuring of membership fees. Gilbert acknowledged that the decision to restructure membership fees would be based on encouraging membership, not necessarily as a financial strategy.

Council accept the AAG Financial Report from AAG Auditors Thompson Greenspon for FYE 2015. The Committee congratulates the Doug Richardson and the AAG finance staff for their continued strong financial performance and management strategies. Gilbert moved, Purcell second, motion passed unanimously.

Gilbert then discussed the potential changes in Association investment strategies to move to a less conservative, slightly more aggressive position.

Council adopt an AAG investment strategy that allows up to 50% of the Douglas Richardson Endowment for Geography's Future funds to be invested in a diversified, managed fund at Sun Trust Investment Services, as investment income becomes available through the maturation of bonds or CDs. Council authorizes the Executive Director, in consultation with the financial advisor, to sell selected bonds which may be sold at a profit, for re-investment in the diversified, managed fund at Sun Trust Investment Services, referenced above. AAG investments in equities shall be no more

than 25% of the total Richardson Endowment. Gilbert moved, Mensing second, motion passed unanimously.

Gilbert reported to Council that the Finance Committee believes the issue of socially responsible investing is too expansive for the committee to consider and should be made by Council with input from membership. Richardson suggested a model in which a portion of the endowment would be invested in different types of funds to see how they perform, while being mindful of the volatility in some sectors. Gilbert indicated that the Association has many goals to achieve with endowed funds, and social responsibility is one of the factors that could be considered. Richardson indicated that he could ask the financial adviser to consider a range of socially responsible funds to recommend. Roberts suggested experimenting with more than one socially responsible fund. Richardson suggested that the Council should decide on a fixed amount of money and criteria for socially responsible investments.

Establish a working group to look at investment strategies of AAG in terms of generally accepted practices of socially and environmentally responsible investments. MacDonald moved, Roberts seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Council congratulates the Finance Committee on their efforts regarding reviewing and revising investment strategies of the Association. Mensing moved, Bednarz seconded, motion approved unanimously.

Council approves the proposed budget for FYE 2017. Gilbert moved, Kujawa seconded, motion approved unanimously.

Bednarz and Gilbert recommended that the Executive Director prepare a one-page, bulleted summary focused on the proposed budget for the Council to review in the future.

Membership

Richardson said the Association is approaching 12,000 members with a positive trend over the past several years. He noted that over the past decade there has been strong growth in student members, which represent 39% of the total membership. The Association has focused on growing international membership with particular attention given to developing regions.

Richardson discussed the membership fee structure and said that the Association already has a progressive structure, more so than other similar organizations. Hutchinson asked about corporate and organizational memberships. Richardson indicated that the organizational memberships require a great deal of staff attention, but that membership category continues to serve around 200 members.

MacDonald brought the issue of membership dues for graduate students and postdocs to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee discussion also included the “drop off” between student membership and the lower income membership categories. The Executive Committee discussed whether the Association could restructure fees to help postdocs and

lower income members. He said the Executive Committee decided to recommend a fiscal analysis of potential fee changes. MacDonald said that the overarching goal of the changes would be to keep people continually engaged as members through their careers. Association staff examined a series of scenarios for restructuring membership fees to reduce fees for students, postdocs and other members with lower incomes. The scenarios were presented to Council for consideration.

Domosh advocated for a membership fee structure that keeps as many members as possible with dues less than \$100. Lawrence expressed concern about creating larger gaps in the fee structure. Mote raised a question why there would be a difference in fee for postdocs versus visiting assistant professors or other contingent faculty. Hutchinson examined the proposed fee structures when expressed as a percent of income. Bednarz indicated that she would like to see an evaluation of the impact of the change on the membership numbers going forward. Richardson said that Council needs to be mindful of the fee structure of other organizations.

Council adopt – for a three-year period followed by an analysis – a change in the membership dues structure such that graduate students and postdoctoral students dues are reduced to \$49 per year, members dues for members with income up to \$35k are reduced to \$65 per year, dues for members with income from \$35k to \$50k are reduced to \$115 per year, all undergraduates dues will be \$38 per year, and all other membership categories remain unchanged. MacDonald moved, Domosh seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Kujawa asked about the possibility of AAG collecting dues for the regional divisions, at the request of the divisions.

Publications

Publications Committee Chair Stuart Aitken presented an evaluation of AAG Publications conducted by the Publications Committee. He mentioned the low readership of the *AAG Review of Books* that was reported in the membership survey, and he said the Publications Committee discussed ways to enhance the visibility of that publication. Aitken reported that the new *GeoHumanities* journal has good submission, acceptance, and time to decision rates. The journal had a large number of submissions from outside of Geography. He reported that the impact factors for *Annals of the AAG* and *Professional Geographer* both increased recently. However, he also reported that the time to decision for the journals has increased for some sections. Aitken said that two new editors began this year with the *Annals*, and the Publication Committee does not anticipate the need for editorial searches in the fall. He then recommended approval of editorial board additions recommended by two editors.

Jeremy Crampton and Wendy Cheng be added to the editorial board of the Annals of the AAG. Aitken moved, Kujawa seconded, motion approved unanimously.

Sue Ruddick to write the Annals Memorial for Ed Soja. Aitken moved, Kujawa seconded, motion approved unanimously.

An Annals Memorial will be written for Doreen Massey. Aitken moved, Kujawa seconded, motion approved unanimously.

In the Spring 2015 and Fall 2015 Council meetings, there was discussion of the utility of editorial section titles in the *Annals of the AAG*. Aitken reminded Council that one of the original reasons for the section titles was to encourage the participation of physical geographers. He said one concern is that the practice has not been as successful as hoped in this regard and may have discouraged certain types of articles. Domosh suggested that changes in the use of editorial section titles in the *Annals* is a significant and potentially contentious issue and that AAG members should be consulted before considering any changes. Richardson emphasized the need to ensure inclusive scholarship from across the full range of discipline in any changes made to editorial structure of the *Annals*.

The Publication Committee will seek input from the membership about the possibility of reorganizing the structure of the *Annals*, retaining the disciplinary integrity that represents the full breadth of the discipline, of the editors and editorial board, with the possibility of removing the section titles. The Publications Committee will reach out to editors, while requests will also go out through regional councilors and specialty groups, with staff collecting information.

Richardson announced that the *International Encyclopedia of Geography* is nearly complete and will be available in early 2017.

Elections

Bednarz said several members raised concerns about election practices including the use of AAG Knowledge Communities for electioneering purposes. The Executive Committee recommended that Council adopt a policy change regarding such practices. Further, Bednarz said the Executive Committee recommended a teleconference meeting between members of the outgoing and incoming Nominating Committees to ensure inclusive and smooth nomination processes.

Resolved that AAG Knowledge Communities shall not be used for campaigning for AAG Elections and that an individual who is nominated for an elected AAG position may not be nominated again for the same position for 2 years. Bednarz moved, Domosh seconded, motion approved unanimously.

Meridian Place Operations

The Association name change officially occurred on Jan 1, 2016, and the Association will routinely use the name “American Association of Geographers,” which is legally a DBA (“doing business as”) name. The Association will continue to use existing brochures and supplies with the previous name until the supplies are exhausted.

AAG Archives

Richardson presented an update of the status of the Association archives and their consolidation at the Library of Congress. The Executive Committee has appointed an Implementation Group, including Bednarz, Ed Ferguson, Richardson, and Domosh, to oversee implementation of the consolidation of AAG archives at the Library of Congress. A gift agreement has been signed with the Library of Congress, and substantial amounts of materials have been moved to the Library of Congress. New materials from the estate of Harm de Blij have been donated and deposited.

Policy and Outreach

John Wertman reported that the Association has been working on promoting K-12 geography education as well as geography research and education funding for several federal agencies. He said that AAG has worked with Coalitions of many other organizations, such as the Coalition for National Science Funding to promote geography education and research funding as critical to the nation. He said that the Association frequently writes letters and signs onto group letters that speak to sustaining the independence of science agencies and the research they promote.

Wertman reported that Congress passed and President Obama signed the “Every Student Succeeds Act” (ESSA), which represents a step forward for Geography. Geography was one of nine core subjects in the previous legislation, but the only subject without funding attached. Wertman said the AAG has worked successfully in support of added funding opportunities for geography, reinstatement of geography as a core academic subject, and the addition of geography added as a “well rounded education” subject

Richardson reported that the National Academies Geographic Sciences Committee will be continued with recruitment of new members who will seek funding for new research programs.

AAG Projects and Programs

Richardson said that the Association is working to make improvements in undergraduate and graduate education, lifelong learning, and the promotion of geography in public and private sectors. A number of successful grants from various funding agencies are part of the Association’s portfolio. Through these projects, the Association has provided opportunities for hundreds of members to become engaged in these efforts, and created space and dialog about critical issues at all levels of education.

One specific initiative is a proposal for an Advanced Placement course in GIS&T supported by the Geography Education National Implementation Project (GENIP) and led by AAG. Multiple other examples of projects were provided to Council in the meeting packet.

Richardson reported that he and the AAG have long been involved with the United Nations and many other international NGOs conducting workshops around the world funded by numerous agencies, including the Secondary Cities project. This project is focused on empowering communities within and among second-tier cities to create long-term partnerships that help build resiliency and develop local capacity. Prof. Melinda Laituri at Colorado State University is

the principal investigator for this effort and she described the program to the Council. Richardson stated that he instituted a long-term practice of not accepting grants or contracts from the Department of Defense. The Second Cities is a Department of State (DOS) program. To expedite the implementation of the project, the DOS used a governmental “indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity” (IDIQ) contract with Navmar Applied Sciences Corp. This and other IDIQs are available for use by any government agency to use as a pass-through to expedite funds. When AAG learned that this IDIQ was with the Navy, Richardson referred it to the PI Laituri and to the AAG Executive Committee to review. Laituri provided a memo about the administration of the DOS project for the Executive Committee to review. The Laituri memo assured the AAG that the IDIQ would have no substantive role in the implementation, management, or content of the project. After the review the AAG Executive Committee recommended moving forward with the project and directed the Executive Director to proceed. Roberts thanked Richardson in flagging the issue and referring it to the Executive Council and expressed her concerns about the Department of Defense and the need to be thoughtful about any connection with the Association.

CONTINUING AND NEW BUSINESS

Honors and Awards

Bednarz has met with students at various universities and heard their desire for additional travel support. MacDonald recommended establishing an AAG Council Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Presentation at a Regional Meeting, which will provide \$1000 to the designated winning graduate student from each region to attend the next AAG Annual Meeting. MacDonald said this would encourage outstanding scholarship and encourage participation at the regional meetings.

Initiate the AAG Council Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Presentation at a Regional Meeting. Bednarz moved, Pope seconded, motion approved unanimously.

Bednarz shared a draft proposal of an AAG Fellows program. She said many similar organizations have more awards than AAG. She noted that most social science associations do not have Fellows programs, with the exception of the American Psychological Association. She said such a program would be a tool for raising the profile of geography departments in universities and for recognizing members. Bednarz said that she views a Fellows program as an opportunity to teach and practice equity and inclusivity in the process of recognizing people. Greg Pope asked what the Association might request of members selected for this honor. Mensing and Dupigny-Giroux suggested starting from a new slate of individuals rather than use recent honorees to populate the initial group of Fellows. Richardson indicated there may need to be a conflict of interest policy considered for members of any Fellows selection committee. Domosh indicated that a Fellows program is a significant change and Council should seek broad buy-in from the membership. She also asked about the possibility of adding more awards in lieu of a Fellows program. MacDonald noted the emphasis in the relevant task force discussion on service to the profession and teaching excellence as well as research and that there had been extensive discussion already. Mason indicated that a Fellows program offers the ability to

recognize people who have made long-term contributions who may not fit one of the existing awards.

Resolved that the Association move forward with a Fellows program and invite input from the membership on the committee composition and selection process – to ensure a fair, equitable and broadly representative process – to be finalized at the Fall Council meeting. Pope moved, Lawrence seconded, motion approved by a vote of 17 yes, 1 no.

Annual Meetings

Richardson reported that it appears the annual meeting will have more than 9000 participants, which will be a record attendance. Bednarz asked Council members to consider how the Association could make the annual meetings more affordable. Domosh recommended that affordability include consideration of contingent faculty.

Committees, Specialty and Affinity Groups

Bednarz and MacDonald raised a question about the activities of specialty groups in light of a boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) resolution under consideration by the Socialist and Critical Geography Specialty Group: Is a binding action by members of a specialty group consistent with the AAG Constitution? The Council discussed various articles of the AAG Constitution, including Article II and Article V, and how they relate to activities of specialty groups.

Council members agreed that not enough information was available about the nature of the proposal in order to make a decision about the constitutional issues that might arise if the resolution were to pass, particularly whether the resolution would comply with our mission.

Mote presented the slate of candidates for committee vacancies prepared by the Committee on Committees.

Council approve the nomination slate for committee vacancies from the Committee on Committees. Mote moved, Aitken seconded, motion approved unanimously.

Roberts raised the question of whether a standing committee exists that could examine issues related to the research ethics statement.

Form a task force to review and possibly update the research ethics statement and bring to the Fall Council meeting for consideration. Gilbert moved, Purcell seconded, motion approved unanimously.

Bednarz appointed Roberts, Purcell, DiBiase, Alderman to the task force.

Domosh provided a brief report of the Task Force on the Diversifying Geography's Curriculum. Richardson recommended seeking external funding to support this effort.

Council

Bednarz presented the candidates for positions to be elected by the Council.

Elect Julie Cidell as Treasurer. Gilbert moved, Roberts seconded, motion approved unanimously.

Elect Shawn Hutchinson as chair of the regional councilors. Kujawa moved, Gilbert seconded, motion approved with one abstention.

Elect Greg Pope as chair of the national councilors. Dupigny-Giroux moved, MacDonald seconded, motion approved with one abstention.

Diamond discussed the Task Force on Implementing a Voting Student Representative to the AAG Council (Bednarz, Cidell, Diamond, Pope, Lawrence, Brian Williams). More than a third of the membership is comprised of students, and Diamond indicated that it is important for those students to have voting representation.

Council create the position of an elected student representative following the guidelines presented by the Task Force on Implementing a Voting Student Representative, subject to approval of conforming changes to the AAG Constitution and Bylaws. Bednarz moved, Gilbert seconded, motion approved unanimously.

Richardson indicated a voting student member will require a change in the constitution. Association attorneys will advise on how to change the Constitution to be consistent with the Council intentions. These changes will be placed on the ballot next year for consideration by the membership. Pope suggested that the Association should encourage regions to build student representative into their governance structures. Bednarz indicated that the composition of the Nominating Committee may need to be changed.

Richardson scheduled the Fall Council Meeting for Nov. 17-18, 2016 in Washington, DC.

Other Business

Bednarz moved to business items that remained from earlier in the Council meeting.

Resolve to form the Socially Responsible Investing Task Force with Julie Cidell, Melissa Gilbert, Sara Diamond, Derek Alderman, and Doug Richardson (ex officio). Bednarz moved, Mensing seconded, motion approved unanimously.

Bednarz stated that the previous parliamentarian will not be available for the 2016 Business Meeting. She proposed several possible individuals who are respected in the organization and have extensive knowledge of Association governance. These individuals had not been contacted about serving prior to the Council meeting.

Create a slate of parliamentarians for the AAG including Alec Murphy, Audrey Kobayashi, John Adams, Dick Marston, in no particular order, who may serve at the request of the president. Bednarz moved, MacDonald seconded, motion approved unanimously.

Should no parliamentarian be available, an ad hoc committee of Mona Domosh, Glen MacDonald, and Sarah Bednarz will select a parliamentarian for this meeting. Domosh moved, Pope seconded, motion approved with one abstention.

Resolutions

Bednarz offered three resolutions for consideration by Council.

Whereas Mona Domosh as Vice President, President, and Past President of the American Association of Geographers has ably guided and served the Association to address the challenges facing the discipline of Geography particularly by focusing, with great sensitivity, on issues related to mental health; by leading efforts to keep diversity a central concern for the Association; for initiating affordable child care at the Annual Meeting; and by contributing considerable time and energy to the situation of contingent faculty; and whereas she has thus contributed in numerous other ways to advance the AAG's mission, goals, and activities;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the American Association of Geographers, assembled in San Francisco, CA on the occasion of its 112th Annual Meeting, heartily thanks Mona for her graceful leadership of the Association during the past three years, especially for her efforts to promote radical intra-disciplinarity.

Whereas, Councilors of the American Association of Geographers expend substantial time and effort advancing the causes of the Association and the discipline; and

Whereas, the Council of the American Association of Geographers has confronted numerous challenges and responded to many opportunities during the last three years;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the American Association of Geographers, assembled in San Francisco, CA on the occasion of its 112th Annual Meeting, extends warm appreciation to Past President Mona Domosh, National Councilor and Treasurer Melissa Gilbert, National Councilor Chair Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, New England St. Lawrence Valley Division Councilor and Regional Councilor Chair Richard Kujawa, Pacific Coast Division Councilor Scott Mensing, Mid Atlantic Division Councilor Jeremy Tasch.

Whereas, Members of the American Association of Geographers offer their talents, time, and ideas to support the activities of the Association as Chairs and Members of various association committees appointed by the AAG Council;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the American Association of Geographers, assembled in San Francisco, CA on the occasion of its 112th Annual Meeting, thanks the outgoing Chairs and Members of the AAG Committees for their service to the Association, the discipline and the profession during their committee terms.

All three resolutions were approved by acclamation.

Domosh also asked the Council to thank Sara Diamond for her service, and the resolution was approved by acclamation.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Bednarz adjourned the Council meeting at 10:30 a.m. on March 29, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Mote
AAG Secretary