

Association of American Geographers Council Meeting Minutes

7-8 September 2002
Washington, DC

Attending: M. Duane Nellis, *President*, Janice J. Monk, *Past-President*, Alexander B. Murphy, *Vice-President*, Katherine Klink, *Secretary and Regional Councillor* (West Lakes Division); and Robert B. Kent, *Treasurer and Regional Councillor* (East Lakes Division). *National Councillors*: Sarah Witham Bednarz, Kenneth Foote, Victoria A. Lawson, Kent Mathewson, James R. Shortridge, and Cort J. Willmott. *Regional Councillors*: Percy H. Dougherty (Middle States Division), Sheryl Luzzadder-Beach (Middle Atlantic Division), Darrell E. Napton (Great Plains-Rocky Mountains Division), Kavita K. Pandit (Southeastern Division), Fred M. Shelley (Southwestern Division), Judy Walton (Pacific Coast Division), and Leon I. Yacher (New England-St. Lawrence Valley Division). AAG Executive Director Ronald F. Abler, AAG Research Division Director Douglas B. Richardson, and AAG Executive Assistant Ehsan M. Khater.

Agenda and Logistics

President Nellis called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, 7 September, and welcomed the Council to Washington. The Council unanimously adopted the agenda prepared by President Nellis and Executive Director Abler. Council also noted with sadness the passing of Jeanne X. Kasperson, Glenn R. Miller, and Jack P. Mrowka.

Challenges and Opportunities for the Association

REVIEW OF GEOGRAPHY PROGRAMS— REGIONAL COUNCILLOR REPORTS.

East Lakes: Kent reported that geography programs in the region are doing well despite declining state budgets. The University of Cincinnati and the

University of Akron recently moved into renovated quarters; both Central Michigan University and Michigan State University have initiated master's degrees in geographic information science.

Southeast: Pandit reported that many departments in the region were dealing with budget cuts, while at the same time most departments are reporting a healthy rise in interest in geography courses. She also reported that the geography graduate program at the University of Miami has been subsumed into international studies.

Middle States: Dougherty reported that several new programs in GIS were in place, or in development, within the Middle States region; most of the programs are within community and four-year colleges. He also noted that, because of budgetary constraints, several geography departments within the region were facing the possibility of being merged with other units on their campuses. On a more positive note, changes in the requirements for education students in the state of Pennsylvania will require geography education majors to take up to 45 credit hours of geography, and this should increase enrollments in upper division geography courses at colleges and universities in the state.

Pacific Coast: Walton noted that budget cuts also are affecting the Pacific Coast region, but that most geography departments seem to be doing well for the time being. Enrollments are gaining at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. There has been a trend toward funding new GIS labs and faculty on campus, but many are funded on soft money. She noted that geographers in the APCC were immensely saddened by the loss of Jack Mrowka, who was a very active member in the region.

Great Plains-Rocky Mountains: Napton described his efforts to help connect geographers in academic, business, and government positions; because of his efforts, USGS/EROS Data Center in Sioux

Falls, SD, will host the next regional meeting. Napton also is developing a web-site that will list all geography departments in the Great Plains-Rocky Mountain region, and will include programs that teach geography even if no geography department is present on campus.

Middle Atlantic: Luzzadder-Beach reported that the Middle Atlantic region consists mostly of professional, government, and academic geographers, who meet most often during evening dinner meetings, but also are co-hosting an annual division meeting with SEDAG in November. She noted that budget cuts also are affecting the Middle Atlantic region, but that enrollments in geography continue to be strong.

New England-St. Lawrence Valley: Yacher reported that there have been very large budget cuts in the region but at the same time there has been growth in terms of enrollments, including enrollments in geography. There has been a trend toward increased class size as a cost-saving measure. Yacher noted that in Connecticut, geography education students must have a formal major in geography, and that this has greatly benefited the department. Yacher also reflected on the loss of Glenn Miller, who was an important supporter of geography within the NESTVAL region.

Southwest: Shelley reported that, despite the economic downturn, geography departments within the division have experienced healthy growth in enrollments and continued strong support for geography within their institutions. Two important events within the region include the new Ph.D. program in geography at Oklahoma State University, and the generous bequest to Louisiana State University from the estate of the late Evelyn Pruitt, for an endowment to support the education of women geographers. Shelley also noted the implementation of several GIS programs within the region, including the Ph.D. program at Southwest Texas State

and a Center for Geographic Information Science at the University of Texas.

West Lakes: Klink noted that preliminary attendance estimates were strong for the upcoming regional meeting in Minneapolis. The division officers hope that a successful meeting will help build stronger ties between the community and four-year colleges and the Ph.D. institutions within the region. As has been the case elsewhere, budget cuts are affecting colleges and universities in the West Lakes division, with some possible impacts on geography.

REVIEW OF TOPICAL DEVELOPMENTS—NATIONAL COUNCILLOR REPORTS.

Councillor Willmott reflected that a focus on "geographic dynamics" (from the NRC book *Rediscovering Geography*) would demand increased interaction between physical and human geographers. "Geographic dynamics" could involve subjects such as risk assessment and scenarios for the future. He noted that most geography majors have insufficient quantitative skills to participate in forecasting initiatives. Councillor Bednarz observed that geography students increasingly take GIS courses in place of statistics or quantitative methods courses. Willmott felt that the AAG should make a case for better quantitative education in geography.

Councillor Bednarz reported on results from the National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP), released in June 2001. She noted that geographic literacy had improved for middle-school students, with increased classroom use of maps and globes, and more study of countries, cultures, and environmental topics. Students with the most-improved NAEP scores had teachers who were trained through the Geographic Alliances. Bednarz stated that two big problems for Alliances are that NGS funding is ending and that many Alliance leaders are retiring. The NGS, however, will help to build an endowment for state Alliances by offering to match a state's \$500,000 contribution. Councillor Foote reported that Colorado has one of the NGS endowments, and that colleges and universities in the state are seeing freshmen who want to major in geography. Foote also reported that the University of

Colorado has developed a Geography Faculty Development Alliance, focused on assistant professors in geography. The alliance held two very successful workshops during summer 2002, and there already is a waiting list for future workshops that extends through 2004.

Councillor Lawson discussed the crucial role of geography in central issues for the nation: terrorism, globalization. She noted that it is a good time to be a geographer but that we seem to be "invisible" in the public arena. She wondered how the AAG might encourage its members to "reclaim our space" in public and academic debates in ways that are creative and engaging. One impediment that we can work toward removing is our lack of disciplinary diversity: there are few geographers specializing in the Islamic world, for example. Councillor Mathewson wondered whether there has been renewed financial support for area studies, and whether geographers were involved in area-studies initiatives? Research Director Richardson noted that one example is the AAG terrorism initiative, which is being supported by many agencies in Washington, DC.

DISCUSSION OF ARTICLES BY TURNER (ANNALS, 2002) AND CUTTER ET AL. (PROFESSIONAL GEOGRAPHER, 2002).

The Officers and Councillors lauded the authors for beginning a discussion of what it is that geography "is good for" but, as might be expected, there was considerable debate as to how to define our "big questions." Councillor Shelley agreed that a set of questions should be identified—but who should identify them, and how do we continue the debate over time so that things are not cast in stone? Vice President Murphy offered that while we might be able to identify key questions, we need to understand that not every geographer must be working on them: "big questions" should not be prescriptive, but they can be important in getting people to engage in broader intellectual debates. Noting that there can be institutional constraints that work against big-question initiatives, there followed an extended discussion of how we might contribute to, and encourage, big-

question research within geography. It was suggested that the Association could make an important contribution to the discipline by highlighting cross-cutting research articles as the lead articles in our journals.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS.

Past President Monk described the workshop on "Race, Space, and Urban Development" in Johannesburg in August 2002, which brought together more than 25 South African and United States geographers. Outcomes from the workshop included several prospects for collaborative research projects, and a possible follow-up panel at the AAG Southeast Division's annual meeting in Fall 2002. The Johannesburg workshop was supported by funds from the National Science Foundation. Monk also described efforts to promote international participation at the AAG Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, including an evening reception for international scholars. Monk also urged AAG members to attend non-U.S. geographical meetings. Councillor Pandit observed that non-U.S. geographical societies are pleased to have U.S. geographers at their meetings.

PRESIDENT'S PRIORITIES.

President Nellis reported that the Endowment Campaign is off to a strong start. A kickoff event will occur at the New Orleans meeting. He expressed his continued support for the AAG's strategic initiatives and Richardson's efforts to coordinate the initiatives. He also continues to work on membership issues, particularly for building greater partnerships with geographers in private and government agencies.

VICE PRESIDENT'S PRIORITIES.

Vice President Murphy described his first priority as raising the profile of geography and geographers in public debate. One of the things that works against geography is its "invisibility" to the general public. A higher profile for geography would help us in other initiatives (i.e., bringing geography to elite institutions; the geographical dimensions of terrorism). A second priority is to enhance the diversity of the discipline.

He noted that the Association can do more to promote participation by non-Anglo geographers, and that he would like to develop some strategic initiatives along these lines. A third priority will be to encourage cross-cutting discussion among sub-disciplines within geography, perhaps through plenary sessions at the annual meetings.

Status of the Association

FINANCE.

The Association has seen an improvement in finances, and expects to break even in fiscal year 2002. Most cost savings have come from reductions on annual meeting expenses and on travel by staff. The Finance Committee will meet in February 2003 to propose a budget for fiscal year 2004.

ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN.

The theme of the Endowment Campaign is "Advancing Geography in Partnership with You: The Association of American Geographers at the Centennial and Beyond." Nellis is developing a capital campaign brochure and a case statement, which will be used when approaching corporations and foundations. The campaign's objective is to establish a \$2M endowment by 2006.

MEMBERSHIP.

Abler reported that membership stood at 5,866, which is typical for this time of year. The transition to anniversary date renewal is mostly complete. A standing Membership Committee, chaired by Julie Winkler, is working on ways to enhance membership in the Association, and Nellis has renewed his regional division membership challenge.

Membership Services Coordinator Robert Andelman reviewed the software and hardware upgrades in support of new membership capabilities. Members can review and update personal information, renew memberships, and register for meetings online. Pledges to endowment funds also will be tracked via the new software.

PUBLICATIONS.

Director of Publications Amy Jo Woodruff reviewed the article flow and editorial decisions from 1 January 2002 to 31 August 2002, for both the *Annals* and *The Professional Geographer*. She noted that submission rates are healthy, but that it is challenging to keep about the same number of papers in each section for each issue of the *Annals*. The editors are working to reduce turnaround time, but much of the delay is associated with getting timely reviews. At the request of the editors, Nellis charged Woodruff to investigate the financial ramifications of increasing the *Annals* to six issues per year.

Editorial Assistant Megan Nortrup was hired at end of May (2002) and is doing a great job in helping to balance the editorial workload. Nortrup is taking primary responsibility for production of the *Guide to Programs in Geography* in addition to assisting with other editorial work.

Curt Roseman and Tom Hankins submitted a written report on the *PlacesOnLine* project. By October 2002, *PlacesOnLine* should include several links for Louisiana and New Orleans; the best of the Los Angeles links will be maintained on the site. Roseman and Hankins will continue to promote the creation of place-based websites by geographers.

Councillor Willmott asked about electronic publications and role of Publications Committee. Abler asked that Willmott review a proposal from 1996 to establish an electronic publications oversight committee, and recommended that a proposal be included on the agenda at the New Orleans council meeting. Willmott, Lawson, and Richardson will work toward developing the proposal.

The Council **approved** a proposal for an *Annals* memorial for Evelyn Pruitt.

MERIDIAN PLACE OPERATIONS.

Richardson reported that staffing is nearly stable, and that he will be making additional hires for clerical/office support, internal office management, and project development and coordination. AAG staff continue to do cross-training so that there is some redundancy in expertise and in institutional memory. Richardson noted

that he would like to increase the use of student interns (but that would require someone on staff to manage the activity), and to tap the enthusiasm and talents of retired/senior geographers to support AAG operations and initiatives.

The Executive Director transition is going well. Richardson has taken responsibility for Association finances as of 1 September 2002 (beginning of fiscal year 2003) and will assume the Executive Director position as of 1 January 2003. Richardson's priorities as Executive Director were outlined in the August 2002 AAG *Newsletter*.

EDUCATIONAL AFFAIRS.

Educational Affairs Director Osa Brand reported that there was much interest in the MyCOE (My Community, Our Earth) exhibit at the WSSD meeting in Johannesburg, and that many South African teachers planned to participate in the project. New educational projects under development include an NSF proposal to develop a *Teacher's Guide to Modern Geography*; an NSF/ROLE proposal for research on spatial learning in college geography classes; and a minority recruiting project focused on community colleges.

The ARGWorld project sponsored three teacher workshops during summer 2002, at Texas A&M, the University of Western Michigan, and at the AAG office in Washington. About 40 teachers participated in the workshops. The AAG continues its negotiations with Holt, Rinehart, Winston for distribution of the ARGUS/ARGWorld materials.

The NGS has withdrawn from a joint initiative with the AAG and the NCGE for a shared educational affairs position. Nellis suggested that the AAG/NCGE will explore the option of working with the NGS in another capacity.

Past President Monk presented the report of the Task Force on Geography Education, which was charged with reviewing the structure, charge, and activities of the various AAG educational groups and to identify possible organizational changes, if appropriate. Monk outlined the process the Task Force followed in gathering information and

developing its recommendations, which then were presented for action by the Council. The Task Force recommended that the Association combine the existing Committee on Community Colleges with the Commission on College Geography II, to create a Committee on College Geography, which would have representation across the range of post-secondary institutional levels and would include the President of the Community College Affinity Group as an *ex officio* member. Councillor Foote suggested that the new committee also include some link to the Geographic Education Specialty Group. The Council **approved** the recommendation of the Task Force. The charge to the new Committee on College Geography is "to foster the development of programs and resources to support and enhance undergraduate and graduate education, and the preparation and continuing training of faculty, in all types of institutions where geography is taught; to promote and initiate projects that address human resources and/or the development and dissemination of educational materials; to sponsor educational activities at regional and national meetings or at specialized workshops; and to initiate and maintain ties with relevant national organizations dedicated to higher education."

RESEARCH AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES.

Research Division Director Richardson provided an update on current and proposed AAG initiatives.

Participants in the NSF-funded workshop on the Geographical Dimensions of Terrorism (24-26 January 2002) developed a series of research themes and action items; NSF published a pamphlet describing these outcomes. The next step is to publish an edited book that expands on the NSF pamphlet. The book will include contributions from many of the people who participated in the workshop, plus a few others. The book may be published by the AAG or perhaps by Kluwer, and the NSF would like to have the book out very soon.

The MyCOE (My Community, Our Earth) project is aimed at promoting geographic learning for sustainable

development. The AAG, NGS, ESRI, and UNEP are the four organizing partners. The MyCOE exhibit was set up at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in August 2002, at the InterAmerican Development Bank annual meeting in Milan, and at the national AAG meeting. The AAG received requests for over 2,000 MyCOE kits, and about 250 projects were submitted. Discussions are ongoing about how to carry this activity into the future.

Strategic initiatives primarily are focused on reaching out to public and private sector geographers. Some examples of projects being undertaken are the *Mapping the News* conference (co-sponsored by the AAG) and the AAG's involvement in the *GIScience 2002* conference.

PLACEMENT AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS.

Richardson reported that the new *Careers in Geography* brochure is selling well (the first printing sold out within three weeks, now on second printing). Richardson has been involved with NASA's National Workforce Development Education and Training Initiative, which is looking at long-term national workforce needs related to geographic technologies and geographic understanding. He also was contacted by the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC)/Topographic Engineering Center (TEC). Geographers make up more than 20% of the workforce at TEC, and there is a need for more Ph.D. geographers and more diversity in the workforce. Representatives from the ERDC/TEC plan to discuss these issues with representatives from the AAG. Richardson also has been exploring ideas about how to improve the COPS experience for both jobseekers and employers.

Continuing and New Business

ANNUAL MEETINGS.

Abler reported that there are plenty of hotel rooms still available for the New Orleans meeting, and that having the meeting right after Mardi Gras has been very attractive to people overseas. There will be no events on Tuesday (Mardi

Gras), the opening session will be Wednesday morning, and the opening reception is scheduled for Wednesday evening. The banquet will be held on Friday evening, followed by the presidential address (as an open session) and a reception. The AAG will encourage departments to sponsor a departmental table at the banquet. The AAG again will host a reception for international visitors and will invite specialty groups to co-sponsor the event if they wish. A motion to identify (via ribbons or special badges) the international attendees failed to garner a second. The Council agreed that meeting badges might note one's country of origin.

The New Orleans Program Committee will have a disability coordinator (following from an earlier Council mandate). Upon request, the AAG will make reasonable accommodations to people with disabilities, per the Americans with Disabilities Act. Abler will respond to recent inquiries to describe the kinds of accommodations already provided by the AAG, and will work with the New Orleans Program Committee to consider additional reasonable accommodations. Monk suggested that we provide a link on the AAG's web site to the Geography Discipline Network's *Learning Support for Disabled Students Undertaking Fieldwork and Related Activities* web site (<http://www.glos.ac.uk/gdn/disabil/>). While this site emphasizes support in fieldwork, Monk found it also to have much general information of value to geographers.

Planning is well underway for the Centennial meeting in Philadelphia (14-19 March 2004). Stan Brunn reviewed a written report from the Centennial Coordinating Committee on activities planned for the meeting. A project is underway at Michigan State University to digitize the *Geographers on Film* series, and funding is being sought from the NEH to support this activity. Brunn noted that Wes Dow may no longer conduct interviews after the Philadelphia meeting, and that Council should think about who will take up this project if Wes declines to continue.

There was some discussion of the titles of the two centennial publications, *LandMinds: 100 Geographic Solutions to Saving Planet Earth* and *TechnoEarth: A Social History of Geography and Technology*. The general feeling among Council members was that the subtitles might better serve as the main titles for each volume.

The Council **approved** the addition of two new members to the Centennial Coordinating Committee (one from the D.C. area, one from the Philadelphia area).

Murphy discussed the idea of replacing the single presidential plenary in Philadelphia with a series of plenaries, one at the end of each day. The plenaries could serve as a compelling coming-together point to talk about where geography is going, to showcase up-and-coming geography and geographers, to reflect on how "outsiders" see us, and to think about geography's "big questions."

Abler confirmed that the 2005 meeting in Denver (5-9 April) will be held at the Adams Mark Hotel, and the 2006 meeting in Chicago (7-11 March) will be held at the Palmer House Hilton. Both sites can accommodate the annual meeting in-house.

COMMITTEES AND COUNCIL.

The council **approved** the Honors Committee's recommendations for honors to be presented at the AAG meeting in New Orleans. The council also **approved** the Nominating Committee's recommendations of nominees for the next election of AAG National Councillors and AAG Vice President.

The council **reviewed** and **approved** the minutes of the March 2002 AAG Council meeting in Los Angeles.

The council **approved** the charge to the AAG Membership Committee of "...monitoring membership trends of the Association, and developing, and where appropriate bringing forward to the AAG Council, strategies for enhancing and diversifying the AAG's membership. The committee should communicate regularly on their ongoing work, meet at least once per year at the AAG Annual Meeting, and

submit an annual report for review by the AAG Council."

In light of the calls for censure of a paper presented at the Los Angeles meeting, the council discussed whether the AAG should have a policy statement on scientific freedom of speech. Council recommended that the Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility be charged with drafting a succinct policy statement for presentation to the Council. Nellis will contact the chair of the committee and pass along Council's request.

HONORS AND AWARDS.

Abler reported that one nomination for 2003 Honorary Geographer (along with several supporting letters) has already been received. Nominations are due at the end of 2002, with the final selection made by the Executive Committee. John McPhee was the nominee for 2002 Honorary Geographer.

The council discussed the status of the AAG book and article awards. Council **approved** the Executive Committee's recommendation that book award citations be published in the *AAG Newsletter* as well as listed in the *AAG Guide to Graduate Programs in Geography*. Publication in these outlets parallels the public citations of AAG Honors recipients. Council was pleased to note that, in the June 2002 *New York Review of Books*, Johns Hopkins University Press included three geography titles among its list of award-winning books.

Article awards have been delayed because criteria and procedures have not yet been developed. Council **approved** the Executive Committee's recommendations to (1) disband the current Article Awards Committee and to (2) ask the Honors Committee to draft criteria and procedures for the article awards to be presented to Council. Items the Honors Committee should consider in their deliberations include eligibility; the nomination procedure; the publication outlet; and the "window" of allowable publication date(s).

FUTURE COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

The proposed schedule for future executive committee and council meetings is:

AAG Executive Committee, 7 February 2003, Washington DC; AAG Council, 2-4 March 2003, New Orleans LA; AAG Executive Committee, September 2003, TBD; AAG Council, 17-19 October 2003, Kalamazoo MI; AAG Executive Committee, February 2004, TBD; AAG Council, 13-14 March 2004, Philadelphia PA; AAG Executive Committee, September 2004, TBD; AAG Council, October 2004, Sioux Falls SD.

CLOSED SESSION

The Council met in closed session to act on the Executive Committee's recommendation that, upon his retirement, Ron Abler be recognized as AAG Executive Director Emeritus. The recommendation was **passed unanimously**.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business, President Nellis adjourned the meeting at 12:45 p.m. on 8 September 2002. ■

Respectfully submitted,
Katherine Klink, AAG Secretary

Members Present Iraq War Petition at AAG Business Meeting

Attendees of the AAG business meeting, held on 8 March 2003 in New Orleans, Louisiana, presented the Association with a petition signed by 373 attendees, opposing a possible pre-emptive strike on Iraq by the United States. The petition stated, "As members of the Association of American Geographers, we oppose a pre-emptive war on Iraq." The petition was turned over to the AAG secretary so that it would become a part of the permanent record of the 2003 Annual Meeting. ■

AAG Council Meeting Minutes

New Orleans, LA • 2-4 March 2003

Attending: M. Duane Nellis, *President*; Janice J. Monk, *Past-President*; Alexander B. Murphy, *Vice-President*; Katherine Klink, *Secretary and Regional Councillor (West Lakes Division)*; and Robert B. Kent, *Treasurer and Regional Councillor (East Lakes Division)*. *National Councillors:* Sarah Witham Bednarz, Kenneth Foote, Victoria A. Lawson, Kent Mathewson, James R. Shortridge, and Cort J. Willmott. *Regional Councillors:* Percy H. Dougherty (Middle States Division), Sheryl Luzzadder-Beach (Middle Atlantic Division), Darrell E. Napton (Great Plains-Rocky Mountains Division), Kavita K. Pandit (Southeastern Division), Fred M. Shelley (Southwestern Division), and Judy Walton (Pacific Coast Division). *AAG Staff:* Executive Director Douglas B. Richardson, and Director of Research and Outreach Patricia Solís.

Regrets: Leon I. Yacher, *Regional Councillor (New England-St. Lawrence Valley Division)*.

Visitors: Thomas Baerwald, *National Councillor-Elect*.

AGENDA AND LOGISTICS

President Nellis called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. on Sunday, 2 March, and welcomed the council to New Orleans. President Nellis proposed (and the Council approved) two modifications to the agenda prepared by President Nellis and Executive Director Richardson. The Council voted unanimously to adopt the modified agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The council approved the minutes of the September 2002 AAG Council meeting in Washington, DC.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE ASSOCIATION

President's Priorities

President Nellis reported that there has been good success with the initial efforts of the Endowment Campaign (revisited later in these minutes). AAG membership is strong this year, with many renewals and new memberships processed in the first few months of 2003. Nellis described his objectives with the Presidential Plenary, focused on crossing boundaries and building partnerships between academic and non-academic geography. He discussed also effects on higher education of state budget shortfalls, and his belief that the decline in state support is likely to be a long-term trend. Nellis observed that universities have become more "businesslike" in their financial concerns, and increasingly are evaluating programs in terms of productivity measures, student credit hours, research dollars, Ph.D. productivity, numbers of undergraduate majors, and the contribution of geography departments to the mission of the college and university.

Review of Geography Programs—Regional Councillor Reports

East Lakes: Kent stated that the division's 2002 meeting was hosted by Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant, and the East and West Lakes will be meeting jointly in 2003 at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. He reported that no programs in the region reported (unusual) trouble. Tenure-track faculty replacements have been strong over the past few years. The demographic transition of faculty is largely complete; few additional faculty will be retiring so faculty lines are less likely to be lost due to budget cuts. Kent noted that most geographers in the region are in smaller, and sometimes in joint, departments, such as geography and planning. It may become increasingly important to seek alliances within universities to foster cluster hires or joint positions.

Southeast: Pandit reported that the undergraduate geography program at Western Carolina has been phased out, and the Geography and Geology Departments were merged at the University of Memphis. Many schools are capitalizing on GIS (and physical geography, to a lesser extent) to keep themselves afloat. West Liberty State College (West Virginia) has a new geography major, the University of Louisville (Kentucky) initiated a master's program in applied geography with specialization in GIS, the University of South Florida has a new Ph.D. program focusing on geography, environmental science, and policy, and the University of North Carolina-Greensboro has a new Ph.D. program in applied geography.

Middle States: Dougherty reported that small programs in the region are feeling the largest impacts from budget reductions. Throughout the region, retirements are not being replaced or are being replaced by adjunct or temporary faculty. Funding increasingly is based on "formulas" that rely on numbers of students, types of activities, faculty productivity, graduation rates, and so on. Several geography programs in the region are housed in "combined" departments, such as Geography-Planning, Geography-Environmental Science, and Geography-International Studies. He reported the formation of a new Department of Planning at Temple, which specializes in GIS but has no geographers among the program faculty. Dougherty also reported the development of a Ph.D. program in Environmental Sciences at Montclair University, which is being led by their Geography Department. The division's 2002 meeting was held in Montclair, NJ, and the next meeting will be in Albany, NY.

Pacific Coast: Walton indicated that the 2002 meeting in San Bernardino was very successful, and that the 2003 meeting will be hosted by Portland State University. She characterized the feeling within the region as "gloom and retrenchment but with some bright spots." Enrollments in geography

continue to be strong, especially in GIS. She stated that the State of California is working on a formal articulation for transfer of credits from community colleges to universities, which would be helpful for many geography students. She also thanked the AAG office for running the profile on APCG in the *AAG Newsletter*.

Great Plains-Rocky Mountain: Napton reported that the 2002 meeting in Missoula, MT, was very well attended, and that the 2003 meeting will be hosted by Kansas State University. He stated that the USGS/EROS Data Center in Sioux Falls also has had cutbacks, though forest fire research and "homeland security" activities remain strongly supported. The term "geography" is being used more widely within the USGS, with a number of people within the agency who are supporting geographic issues.

Middle Atlantic: Luzzadder-Beach reported that geography seems to be doing well in the region: for example, enrollments are up at George Washington University, which will be hiring a replacement for a retiring geography faculty member; Frostburg State University's Geography Department has moved into a newly renovated building with new labs for teaching, GIS, and physical geography; and George Mason University hopes to be replacing two positions in geography and expanding connections with other units on campus, mostly through physical geography and GIScience. Luzzadder-Beach also reported on a survey conducted by the chair of the division as to why its members do not always renew their memberships. Fifty percent of the respondents cited better opportunities and/or support in their specialized areas of research from disciplines outside of Geography; the second most important reason was "distance decay" (members in areas far from DC); and the third most important reason boiled down to lack of time.

New England-St. Lawrence Valley: Yacher was out of the country and unable to attend the meeting.

Southwest: Shelley reported that many universities in the region are seeing higher enrollments but less funding. Geography programs are holding their own, and a new geography major has been instituted at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth. Many geographers are concerned about the effects of funding cuts on education for underrepresented communities (African-American, Latino). The division's 2002 meeting was held in Laredo, and the 2003 meeting will be in Stillwater, OK. Shelley noted that geographers at Stephen F. Austin University were among those who used GPS technology to map and assist recovery of debris from the loss of the Space Shuttle Columbia on 1 February 2003.

West Lakes: Klink said that the 2002 meeting in Minneapolis was well attended but that, apparently, this did not carry over into increased membership in the region. She reported that budget cuts were

affecting universities throughout the region, but that the University of Northern Iowa received a new faculty line in geography despite budget cuts in the state and university.

Review of Topical Developments— National Councillor Reports

The national councillors led a discussion of the January 2003 report of the NSF Advisory Committee for Environmental Research and Education (ERE) titled "Complex Environmental Systems: Synthesis for Earth, Life, and Society in the 21st Century." Councillor Bednarz felt that the report was clear as to the promotion of interdisciplinary studies but that there is a lag within universities as to support and rewards for interdisciplinary studies. Universities will need to be more flexible in supporting interdisciplinary coursework and research, but will this be at the expense of established disciplines, especially geography? President Nellis offered that universities need to revise how overhead cost recovery is handled with respect to interdisciplinary grants. Councillor Willmott thought that the ERE report showed a lack of "systems thinking" and was missing a historical underpinning. Councillor Lawson felt that human geographers are left out and that environmental research and education should include more about humans as a component (and agent?) of the environment. Baerwald offered that the ERE report is not an NSF "document," rather it was produced by an advisory committee. One of the most valuable outcomes of the ERE project was that people from a very broad range of communities came together and universally were excited about this topic. He stated also that the broader construct of ideas within the ERE report will guide NSF into the future, and that geography is known as one of the first good examples of an integrative field in the human-environment area. Executive Director Richardson observed (and Councillor Klink agreed) that the ERE report is not a report about geography, it's a report about environmental science from the NSF, and that what is impressive is that geography is a big part of what should be going on.

International Activities and Programs

Past president Monk stated that the International Reception at the New Orleans meeting is being supported by the AAG and six (of eight) regional specialty groups. Four Mexican departments of geography now are included in the AAG's *Guide to Graduate Programs*. The South Africa workshop on "Race, Space, and Urban Development" has generated at least one NSF proposal and a couple of more are in the works. Monk and Mick Healy (Gloucester University) participated in a meeting organized by the American Association of Higher Education to foster collaboration between U.K. subject centers in Learning and Teaching and U.S. disciplinary associations. They are developing plans for future joint efforts (see below, *Educational Affairs*). The Russian, Eastern European, and Central Asian Specialty Group, through chair Bob Kaiser (Madison) has received an NSF grant to help build a network

between U.S. and Russian, Eastern European, and Central Asian geographers.

Vice President's Priorities

Vice President Murphy's priorities include (1) enhancing the role of geography in public debate, (2) bridging the intra-disciplinary divide, and (3) diversity enhancement. He has been working with individuals at the National Research Council to put together a proposal for a major study focused on the origins of terrorism and the changing role of international relations. Another potential opportunity for geography is a possible Cambridge Studios/PBS project on the "Science of Geography," which would be a follow-up to the "Power of Place" series, but focused more on the nature of geography itself. Murphy has tentatively agreed to serve as one of two senior content advisors for the project. He discussed briefly some ideas about how to encourage geographers to comment publicly on events of the day: op-ed pieces and radio interviews might be the easiest available outlets. Could we get a handful of our most thoughtful and articulate people to do an op-ed piece, or consent to be interviewed on particular subjects? He observed that cultivating the media is a difficult endeavor, and he is considering hosting a workshop at the Philadelphia AAG meeting about how to work with the media.

Murphy stated his belief that what we have in common (as geographers) could give us greater strength in difficult economic times, and he will seek to foster more intra-disciplinary interaction along these lines. The Philadelphia Centennial meeting will include broadly based plenary sessions at the end of each day, which hopefully will serve as a point of interaction for all geographers. He also would like to highlight cross-cutting research articles in the *Annals*. Murphy observed that geographers from various subdisciplines can benefit from talking to each other, even if they don't formally work together on particular projects.

Executive Director's Introductory Comments

Executive Director Richardson stated that the AAG is working to help implement the initiatives being developed, and feels the Association is making real progress. He congratulated the AAG staff for their hard work in support of the New Orleans meeting. He updated the Council on new staff at AAG central office: Patricia Solís (Director of Research and Outreach), Robert Andelman (Membership Services Coordinator), and Oscar Larson (Sustainable Development Specialist). The current staff consists of about 10 people, which Richardson felt is "a little too lean," but increases in staffing await a more stable financial climate.

STATUS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Finance

Treasurer Kent reported that the Association's financial status has been improving. He reviewed for the Council the Auditor's Report for FY 2002. The AAG

office has been working hard to reduce expenses, including increased use of on-line membership services because these save significant amounts of staff time. Meeting registration fees will increase but he felt that the amounts were still accessible for most people. Kent noted that he expected there to be a small positive balance for FY 2003, followed by a modest surplus for FY 2004.

The Finance Committee moved that there be a 2% inflation-based dues increase for FY 2004. The motion was **approved** by Council (16 in favor, one opposed). The FY 2004 Budget **approved** unanimously by the Council.

Endowment Campaign: "Advancing Geography in Partnership with You"

President Nellis stated that about 75 individuals already have made commitments during the campaign's "silent phase," and funds to date total about \$200,000 in addition to two bequests. A brochure describing the campaign will be in each registration packet in New Orleans. Individuals can pledge funds to a number of categories, which now includes an "Enhancing Diversity" fund. The AAG has an agreement with a professional advisor (at AAG expense) to work with individuals who wish to set up a charitable remainder trust. The endowment is important in helping to put the AAG on stable financial footing, and in allowing the Association to undertake strategic initiatives.

Membership

President Nellis reported that membership has increased to about 7,100, and stands at about 8,400 when institutional members are included. Richardson said that the conversion to anniversary date renewals will be complete by the end of 2003, and that dues renewal notices will go out automatically to those whose memberships are up for renewal. AAG Membership Director Robert Andelman reported on several changes in membership processing, including upgrades to computer systems and networks in the central office that allow for enhanced web-based membership services. The new web site will include a search function, and plans are in progress to develop an on-line jobs bank to allow members to post resumes and to allow employers to search resumes and post jobs.

Nellis reported that over the past year, the New England-St. Lawrence Valley division had the largest percentage increase in membership and the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers had the largest absolute increase in members.

A survey conducted by the Membership Committee showed that a large number of the faculty in Ph.D. departments are not AAG members, that eight of 49 Ph.D. program chairs were not AAG members, and eight of 38 M.A./M.S. program chairs were not AAG members. Nellis asked each Council member to identify the three top reasons as to why they are members of the AAG; the resulting list may help the Association better identify what it "does" for its members, and why membership is important for individuals as well as for the discipline.

Publications

Publications Committee Chair Willmott stated that Roger Kasperson will be stepping down as the Nature-Society Editor for the *Annals*. A search for a new editor is underway.

Willmott and Murphy led a discussion about how to encourage submission of cross-cutting papers to the *Annals*. Topics might include the history of geographic thought; complex analysis in geography; the role of GIS in critical geography; and the challenges of scale for physical and human geography. Several Council members agreed that a good "niche" for the *Annals* would be to encourage publication of such integrative pieces. Baerwald suggested that the *Annals* could be "the" place where (for example) biologists, geologists, historians, and sociologists would go to learn how geography can contribute to research in allied disciplines. Murphy agreed to draft a proposal regarding cross-cutting research articles for the *Annals*, to be forwarded for consideration by the Publications Committee. The Publications Committee also will be asked to recommend how these submissions will be handled by the Editors.

Richardson reviewed a proposal by Blackwell to add the Association's journals (*Annals*, *Professional Geographer*) to the "Synergy" package of online journals that they market to libraries. The AAG's journals then would become freely available to anyone who has access to Synergy. Richardson stated that the issue is not whether to go online, rather the issue is how to go online. There are obvious benefits to having broader circulation of the journal, but there is some concern about the possible impact on individual and institutional AAG memberships. Currently, Blackwell still requires libraries that subscribe to Synergy to maintain hard copies of journals as well. This requirement may not continue into the future, however. Richardson said that discussions with Blackwell will continue, and that the Finance Committee will consider the financial implications of the proposal.

Kent and Richardson presented a recommendation of the Executive Committee that the AAG *Newsletter* be published 11 times per year, rather than 12 times (the August issue would be dropped). This reduction would save the Association between \$8,000-9,000 per year in printing and shipping costs. News and job postings are available on the AAG web site, so information still will be available to the membership. Several council members commented that, in the past, there had only been 11 issues of the *Newsletter*, and the move to 12 issues per year was a relatively recent development. Council **approved** the motion to move from 12 to 11 issues of the *Newsletter* for FY 2004 (17 in favor, 2 opposed). Kent requested that the *Newsletter* carry an article to explain the reasons for this change.

Richardson asked council members to review the PlacesOnLine web site and recommended that the AAG continue to support its development. PlacesOnLine has functioned as the "local publication" for the region where the annual meeting is held. If this function is to continue, PlacesOnLine will need to have this content posted about four months prior to the annual meeting.

Journal Operations

AAG Director of Publications Amy Jo Woodruff reported that the new *Guide to Graduate Programs in Geography* now is available. Work flow for the Association's journals is going more smoothly, subject to hills and valleys in submission rates (more manuscripts received in July and August than at other times of year) and the availability and cooperation of reviewers. Recently some glitches with typesetting have delayed printing of the *Professional Geographer*, but this issue seems to be resolving itself. Several *Annals* memorials are in process.

Editors Basil Gomez, Truman Hartshorn, and Audrey Kobayashi described the manuscript flow for the *Annals* and the *Professional Geographer*. They stated that authors are a little impatient about the length of time it takes to get into press (a little over a year) and that editors need to work on increasing the speed of the reviews. They observed that most manuscripts seem to be coming from recent graduates rather than established scholars. Baerwald asked what the editors might be doing to establish the *Annals* as a forum for broader interaction and interchange among allied disciplines? Gomez thought this question appropriate for the entire discipline.

Meridian Place Operations

Executive Director Richardson felt that the AAG has been able to hire a number of good people, but that the office is still "one person deep" in many key areas. Staff will do cross-training to try to develop internal backup support. Richardson stated that some improvements are needed in the accounting group, and he is investigating the possibility of augmenting the staff with supplemental contract support.

Richardson reported that past litigation involving the AAG recently was settled, with no wrongdoing admitted on behalf of the Association.

Richardson informed the Council that there will be some expenditures this year for needed maintenance and upgrades at Meridian Place.

Research and Outreach Initiatives

Richardson and Solís reported that the Geographical Dimensions of Terrorism book has been published; the editors of the book have donated all royalties to the AAG. This NSF-funded initiative has spawned a good deal of subsequent research. The MyCOE (My Community, Our Earth) project is completing its first phase and plans are in development for phase II of the project. High school and college students from 27 countries submitted MyCOE projects, which have been showcased in Johannesburg, Milan, and Washington, DC (among other locations). Solís submitted a grant proposal to cover expenses for phase II, with the AAG acting as the fiscal agent for the multi-agency project (as it did for phase I). The AAG will work to formally assess the impact of the MyCOE projects for students as well as communities. Richardson observed that many organizations that also are interested in education and outreach increasingly are seeking partnerships with the AAG. For example, the American Council on Education has invited the AAG to participate in its international education initiatives.

Richardson outlined the Association's continued support for conferences such as Mapping the News, the GIScience conference, and the National Conference on Science, Policy and the Environment.

Richardson reported that the Race, Place, and Ethnicity conference in Binghamton, NY, was very well attended, and the organizers hope to continue this event. Discussion ensued as to how best to support the goals of the conference. The Enhancing Diversity fund now is part of the Endowment campaign, and this will be an important way to support these activities. Richardson noted also that Solís is involved in a White House initiative focused on educational excellence for Hispanic Americans. A motion was made to create an Ad Hoc Task Force on Diversity, whose charge would be "to facilitate ongoing AAG initiatives on diversity and to recommend a set of long term goals for the AAG in enhancing diversity within geography." The motion was **approved unanimously** by Council.

Richardson outlined efforts to develop relationships with various charitable foundations, including the Ford Foundation, the Kellogg Foundation, and the Tinker Foundation.

Educational Affairs

Educational Affairs Director Osa Brand reviewed the status of a number of currently funded projects, including ARGWorld and a web-based project on Global Geography Education. Projects under development include a spatial learning project (NRC, AAG), *Investigating Cities from Space* (NASA, AAG), the *Teacher's Guide to Modern Geography* (NSF, AAG), and several minority recruiting projects. Brand also described several current projects in which the AAG is involved, but without monetary compensation.

Monk reported on a potential collaboration between the AAG and the UK Learning and Teaching Network for Geography, Earth, and Environmental Sciences (GEES). The group is working towards a collaborative workshop in 2004 following the IGU Congress in Glasgow and is also exploring other opportunities. Bednarz reported that GENIP has partnered with Travelocity to set up an annual award for excellence in geographic education. Baerwald reported that NSF has convened a group of educators from across the social and behavioral sciences (including Brand) to address fundamental progress in (K-12 through post-doc) education in our fields.

Placement Programs

Richardson observed that CoPS activity had dwindled over the years and now has a very minimal presence at annual meeting. In response, the Association has changed the format of CoPS to bring together at the meeting a set of job resources, such as sessions on academic and non-academic employment in geography, mentoring early career faculty, and research and career opportunities. The New Orleans meeting will include 700-1,000 job postings that will give students and faculty members a better idea of the kinds of jobs that are available. Bednarz

suggested that the "essence" of this activity should be available to people who didn't come to the meeting, perhaps via the AAG web site.

CONTINUING AND NEW BUSINESS

Annual Meetings

Richardson reported that to date there are about 3,700 registrants for the New Orleans meeting. Participation guidelines for the meeting are published in the meeting program. The meeting web site includes information for members with disabilities. The Philadelphia Centennial meeting will be a big event, and the Association wants to encourage people to attend. A commemorative poster for the Centennial will be available at the New Orleans meeting.

Future meetings are scheduled for Denver (5-9 April 2005) and Chicago (7-11 March 2006). Council authorized Richardson to work to finalize plans to hold the 2007 meeting in San Francisco.

Disability issues: packet and website include info for disability issues and also for learning network for students with disabilities.

Co-chair Don Janelle reported on the Centennial Coordinating Committee's preparations for the Centennial meeting in Philadelphia. The *Geographers on Film* archive is moving to Michigan State University, and the move is nearly complete. The *Geography in America Timeline* is on-line through George Washington University; editing is nearly finished for manuscripts to appear in *WorldMinds* and about 15 of the 20 chapters for the *Social History* book are in hand. Copies of both books will be given out to members at the 2004 meeting. The winner of the Centennial logo contest is Ms. Lian Tan, a graphic artist originally from Malaysia and now living in the United States.

Committees and Council

Secretary Klink presented the recommendations of the Committee on Committees. The recommendations were **approved unanimously** by Council, which also authorized the Committee to finalize any remaining details via e-mail.

The AAG Executive Committee nominated Kavita Pandit to serve as AAG Secretary and Darrell Napton to serve as AAG Treasurer. The Council **approved unanimously** the nominations. Pandit will serve as Secretary and Napton as Treasurer for terms beginning on 1 July 2003 and extending through the completion of their appointments to Council (30 June 2005).

Richardson updated the Council about the activities of the Long Range Planning Committee. The Committee now has three co-chairs (Tom Baerwald, Susan Cutter, and Alec Murphy) to better manage the work load. A subcommittee will meet this spring to develop a preliminary draft of the long range plan.

Honors and Awards

The Council **endorsed unanimously** the Executive Committee's nomination of Cynthia Enloe (Clark University) as the 2003 Honorary Geographer.

Murphy led a discussion about names for the AAG's Book Awards. After discussion of several possible alternatives, the Council approved unanimously the following names: the AAG *Globe Book Award for Public Understanding of Geography*, and the AAG *Meridian Book Award for the Outstanding Scholarly Work in Geography*.

Nellis presented a proposal to Council for a new Presidential Achievement Award. The proposal was developed in consultation with the AAG Executive Committee. The purpose of the award is to recognize individuals for long-term contributions to geography that may have been overlooked by the Association within any particular year. Some councillors expressed concern that this award may short-circuit the existing Honors process; others observed that this award is more akin to a "Congressional Award" for longstanding contributions to the discipline. Council **approved** establishment of the award (15 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention).

Specialty Groups

Councillor Lawson reviewed several issues raised in the reports submitted by Specialty Group chairs. Concerns mostly center on reporting formats, the role of Specialty Group chairs, and the slow response of the AAG regarding Specialty Group payments. Richardson stated that it is important for the maintenance of the AAG's 501(c)3 status that Specialty Groups submit their reports on time. Lawson pointed out that the AAG's Standing Rules state that Specialty Group chairs should file their reports after the AAG annual meeting, which has the benefit of linking up with the fiscal year cycle. Lawson also suggested that the AAG web site should include a link that shows the roles and responsibilities of Specialty Group chairs. Richardson stated that many specialty groups are moving their funds to the AAG office, rather than maintaining separate accounts.

Lawson relayed a request by the Geography of the Bible Specialty Group asking the AAG to publish their book on *The Geography of the Holy Land* in coordination with the Centennial meeting. Richardson stated that the Centennial Planning Committee solicited book proposals some time ago, and this request has come in a bit late. Some councillors noted that other specialty groups are supporting their own publications. Council ultimately chose to decline the Geography of the Bible Specialty Group's request.

The Cultural Ecology Specialty Group submitted for approval its proposal for the *James M. Blaut Innovative Publication Award*. The award was **approved unanimously**, with the stipulation that the award is named for the Cultural Ecology Specialty Group and not the AAG.

The Community College Affinity Group submitted a request for reduced meeting registration fees for community college students. Several councillors noted that there already exists a reduced rate for students. Rather than institute a new rate, Council thought the Association should make it more widely known that there already is a program in place whereby people with financial hardship can apply for a rebate of registration fees.

Future Council and Executive Committee Meetings

The proposed schedule for future executive committee and council meetings is:

AAG Executive Committee, September 2003, TBD
AAG Council, 17-19 October 2003, Kalamazoo MI
AAG Executive Committee, February 2004, TBD
AAG Council, 13-14 March 2004, Philadelphia PA
AAG Executive Committee, September 2004, TBD
AAG Council, October 2004, Sioux Falls SD

Resolutions

Two resolutions were **approved unanimously** by the council.

Whereas, Janice Monk, as Vice President, President, and Past President of the Association of American Geographers, has exercised exceptional leadership in assisting the Association in working to strengthen international links for academic geography and geographic education, and in promoting diversity within the AAG and among its membership;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Association of American Geographers, assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, on the occasion of its 99th annual meeting, heartily thanks Jan for her leadership of the Association during the past three years, and especially for her efforts to improve the links between research and education, to address issues of diversity, and to enhance the standing of the discipline around the world.

Whereas, Councillors of the Association of American Geographers expend substantial time and effort advancing the causes of the Association and the Discipline; and

Whereas, the Council of the Association of American Geographers has confronted difficult issues and responded to unusual opportunities during the last three years,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Association of American Geographers, assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana, on the occasion of its 99th annual meeting, extends warm appreciation to retiring AAG Councillors Victoria Lawson, James R. Shortridge, Percy H. Dougherty, Fred Shelley, Katherine Klink, and Robert B. Kent for the energy, time, and talent they have contributed to the Association during their terms on the AAG Council.

Adjournment

There being no additional business, President Nellis adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m. on 4 March 2003. ■

Respectfully submitted,
Katherine Klink, AAG Secretary

Association of American Geographers Council Meeting Minutes

Kalamazoo, MI
18-19 October 2003

Attending: Alec Murphy, *President*; Duane Nellis, *Past-President*; Vicky Lawson, *Vice-President*; Kavita Pandit, *Secretary and Regional Councillor (Southeastern Division)*; and Darrell Napton, *Treasurer and Regional Councillor (Great Plains-Rocky Mountains Division)*. *National Councillors:* Thomas Baerwald, Sarah Bednarz, Kent Mathewson, Ann Oberhauser, and Cort Willmott. *Regional Councillors:* Samuel Areetey-Attah (East Lakes Division), Jon Kilpinen (West Lakes Division), Sheryl Luzzadder-Beach (Middle Atlantic Division), Paul Matthews (Southwestern Division), Gregory Pope (Middle States Division), Judy Walton (Pacific Coast Division), Leon Yacher (New England-St. Lawrence Valley). *AAG Staff:* Executive Director Douglas Richardson and Deputy Director Patricia Solís.

Regrets: Kenneth Foote, *National Councillor*.

Visitors: Joe Darden, *Chair, AAG Diversity Taskforce*; Stan Brunn, *Co-Chair, Centennial Coordinating Committee*; Karl Zimmerer, *Candidate for the editorship of the Nature-Society section of the Annals of the AAG*; Robin Friedman, *AAG Journals Manager*; and Michael Solem, *AAG Educational Affairs Director*.

PRELIMINARIES

President Murphy called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. on Saturday, October 18. He introduced David Dickason, Chair of the Department of Geography at Western Michigan University who welcomed the Council to Kalamazoo. President Murphy welcomed the new council members. The agenda for the meeting was adopted subject to a few minor revisions.

The council approved the minutes of the March 2003 AAG Council meeting held in New Orleans, Louisiana.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE ASSOCIATION

President's Priorities

President Murphy stated that in recent months much of his time has been devoted to planning for the centennial meeting. However he is also interested in pursuing three objectives: enhancing geography's role in public debate, fostering intra-disciplinary dialogue and diversifying the membership of the AAG.

With regards to geography's role in public debate, Murphy, working together with Richardson,

plans to capitalize on the centennial meeting by bringing in some high profile public figures such as Rita Colwell, Director of the National Science Foundation, and other scholars such as Jeffrey Sachs and Cynthia Enloe. He is also working to get geography's research in front of the media. Murphy, along with the presidents of NGS and NCCE will prepare a couple of statements for publication in national newspapers, perhaps in conjunction with the Geography Centennial. Another effort he is engaged in is the construction of a list of geographers that are conducting research on issues that are in the public eye and bringing this research to the attention of the broader community. Murphy is also working to get the NRC interested in a follow up to the successful Geographic Dimensions of Terrorism study. Preliminary discussions are also underway to pursue a documentary on geography for broadcast on PBS. Finally, Murphy made reference to his recent trip to Tehran to give a keynote address at an International Geography Congress. This trip provided him with an excellent public opportunity to frame the issues of the day geographically.

Efforts to foster great interdisciplinary dialogue include the organization of plenary sessions at the 2004 centennial meeting. These sessions will cap each day with presentations from high profile individuals within and outside of geography that speak to the breadth of the discipline. Comments made at two of the plenaries will be published in a Centennial Forum section in the December 2004 issue of the *Annals*. President Murphy is also working with the editors of the *Annals* to work out the details in a plan to include cross-cutting papers as lead articles in each issue of the *Annals*.

Murphy informed the Council that with respect to increasing the diversity within the discipline, he will work closely with Vice President Lawson and Past President Duane Nellis who were also engaged in this effort.

Vice President's Priorities

Vice President Vicky Lawson told the Council of the 4 areas on which she intends to focus. The first of these was a *Healthy Departments* initiative focused on strengthening the positions of geography programs within their college and university environments. Toward this end, Lawson is organizing a summer workshop for department chairs which would bring them together with geographers that were involved in different levels of university administration. The first workshop is tentatively scheduled for the end of June 2004.

Lawson's second priority is *increasing diversity* in geography. She stated that she intends to play an

active role in the diversity taskforce constituted by Past President Duane Nellis. Lawson will also work with Richardson in organizing the next conference on Race/Ethnicity and Place which will be held at Howard University.

A third priority is the *Early Career development* of geography faculty. Lawson will work with Ken Foote's Geography Faculty Development Alliance summer workshops. Other activities will include the organization of panels at the AAG meetings and reviving the AAG's Phoenix group with the goal toward developing a new cohort of future leaders for the AAG.

Finally, Lawson plans to showcase geography's role in promoting *Social Justice* through conference plenaries, workshops etc.

Review of Geography Programs

Southeastern Division. Pandit reported that the 2003 SEDAG meeting will take place in late November in Charlotte, NC. More information on the status of geography departments in the region will be available after this, but at present the region's geography programs are managing despite severe budget cuts in some states.

Mid-Atlantic Division: Luzzadder-Beach reported that there has been a recent move to broaden the participation in the division beyond the traditional focus in the Washington, DC area. A variety of activities are planned across the region throughout the year. University of Maryland has become more active in the MAD-AAG.

Great Plains-Rocky Mountains Division: Napton reported that the recent meeting held in Manhattan, KS had one of the highest attendance in recent years with over 200 attendees. Univ of Colorado at Denver and University of Kansas are expanding.

New England-St. Lawrence Valley Division. : Yacher reported that the most recent meeting of the division, held in Hartford CT was well attended and had four concurrent sessions including a special session on the future of the NESTVAL Division. There was some concern about the lack of participation of larger geography departments in the region and the absence of geography programs in the many liberal arts schools in the region. Next year's conference will be in Farmington Maine, and there is discussion of a joint meeting with the Maritime Provinces in the future. Despite budget cuts, departments have been able to survive and even grow. Department of Geography at UMass Boston has been dissolved. NESTVAL region led all the regions in the relative growth in the AAG membership this year.

Pacific Coast Division: Walton reported that this year's meeting was held at Portland State University

and was one of the highest attended ever. After the losses from the Santa Barbara meeting (due to 9/11), the financially successful San Bernardino (2002) and Portland State (2003) meetings have put APCG accounts back in the black. Membership has grown, and the region had the highest absolute growth in AAG membership last year, winning the AAG's challenge award. Overall news from the region is good despite budget cuts. However, the small geography department at Eastern Oregon University is in danger of being eliminated.

Southwest Division: Matthews reported Central Arkansas now has a geography department and Oklahoma State is now offering geography Ph.D.s. This year's meeting will be held in Stillwater, OK.

Middle States: Pope reported that the division was actively involved in the planning for the Centennial meeting. Syracuse University is shoring up its offerings in physical geography through new hires. New faculty were hired to geography departments at Penn State, SUNY Geneseo (where 50% of all incoming freshman take geography), Kutztown University (which also has a new building for the department.) Hunter College now has a geography program. SUNY-Albany is hosting the upcoming Middle States meeting which has a huge increase in attendees.

West Lakes Division: Kilpinen reported that although small departments are active in hosting regional meetings there is a need to involve large departments as well. UW-Stevens Point faculty have received several awards, Northern Iowa will have a newly renovated building in 2005 and the geography department at Valpraiso will relocate to a new building. Kilpinen indicated that small departments in the region have expressed the need for more guidance when approaching university administrators.

East Lakes Division: Areetey-Attoh reported that the new officers of the East Lakes Division are working to revamp the website and newsletter. Ohio University is consolidating their environmental geography initiative. University of Toledo has been asked to propose a Ph.D. in GIS. Michigan State University has gone through an external evaluation process. Ohio View is a consortium of GIS scholars which has led up to some exciting collaborations.

Review of Topical Developments

President Murphy asked the National Councillors to discuss the question "Why does the AAG matter?" According to him, framing the answer to this was crucial for (1) soliciting contributions for the centennial campaign, and (2) ensuring our membership does not fall after the journals become available electronically. Richardson added that this question is important in light of the fact that the discipline was not immune to broader trends of splintering that are affecting many disciplinary organizations. Given this context, we need to look for ways to keep the AAG as a central point of reference for all geographers.

Matthewson: stressed the importance of multi-disciplinary initiatives such as forming geography sections/study groups within other organizations.

He also raised the question of whether associate memberships could be offered to non-geographers.

Oberhauser brought up the need to emphasize the relevance of the AAG especially since some of the best and brightest scholars in geography are moving away from the discipline. According to her, the AAG needs to use the centennial not only to focus on our successes but also to engage in some critical reflection.

Wilmott observed that Council membership does not include explicitly representation from our most popular and active specialty groups (for example, the GIS, Remote Sensing and Urban SGs). He also noted that the AAG journals are primarily directed toward a geography audience and attract a limited readership from other disciplines. As a result, physical geographers and others often send their best pieces to more visible journals. Wilmott wondered if the AAG could put out a few more focused geography journals. This prompted a discussion of how the AAG could allow diverse specializations to flourish while maintaining its role as an umbrella organization for all geographers.

Bednarz noted that the greatest relevance of the AAG is its lobbying potential on the behalf of geography. She provided the example of the No Child Left Behind initiative which excludes geography and argued that only through lobbying can we change this. Bednarz also observed that there are also different types of citizens in every organization and each seeks to participate in a different way. The AAG should provide diverse types of opportunities for members to participate in the AAG.

Baerwald raised four issues. (1) Given that geography is an interdisciplinary field, the AAG's challenge is to highlight the benefits of working together while still allowing everyone to pursue their individual interests. (2) The AAG needs to clarify its role. Is it a membership organization (one that generates benefits for members), a scholarly society (seeking to benefit scholarship) or a professional organization (promoting geography)? (3) The AAG's greatest value is not to the individual but to the collective, viz. the discipline. Supporting the AAG is an issue of common pool resources (4) Our specialty group structure can play an important role in making the AAG distinctive from other scholarly societies.

Murphy summarized the ideas presented by the National Councillors and thanked them for their input.

Tom Baerwald was elected by the National Councillors as the Chair of the National Councillors.

Past President's Priorities

Past President Nellis noted that one of his high priorities was to ensure a smooth transition in the AAG leadership after Abler's departure. As chair of the Executive Director Search committee, Nellis hired Doug Richardson and the transition had proceeded successfully. A second priority was boosting the AAG membership which had been declining.

Through a number of changes including improvements in membership processing, the membership has now turned around. A third priority was the centennial campaign. At present this has raised \$468,000 not including annuities and bequests. Nellis is continuing to work on internal and external fundraising initiatives. Finally, the diversity taskforce established by Nellis has made good strides and will continue its mission under Lawson's leadership.

Executive Director's Comments

Richardson began by thanking the Council for the opportunity to serve as the Executive Director, and Nellis, Murphy and Lawson for their support. Following this he presented the highlights of AAG activities over the past year. These included the financial health of the AAG, growth in membership, the hire of a new Journals Manager (Robin Friedman) and Educational Affairs Director (Michael Solem), upgrading of the newsletter format and content, revamping of the AAG website, and planning for the Centennial meeting.

STATUS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Finances

Assets. Richardson presented an overview of the preliminary FYE 2003 figures. This represented the first time in over four years that the AAG was not in a deficit situation. Costs have been cut through the renegotiation of existing contracts. Revenues have been raised partly through funding from agencies like NSF, USDA etc. Some of the surplus will be transferred to a capital infrastructure fund to support infrastructure maintenance in the coming years. The audit of these preliminary figures is scheduled for November 2003.

Banking. The AAG's banking arrangements with Merrill Lynch have not been satisfactory, and Richardson is in the process of consolidating all accounts at a full service bank. Now that we are no longer in a deficit financial situation, it will be possible for the AAG to get a line of credit. Richardson has also hired a professional bookkeeping company to come in a few days a week to help with bookkeeping and conduct internal audits, etc.

Centennial Fund. As of the end of September 2003, the fund has received \$468,000 in pledges (and over \$180,000 in actual contributions). The AAG staff is looking into "naming opportunities" at different levels toward this fundraising effort.

Council **unanimously approved** Richardson's proposal to remit annually \$1.20 per full member who has a mailing address in the United States to the regional divisions.

Murphy stated that the membership owes Richardson a huge debt of gratitude for bringing the organization out of the red so that we can now go forward from a position of financial strength.

Continued on page 20

Membership

Richardson reported that AAG membership has grown steadily and is currently a little over 7400. Membership processing services have been streamlined, and the new online renewal system is effective. The AAG booth at a recent ESRI meeting generated a large number of new members. Richardson noted, however that we need to develop a package of membership benefits that will appeal to groups like these if we decide to attract more non-academic members. A new feature in the AAG newsletter, "Membership profiles," focuses on drawing attention to the diversity of AAG membership.

Julie Winkler, Chair of the AAG Membership Committee visited the Council to provide an update on the committee's work. She presented the results of membership data analysis done by the committee. Committee member Don Vermeer's membership analysis based on the AAG *Guide to Geography Programs* found that a substantial number of geography faculty members that are not AAG members, and the students of these faculty are more likely not to be AAG members. A separate analysis of AAG membership files found that a large number of members join for just 1 or 2 years.

Winkler proposed that the AAG conduct a survey of the approximately 2000 lapsed members to elucidate the reasons why they had not renewed their membership. The council **unanimously approved** the motion to conduct this survey. A second proposal made by Winkler was to award free memberships to nine community college faculty (one from each regional division, to be selected by the regional division) in conjunction with the AAG centennial celebrations. In exchange, these awardees would have to organize a session at the regional meeting. This proposal dovetailed with the Community College Initiative which has been led by Joan Clemons. The motion was **unanimously approved** by Council.

Murphy thanked Julie Winkler for the excellent work of the Membership Committee.

Publications

Richardson introduced the new journals manager Robin Friedman. She was the top choice out of a competitive pool of candidates. Murphy welcomed her to the AAG staff.

Newsletter. The look and content of the AAG newsletter has been improved. Megan Northrup will be working on the newsletter and the *Guide to the Geography Programs*. Publication production is steady.

AAG Journals. A special centennial issue of the *PG* is scheduled for February 2004. Murphy is editing a "Forum" section of the *Annals* based on selected presentations made at the Presidential Plenary sessions at the Centennial meeting. An extra 100 pages have been added to the journal to accommodate this section without displacing scheduled

articles. Richardson has been working with Blackwell to streamline the workflow for the journal manuscripts.

Council discussed the pros and cons of having the AAG journals made available online with a package such as the Blackwell *Synergy* system. There was a general consensus that given the trend in the publishing world, we will have to go online in this way at some point. Richardson agreed, but noted for the record the potential negative impact this might hold for AAG revenue and membership. Richardson said he would work with Blackwell to try to identify ways to give members some special advantages with respect to the online journals. Council **voted unanimously** to authorize Richardson to pursue possible agreements with Blackwell or others to place our journals online.

Other publications. Richardson noted that *Geography in America* will be out in January 2004. The *Geographic Dimensions of Terrorism* book has generated \$2,500 in royalties that are being donated by the editors to the AAG Centennial fund.

Council welcomed Karl Zimmerer, candidate for editorship of the Nature-Society section of the *Annals*. He presented his view of the trends in the Nature-Society scholarship in geography, and responded to questions from the Council about his editorial priorities and style. Murphy thanked Zimmerer for being available to meet with Council. After discussion, Council **unanimously approved** the appointment of Zimmerer as the next editor of the Nature-Society section of the *Annals*.

Meridian Place Operations

There have been a number of new personnel hired at Meridian Place: Robin Friedman (Journals Manager), Michael Solem (Educational Affairs Director), and Heather Heimbuch (administrative assistant). Patricia Solis has been appointed as AAG Deputy Director. A part-time worker is handling AAG accounting. Two interns are also working at the AAG office.

Richardson mentioned that AAG insurance costs have gone up rapidly. He also noted that regional meetings have not in the past been covered by the AAG liability insurance and proposed seeking a rider to the AAG policy to cover regional meetings. Major building maintenance in the coming years will be required, and a plan for capital infrastructure needs will be developed.

Research and Outreach

Deputy Director Solis summarized the AAC's recent research and outreach activities. These included the following:

Geographic Dimensions of Terrorism: The AAG has received a supplementary grant from NSF to disseminate the results from this study. The NRC-Committee on Geography is proposing a study on the underlying causes of terrorism. The proposal

will be submitted to NSF and other selected agencies. Overall, thanks to the Geographic Dimensions of Terrorism initiative, geography is now seen as a discipline which can address this area of research.

Internationalizing the Discipline. The American Council on Education is working on internationalizing education in a number of disciplines including geography. The AAG is working with ACE to develop a proposal to explore the possible roles of disciplinary organizations in this effort.

Ph.D. Five Years Out Study. The Center for Innovation and Research in Graduate Education at University of Washington has chosen geography as one of the seven disciplines to survey the career paths of Ph.D. recipients 5 years ago. The AAG has been able to include a couple of questions related to the role of disciplinary organizations in helping individuals along their career paths. The AAG will receive summary data on geography Ph.D.s in January 2005.

Geography Career Outreach. The AAG has succeeded in getting the description of geography careers in the Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook updated.

A number of proposals are currently being developed. The AAG is in the early stages of exploring the possibility of establishing an Office of the Geographer at the U.S. Congress. The U.S. Department of Agriculture is providing funding for activities on geography and sustainable development in conjunction with its 4-H programs. These activities are a direct outcome of the success of MyCOE. Collaborative initiatives with the Office of Naval Research, InterAmerican Development Bank, NOAA, USAID, and other institutions are being developed.

The AAG will cosponsor a Mapping in the News conference, perhaps at the National Press Club in Washington, DC in late Spring of 2004. The next Race/Ethnicity and Place conference will take place in September 2004 at Howard University, co-sponsored by the AAG, Binghamton University, and Howard University. The AAG is also supporting and co-sponsoring the 2004 GIScience conference, to be held in October, 2004.

There was some discussion of AAG elections and voting trends. Our participation rates are at the middle/high range as compared to other associations. The issue of online voting was raised and will be revisited in a few years.

Richardson thanked Patricia Solis for her energy in working in the research and outreach area.

Diversity Taskforce

Joe Darden, the Chair of the AAG Diversity Taskforce was introduced by Alec Murphy. Darden told the Council that he was initially ambivalent about chairing this taskforce because in the past, recommendations by diversity committees were rarely institutionalized by geography departments.

Darden indicated that he agreed to serve on this taskforce because of his confidence in Richardson, and his hope that there would now be follow-through action.

Darden said that the taskforce will identify departments that are willing to take steps to increase diversity and focus on helping those departments. It will provide a packet of materials that will provide a guide to departments wishing to enhance diversity. He urged departments to look on diversity as an integral part of the department's programs not as an add-on item. The taskforce will also organize sessions and panel at the national meetings.

Considerable discussion ensued about implementation strategies for taskforce initiatives. President Murphy thanked Joe Darden for the excellent work of the Taskforce.

Educational Affairs

Richardson introduced Michael Solem, the new AAG Director of Educational Affairs. Solem updated the Council on some of the ongoing efforts of the AAG in this area:

Online Center for Global Geography Education. This project is designed to support online international collaborative learning and geographic inquiry and is funded by NSF (Michael Solem PI). It is in its testing phase and a full development proposal will be submitted to NSF in summer 2005.

Geography Faculty Development Alliance. The GFDA is geared to support the success of early career geography faculty through summer workshops and follow up activities at the national meetings. It is funded by the NSF (Ken Foote, PI) and Solem is collaborating with Foote on the project's research component.

My Community, Our Earth (MyCOE). The Phase II of this project has now commenced. The USDA has committed \$70,000 to AAG to disseminate MyCOE materials to USDA-related programs.

NSF Science of Learning Center. The SLC program supports large-scale and long-term centers that advance learning research. Solem will lead the AAG effort to organize a research consortium and formulate a proposal for the 2004 SLC competition.

ARGUS and ARGWorld. The AAG share of the royalties from this project will be used to support of the AAG Educational Affairs director (30%) and the Geography Educational Materials Development Fund (70%).

GENIP

Nellis informed the Council on recent GENIP activities. Sarah Bednarz is the GENIP project coordinator, and Roger Downs is the chair. Nellis, Downs, and Solem are the AAG representatives on GENIP. Much of the discussion in GENIP has centered on

how we can strengthen geography's position in public policy pertaining to geographic education. Of particular concern has been the omission of geography in the No Child Left Behind initiative. AAG is requesting \$25,000 from GENIP to help support a staff member in Washington to monitor federal legislation and regulations that pertain to geographic education. The Council **approved (with one abstention)** the motion that the AAG, as a member of GENIP, approve the GENIP contribution.

CONTINUING AND NEW BUSINESS

Annual Meetings

Stan Brunn, Co-Chair of the Centennial Coordinating Committee visited the Council and provided a summary and update of the many activities that are being organized for the Centennial meeting and at other times during the year. Council members were encouraged to contribute memorabilia to Don Janelle for the Hall of History at the AAG centennial meeting. Don Dahmann is also very interested in adding more detail to the timeline and would welcome contributions. Arlene Rengert is organizing a silent auction and is looking for contributions with a geographical theme.

Richardson went over the preliminary schedule and highlights of the 2004 AAG meeting. He noted that the meeting is priced at below cost, and that he is looking for corporate sponsors to help subsidize the meeting. As of the present there were 2700 registrations which was on par with past meetings at a similar point. However the sale of banquet tickets was much higher than in the past.

There was some discussion of the extra costs of the Centennial meeting. Murphy indicated that there were good reasons for why this meeting had a higher fee, which were addressed by Richardson in his column in the October 2003 AAG newsletter. Richardson also noted that the AAG is trying to help offset costs to members in two ways: (1) through the waiver of registration for student volunteers and (2) through a special fund set aside for those members with financial hardship.

Murphy expressed his thanks to Stan Brunn and Don Janelle for their work on the CCC.

The venues for future AAG meetings are Denver (2005), Chicago (2006), and San Francisco (2007). Richardson is exploring the possibility of holding the 2008 meeting in Washington, D.C. Future Council meetings are scheduled for 13-14 March in Philadelphia and 1-2 October in Sioux Falls SD.

Committees and Council

Committee on Committees. The Council voted to finalize the Nominating and Honors Committee

slates. These will appear in the December 2003 newsletter.

Long Range Planning Committee. Murphy provided an update on the work of the Long Range Planning Committee. Following discussion, the Long Range Plan was adopted by Council. It was agreed that the report and its contents should be widely disseminated.

Standing Committees. The Places on Line developers have asked for an endorsement of their activities. Murphy felt that the Council should not micromanage the activities of any specialty group. The AAG Research Grants Committee has asked that the form for applying for the Vouras Award have a check off for minority status. Richardson clarified that henceforth, the standing committee reports will be discussed at the spring council meeting.

Specialty Groups. Specialty group reports were reviewed. Council **approved unanimously** the formation of two new specialty groups: Communication Geography Specialty Group and Developing Areas Specialty Group. Tom Baerwald, as chair of the national councilors, will meet with specialty group chairs in 2004.

Honors and Awards

The AAG Executive Committee approved the nomination of Keith Ord as the 2004 Honorary Geographer, and Bruce Alberts and Harm De Blij for the 2004 Presidential Awards.

The Council **approved unanimously** the recommendations made by the AAG Honors Committee for the 2004 Honors awards.

Richardson discussed a recent letter he had received from the International Geographic Information Foundation asking if the AAG would be interested in being considered as a candidate to administer IGIF funds related to GIS research and education. Council voted unanimously to direct Richardson to pursue this opportunity subject to final approval by the Executive Committee.

Closed Session

Council met in closed session to conduct its annual review of the Executive Director's performance and compensation.

Adjournment

There being no further business, President Murphy adjourned the Council meeting at 12:00 noon on Sunday, October 19, 2003. ■

Respectfully submitted,
Kavita Pandit
AAG Secretary

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Association of American Geographers Council Meeting Minutes

Philadelphia, PA
12-14 March, 2004

Attending: Alec Murphy, President; Duane Nellis, Past-President; Kavita Pandit, Secretary and Regional Councillor (Southeastern Division); and Darrell Napton, Treasurer and Regional Councillor (Great Plains-Rocky Mountains Division). National Councillors: Thomas Baerwald, Sarah Bednarz, Kenneth Foote, Kent Mathewson, Ann Oberhauser, and Cort Willmott. Regional Councillors: Samuel Aryeetey-Attoh (East Lakes Division), Jon Kilpinen (West Lakes Division), Sheryl Luzzadder-Beach (Middle Atlantic Division), Paul Matthews (Southwestern Division), Gregory Pope (Middle States Division), Judy Walton (Pacific Coast Division), Leon Yacher (New England-St. Lawrence Valley). AAG Staff: Executive Director Douglas Richardson and Deputy Director Patricia Solís.

Regrets: Vicky Lawson, Vice President.

Visitors: Robert Andelman, Oscar Larson, Robin Friedman, Michael Solem, AAG Staff; Richard Marston, Vice President-elect; Michael Goodchild and Audrey Kobayashi, *Annals of the AAG* Editors; Truman Hartshorn, *Professional Geographer* editor; John Ray, IGIF; Orlando Taylor, Dean of the Graduate School, Howard University; Rita Colwell and Peg Barratt, National Science Foundation; Stan Brunn and Don Janelle, Centennial Coordinating Committee Co-chairs.

PRELIMINARIES

President Murphy called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. on March 12. The agenda for the meeting was reviewed and adopted subject to a few minor revisions.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S PRIORITIES

Alec Murphy summarized progress on

his presidential initiatives. With regards to enhancing the profile of geography in public debate, Murphy published an op-ed piece on the importance of geography for understanding international developments in 12-15 newspapers around the country. The art of op-ed writing was also the subject of one of his presidential columns and he will organize a workshop on the topic at the Denver AAG to build on momentum. He also noted the presence of high profile public figures at the Centennial meeting. A second initiative, increasing intra-disciplinary dialogue in geography, was being addressed in his presidential columns and in the Presidential Plenary sessions which will appear in the December issue of the *Annals*. Murphy noted that the idea of including cross-cutting pieces in the *Annals* was under discussion with the *Annals* editors. Murphy noted that he was also working to support the Centennial Fund and diversity initiatives of Duane Nellis and Vicky Lawson respectively.

PAST PRESIDENT'S PRIORITIES

Duane Nellis recapped his activities over the past three years. The transition to the new AAG director has taken place very successfully. The Centennial Fund continues to grow. The first two Presidential Awards will go to Bruce Alberts, President of the National Academy of Sciences, and Harm DeBlij. Nellis summarized the issues that came up at the recent GENIP meetings. He ended by noting the he, along with Susan Cutter and Jan Monk, is in the process of editing a book that compiles selected presidential columns from the *AAG Newsletter*. The volume will be published by the West Virginia Press.

VICE PRESIDENT'S PRIORITIES

Murphy communicated to the Council the four priorities that Vicky Lawson will be pursuing in the coming years. The first

is the Healthy Departments initiative. This summer workshop has already drawn considerable interest. There was also a need to create a standing committee that becomes a repository of information that departments often need. The second is increasing diversity in the AAG membership. Vicky will take an active role in the diversity taskforce constituted by Past President Duane Nellis. Lawson will also work with Richardson in organizing the next conference on Race/Ethnicity and Place which will be held at Howard University. The final two priorities are the early career development of geography faculty and showcasing geography's role in promoting social justice.

REVIEW OF GEOGRAPHY PROGRAMS

Middle States. Pope noted that a number of universities in the region are hiring geographers. State budgets are a bit better than in the past year.

East Lakes. Aryeetey-Attoh reported that Grand Valley State is hosting the 1st International Workshop on Human Dimensions of Climate and Environmental Change in Central Asia and engaging in projects in Brazil and Peru. Western Michigan received a 3 year NSF-REU grant on Globalization and Sustainable Development in Latin America. Youngstown State Geography has moved to new facilities in close association with the Center for Urban Studies, and is involved in a university-wide assessment effort. Toledo is making progress on the Ph.D. initiative. Division is debating on the appropriate status for Ontario geographers wishing to associate with the region.

West Lakes. Kilpinen reported positive news from the department heads in terms of hiring and enrollments, and donation to capital campaigns and endowments.

Southeastern. Pandit reported that new doctoral programs have been put in place at UNC-Greensboro and University

of South Florida (in conjunction with Department of Environmental Studies and Policy).

Pacific Coast. Walton reported a positive mood at most geography programs in the region. The mood in California was a bit more negative.

Great Plains-Rocky Mountains. Napton focused on the state of North Dakota. There are many "lonely geographers" in the state who are difficult to keep track of because of the high turnover in their numbers. There are three searches underway at the University of North Dakota, and the department will be moving to new facilities at the center of campus this summer. The geography department is facing new competition from the College of Aerospace Studies, which is adding a graduate program in earth system sciences.

Mid-Atlantic. Luzzader-Beach reported that University of Maryland will host the 2004 regional meeting. Frostburg State hosted a Student Research Day earlier in the year, and various departments in the region hosted prominent geographers from outside the region.

New England-St. Lawrence Valley. Yacher reported several instances where departmental faculty and physical facilities had expanded in the past year. A number of intra-divisional collaborations have been initiated.

Southwest. Matthews reported that the Southwest Division was in good shape. Geography at Oklahoma State is doing particularly well.

Doug Richardson reported that AAG is willing to handle the financial bookkeeping of those regions that desire it. He also announced that the AAG has added a rider to its liability coverage that will now cover the regional division meetings.

REVIEW OF TOPICAL DEVELOPMENTS

President Murphy asked the National Councillors to discuss the question "Does geographical research and teaching need to be more responsive to the high profile social issues of the day?"

Footo noted that geography is responding well to the urgent issues of the day and is already in a high profile position.

Willmott agreed with *Footo* that geographers are becoming more active and visible. However he was concerned that the AAG mainly focuses on quantitative measures in assessing geography's progress rather than on the quality of our research and the nature of our innovative contributions. He wondered if we are becoming excessively corporate and driven by the agendas of funding agencies.

Oberhauser appreciated the role of geography in promoting an international outlook. She noted that the growing fragmentation of the discipline will create the need for us to define the discipline. However it also creates the opportunity for us to address a widening range of social issues.

Bednarz raised the issue of "missing geography research." One issue is Brown vs. the Board of Education. The other is spatial analysis of contemporary education issues. These are some very important areas that geographers are not addressing. According to her, we have separated theory from policy and that is hurting us.

Mathewson, along the same lines wondered if the AAG could "forecast" or think ahead to significant events or anniversaries coming up and prepare a geographical perspective to the issue ahead of time.

Baerwald noted the funding success of geographers particularly at NSF but added that geographers do need to become more socially relevant to attract continued funding. An example of a success story in this area is the Geographical Dimensions of Terrorism initiative, which has raised the profile of the discipline. It is important for us to continue to bridge research and policy. NSF is placing greater emphasis on the societal and educational impacts of research. The one area in which he felt we are weak is the scientific examination of social and economic phenomena and linking GIS to scientific human geography.

Council members discussed these ideas further, and Murphy thanked the National Councillors for their input.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Richardson provided a brief review of 2003. Highlights included the growth of the AAG Centennial Fund, and the rise in AAG membership. The *Annals's* Nature-Society section has a new editor, and the AAG is soliciting applications for a new editor for the *PG*. The *AAG Newsletter* has been expanded, and will henceforth be posted on the AAG website for immediate access. He outlined the new and continuing research, outreach, and educational projects.

STATUS OF THE ASSOCIATION FINANCES

Treasurer Darrell Napton and Doug Richardson reviewed the financial situation of the AAG. Finances and financial management are in good shape. The Association received a very positive audit report. For the first time in five years, the AAG had a positive cash flow. Napton discussed the myth amongst some members that the annual meetings generate profits for the AAG. Instead, the AAG has often had to absorb some of the costs and Richardson is trying to more accurately capture the costs of the meetings in the registration fees. The registration cost of the Denver meeting will be less than the Centennial meeting, but probably not as low as the fees charged in previous years. Richardson also mentioned that there are a number of mechanisms such as the Enrichment Fund and student volunteer activities that can help reduce or eliminate the cost of registration.

Council **approved unanimously** a set of four resolutions that empowered the Executive Director to take all actions necessary to consolidate AAG accounts in the SunTrust bank.

Budget. Napton reviewed the proposed budget for 2005. Council **unanimously approved** the 2005 budget.

Centennial Campaign. Nellis reported that pledges toward this campaign are now

over \$600,000. There are also several sizable pending bequests. He also announced the launching of a new campaign that will allow persons to purchase an AAG "birthday brick" to place in the entrance walkway to Meridian Place for \$1,500. Nellis also discussed the idea of contacting family members or former students of prominent deceased geographers to set up special named endowments.

International Geographic Information Foundation. Richardson reported that the IGIF has selected the AAG over two other competing organizations to continue its work of providing scholarships and grants to support geography. The assets of IGIF will transfer to the AAG, and the AAG will appoint an Interim board to oversee IGIF operations.

Council **approved unanimously** two resolutions to facilitate the transfer of IGIF assets to AAG control.

Doug Richardson welcomed visitor John Ray of the IGIF to the Council meeting. John Ray provided a short history of the IGIF. Richardson thanked John Ray for all his efforts in support of IGIF, and for the selection of the AAG as IGIF's successor organization.

MEMBERSHIP

Richardson reported that AAG membership is at a record high of almost 8,500. This high mark was the result of a concerted effort to bring back lapsed members to the Association and to recruit young members. Part of the membership increase may also be due to the interest in the Centennial meeting. Richardson anticipates a small drop in the membership but was hopeful that we will retain most members in the coming years. Council discussed the factors that may affect AAG membership trends.

PUBLICATIONS

Newsletter. Richardson mentioned that there have been difficulties in getting the newsletter delivered in a timely basis via bulk mail due to the frequent disruptions experienced by the Washington, D.C.,

area post offices. He felt that the AAG newsletter needs to be posted as soon as it becomes available in the "Members Only" section of the AAG website. The Council members supported this move.

Other publications. Murphy noted that the latest *Guide to Geography Departments* was now available. It is much easier to use thanks to a new formatting. Two centennial publications are also being distributed at the meeting.

AAG Journals. Cort Willmott noted that the job advertisement for the editor of the *Professional Geographer* appeared in the March 2004 newsletter. He noted that a suggestion had been made to have an Associate Editor as well for the journal—this may be something that could be brought up with the selected editor. Richardson suggested increasing the stipend available to the editor which would allow him/her to get additional help. Council members supported this idea. Murphy asked Council members to encourage qualified people to apply for this position.

Council **unanimously approved** the slate for the *Annals* Editorial Board as proposed by editors Zimmerer and Kobayashi.

Richardson introduced Robin Friedman, AAG Journals Manager. She updated the Council on the contents of the upcoming issues of the *Annals* and the *PG*.

Council discussed other issues related to the journals, and referred three of these to the Publications Committee for action/recommendation. First, since the terms of editors Michael Goodchild and Basil Gomez were expiring simultaneously in the next year, the Publications Committee was asked to consider asking one of the two to serve an additional year. Second, the Publications Committee should consider whether there should be separate book review editors for the *Annals* and the *PG*. Finally, the Publications Committee was asked to explore the possibility of publishing short obituaries in the *PG*.

Following this discussion, Alec Murphy welcomed *Annals* editors Audrey Kobayashi and Michael Goodchild and *PG* editor Truman Hartshorn to the Council meeting. Kobayashi reported that the transition to a new journals manager has gone well. With Robin's help, the backlog of manuscripts submitted to the "People, Place, and Region" section has been cleared. She also noted that the authorship of papers to this section of the *Annals* is heavily dominated by two groups: senior authors from overseas and recent Ph.D.s from the United States. She spent considerable time working with the latter group of authors but viewed it as a productive task. Kobayashi would like to see more senior American authors submit to the *Annals*. Goodchild reported a satisfactory manuscript flow of 25 to 30 per year of which 8-10 are published. He reported that a high share of the submissions to the "Methods, Models, and GIS" section of the *Annals* tended to be unsuitable for publication or authored by "repeat visitors"—persons who made frequent submissions to the journal. Goodchild also spoke to the difficulty in getting reviewers for manuscripts, a point that was reinforced by Truman Hartshorn.

Murphy brought up the issue of including cross-cutting pieces in the *Annals*. There was general support for this initiative, and Council discussed some of the logistical issues associated with having such a section with the *Annals* editors.

MERIDIAN PLACE OPERATIONS

Richardson reported the new personnel hired at Meridian Place: Heather Heimbuch (administrative assistant), Gayathri Gopiram (IMS and website enhancement), and Terry Lynn Martin (accounting manager who will now be working full time). The AAG has also hired Gary Fitzpatrick as a Policy Fellow who will work part time for 6 months to help monitor Congressional bills and activities related to geography.

Future capital infrastructure expenses will involve improvements to the building

such as painting and roof maintenance. Murphy noted that the size of the AAG operations has caused us to outgrow the space in Meridian Place. At some point in the future, we may consider developing off site locations to accommodate the growing staff and projects.

RESEARCH AND OUTREACH

Deputy Director Solís summarized the AAG's recent research and outreach activities. These include launching Phase II of the My Community Our Earth project (collaboration with USDA, NOAA, USAID, InterAmerican Development Bank, NGS, Office of Naval Research, and others), obtaining NSF Travel funding for geographers to attend the 2004 IGU Congress in Glasgow, developing a NSF proposal to enhance the National Science Digital Library, and partnering with the American Council on Education to internationalize the discipline.

Richardson reminded Council of the upcoming conferences sponsored or co-sponsored by the AAG. These include the Mapping in the News conference to be held in Washington D.C. (May 14-15, 2004), the Race/Ethnicity and Place conference at Howard University (September 16-18, 2004), and the GIScience conference (October 20-23, 2004). Richardson also mentioned that he was planning a 2005 conference that looks at the links between Geography and the Humanities.

Solís shared with Council the 10 projects suggested by the Diversity Task Force. A number of panels and sessions are being organized at the AAG that promote the action agenda of the Task Force, and many of the other activities are already underway.

AAG's activities related to Geography Careers and Outlook are reflected in a recent article in *Nature* magazine on geography's leadership in the area of geospatial science and technologies, and new employment opportunities. Solís is also working on enhancing AAG's careers activities.

Richardson updated Council on issues related to public policy, press and publicity, and outreach and external relations.

Murphy thanked Solís and Richardson for their work in the research and outreach area.

Richardson welcomed Dean Orlando Taylor, Dean of the Graduate School at of Howard University and summarized the partnerships that AAG is forging with Howard University. Orlando Taylor discussed the challenges to the social science disciplines and the opportunities represented by the AAG-Howard relationship. Richardson thanked Orlando for the opportunity of working together with him and Howard University during the past year and into the future.

Murphy welcomed Rita Colwell and Peg Barratt from the National Science Foundation to the Council meeting. Colwell summarized trends in NSF budget and strategies, and responded to questions from Council. Murphy and Richardson thanked Colwell and Barratt for their presence in Philadelphia.

EDUCATIONAL AFFAIRS

Richardson introduced Michael Solem, the AAG Director of Educational Affairs. Solem updated the Council on several ongoing educational efforts of the AAG including the proposal for a Center for the Advancement of Geography Education, the Online Center for Global Geography Education, the Geography Faculty Development Alliance activities, and a FIPSE supported program on Teacher's Guide to Modern Geography. Projects under exploration include a NSF Science of Learning Center and a U.S. Department of Education Predoctoral Interdisciplinary Research Training Program in Education Sciences. He also updated the Council on activities of Geography Education Materials Development Fund (GEMDF) and GENIP activities.

Doug Richardson thanked Michael Solem for all his efforts in the area of Educational Affairs and for helping to move the AAG's educational initiatives more

strongly into the higher education arena while at the same time sustaining the focus on K-12.

CONTINUING AND NEW BUSINESS

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Murphy informed the council about a proposal that he had received from a group of AAG members that the Council should adopt a resolution requiring the AAG to contract with only union hotels for the annual meeting. After discussion, the Council **passed unanimously** the following motion:

"The Council directs the Executive director to make every effort to actively solicit and give preference to a suitable unionized hotel in cities selected for the AAG meetings, provided that such hotel's rates and facilities are competitive with those of non-union hotels; and the Council directs the Executive Director to report to Council on the implementation of this initiative as part of the regular report on future AAG meetings and include discussion of the issue in the minutes of the Council meetings."

Richardson reviewed the upcoming events at the Centennial meeting, and thanked the AAG staff for their excellent work. The Council gave a special vote of thanks to Robert Andelman who donated the Centennial plaque to the Association.

There was discussion and concern expressed about the fact that the paper titles were not included in the AAG meeting program. Oscar Larson spoke to the Council about the oversight problem, and the Council discussed various options, including the printing of a program addendum to make paper titles available to meeting registrants. The Council thanked Oscar Larson for his hard work on meeting organization.

Alec Murphy welcomed Stan Brunn and Don Janelle, Centennial Coordinating Committee Co-chairs to the Council. Council discussed the planning process that went into the Centennial meeting. Murphy thanked Brunn and Janelle for all

their work and planning for the Centennial meeting.

The venues for future AAG meetings are Denver (2005), Chicago (2006), and San Francisco (2007). For the 2008 meeting, Boston has been selected as the host city, and contracts are in the final stages of negotiation.

The next Executive Committee meetings will be in Washington, D.C. on September 19, 2004. Future Council Meetings will be in Sioux Falls, S.D. (October 1-3, 2003) and Denver, CO (April 3-5, 2005).

HONORS AND AWARDS

Richardson informed Council about the major awards to be made at the Awards Banquet. He noted that, as in the past, the announcement of Specialty Group awards will be made only if the award winner is present at the banquet.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Murphy proposed the establishment of a new Standing Committee on Healthy Departments. The charge for this committee would read as follows:

"The committee seeks to help geography departments in colleges and universities strengthen their programs by sharing, developing, and disseminating materials and information of use to department heads; organizing workshops and other activities; providing recommendations of geographers who could serve effectively as site visitors or reviewers; and bringing to the attention of Council issues of importance to the health of geography departments. The committee will also provide a resource for departments in need of rapid input in response to challenges that arise."

Council **unanimously approved** the establishment of this committee.

The Council **unanimously approved** the nominees for the upcoming vacancies on various Standing Committees, noting that the membership of the Healthy Departments Standing Committee, currently comprised of Vicky Lawson (chair), Alec Murphy, and Sarah Bednarz, would likely be expanded over time. Council members discussed strategies to streamline the nomination process and increase nominations for the various AAG awards.

SPECIALTY GROUPS

Tom Baerwald noted that since Specialty Group reports are due following the Annual meeting, a full report on Specialty Group activities will be forthcoming in the Fall Council meeting. Murphy noted that he had received an application for the establishment of a new specialty group, the Viticulture and Oenology Specialty Group. Council **unanimously approved** the establishment of this specialty group.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS

Council **unanimously approved** the following two resolutions.

Whereas, Duane Nellis, as Vice President and President of the Association of American Geographers has exercised exceptional leadership in assisting the Association in addressing the challenges facing the discipline of Geography and working to strengthen academic geography, geographic education, and the internal administrative, management, and financial capacity of the AAG;

Therefore be it Resolved that the Association of American Geographers, assembled in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on the occasion of its Centennial Meeting, heartily thanks Duane for his leadership of the Association during the past three years, and especially for his efforts to improve the standing of the discipline and the profession in all sectors, and for his role in initiating the AAG's Advancing Geography Centennial Fund.

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

Whereas, the Council of the Association of American Geographers has confronted difficult issues and responded to unusual opportunities during the last three years,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Association of American Geographers, assembled in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on the occasion of its Centennial Meeting, extends warm appreciation to Past President Duane Nellis and retiring AAG Councillors Kent Mathewson, Cort J. Willmott, Sheryl Luzzadder-Beach, Leon Yacher, and Judy R. Walton, for the energy, time, and talent they have contributed to the Association during their terms on the AAG Council.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Murphy adjourned the Council meeting at noon on Sunday, March 14, 2004. ■

Respectfully submitted,
Kavita Pandit, AAG Secretary

Call for Papers

**for the AAG's 2005 Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado,
is now available at www.aag.org.**

Association of American Geographers

Council Meeting Minutes

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

October 2-3, 2004

Attending: Vicky Lawson, *President*; Dick Marston, *Vice President*; Alec Murphy, *Past-President*; Kavita Pandit, *Secretary and Regional Councillor (Southeastern Division)*; and Darrell Napton, *Treasurer and Regional Councillor (Great Plains-Rocky Mountains Division)*. **National Councillors:** Thomas Baerwald, Sarah Bednarz, Kenneth Foote, Ines Miyares, and Ann Oberhauser. **Regional Councillors:** Stuart Aitken (Pacific Coast Division), Samuel Aryeetey-Attoh (East Lakes Division), Martha Geores (Middle Atlantic Division), Jon Kilpinen (West Lakes Division), Paul Matthews (Southwestern Division), Tim Rickard (New England-St. Lawrence Valley). **AAG Staff:** Executive Director Douglas Richardson and Deputy Director Patricia Solís.

Regrets: Kristin Dow, *National Councillor*; Gregory Pope, *Regional Councillor (Middle States Division)*.

PRELIMINARIES

President Lawson called the meeting to order at 8:25 a.m. on October 2. She welcomed the new members on the AAG Council: Stuart Aitken, Martha Geores, Ines Miyares, and Tim Rickard. She thanked Darrell Napton for helping organize the Great Plains-Rocky Mountains Regional Meeting and the AAG Council meeting. The agenda for the meeting was reviewed and adopted following a minor revision.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE ASSOCIATION

President's Priorities

Lawson updated the Council on activities related to her four Presidential priority areas: Healthy Departments, Enhancing Diversity, Social Justice, and Early Career Development. The "Healthy Departments" workshop was held in Seattle in June 2004. The panelists at the workshop were geographers that held prominent administrative positions in their universities. The workshop was well attended and a second workshop is being planned for Summer 2005. A Healthy Departments Standing Committee has also been established as a resource for departments. In the area of enhancing diversity, Lawson continues to work closely with the AAG's Diversity Taskforce. Lawson is collaborating with Sallie Marston and Dereka Rushbrook to prepare a proposal to be submitted to NSF and FIPSE for funding for a series of summer institutes for minority scholars. Lawson will also speak to the issue of diversifying geography during her visits to

regional meetings. On the topic of Social Justice, Lawson is organizing two Presidential Plenaries for the Denver AAG meeting under the broad theme of "Fear and Hope." The plenaries are entitled "Environments, Society, and Sustainability" and "Economies, Politics, and Peace." She has identified a number of prominent speakers to make presentations at these panels. In the coming months, Lawson will be working on the "Young Career Faculty Development" priority area.

Vice President's Priorities

Marston's central initiative is to advance physical geography in the AAG. He intends to organize interdisciplinary plenary sessions, special sessions, multi-specialty group sponsored events at the AAG meetings, plus his own talks at regional and national meetings to communicate across subdisciplines and promote the "geographical advantage" that we all share in approaching problems of people-environment relations. He will form an ad-hoc committee to come up with ideas on how to integrate physical geographers better into the AAG and promote the common ground between subdisciplines. He noted that more and more physical geographers are finding a home in the American Geophysical Union and elsewhere under the umbrella of earth systems science. Marston also mentioned that U.S. will be organizing the 2009 International Association of Geomorphologists meeting. Although the Geological Society of America will probably be the local organizer, Marston would like to see the AAG play a prominent role in this meeting. He will also establish an informal working group of physical geographers to come up with ideas to enhance the visibility of physical geographers and involve them in AAG affairs and initiatives. Consistent with his statement on the AAG ballot, Marston plans to support the healthy departments initiative of President Vicky Lawson, plus recommendations of the Diversity Task Force and efforts to increase the role of geography in the U.S. Geological Survey.

Past President's Priorities

Murphy will continue his work in getting geographers more involved in public policy. He is organizing a session on op-ed writing at Denver that will take advantage of the presence of David Newman, a geographer from Israel well known for his opinion pieces. He intends to have a follow-up session at the 2006 AAG on interacting with media. Murphy is working with the AAG to explore how the AAG website can display links to important op-ed pieces by geographers. Murphy's Past President's address next year will emphasize the role of geography in public debate by drawing on examples of research

from physical and human geography. He will encourage policy-makers/non-academic geographers to organize sessions at Denver in order to build better links with academic geographers. Another area of interest is to build intra-disciplinary dialogue amongst geographers. The publication of papers from the Centennial Meeting Presidential Plenaries in upcoming issues of the *Annals and Progress in Human Geography* will be an important step toward this goal. Murphy is also supporting the Healthy Departments initiative by helping Dick Marston organize the next Healthy Departments workshop.

Review of Geography Programs

Great Plains-Rocky Mountains. Napton reported that geography in the division is thriving. Montana State will begin offering a Ph.D. in geography and geology in Fall 2005. South Dakota State has added a Center of Excellence in GIS, and will hire three new geographers. A new doctoral program will be affiliated with the Center. The University of North Dakota's geography department recently moved into new facilities at the center of campus. Wyoming has hired three new physical geographers. Areas of concern relate to the future of higher education funding in Colorado and the fact that much of the hiring of geographers has been through interdisciplinary centers rather than geography departments.

East Lakes. Attoh reported that at the upcoming regional meeting there will be continued discussion of the geographic extent of the division. He noted that higher education institutions in Ohio have done well in fostering collaborative efforts; about nine departments are involved in the Ohio GIS Net and the OhioView consortium. Toledo's Ph.D. initiative is proceeding well.

New England-St. Lawrence Valley. Rickard noted that departments in the region are generally healthy. One concern is that the termination of the MA program in Geography at the University of Vermont leaves the three states of Northern New England without a Masters program in Geography. Also, the NESTVAL Executive Committee is investigating replacement of the annual *Proceedings* of its Fall conference with a more formal geographical journal, similar to *Southeastern Geographer*.

Southwest. Matthews reported that the Southwest Division was in good shape. The Oklahoma State's doctoral program is doing particularly well thanks to a young, dynamic faculty. Texas A&M is adding new faculty. Texas State University is still looking for a Chair. University of New Mexico has become heavily dependent on part-time faculty members.

West Lakes. Kilpinen reported that there are some departments that consistently participate in regional activities such as Macalester and Aldolphus Gustavus

College. Although the University of Iowa has been an active participant on occasion, the participation of larger departments has been lacking. Lanegran is organizing a session at the upcoming AAGs on Geography in the Liberal Arts Colleges. The Geography Department at Valparaiso has moved into a new building.

Southeastern. Pandit reported that a new doctoral program has been put in place at UNC-Greensboro. The Geography department at University of South Florida has proposed a joint Ph.D. program with Department of Environmental Studies and Policy and the proposal is under review. The upcoming regional division meeting will be held in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Pacific Coast. Aitken reported that he would like to see a greater participation by the large departments in the region. He also suggested that it would be beneficial to have greater information sharing between regional chairs. The geography program at Nevada is doing very well and has got the green light for its Ph.D. program. On the other hand, the program at Idaho is in crisis.

Mid-Atlantic. Geores reported that there are relatively few geography departments in the region; most geographers work for the federal government. The Division Chair is alternately an academic and non-academic geographer. The participation of academic geographers is excellent, and Geores will work to raise membership and participation amongst non-academic geographers.

Middle States. Many schools in the region report new hires (both new lines and replacements), with major hiring initiatives ongoing at Syracuse, Hunter, and Montclair State. Some Pennsylvania state schools express concern that open faculty lines are not being replaced, or are being replaced with temporary lines. New geography-related degree programs are offered or proposed at Hunter, Penn State, Buffalo, and Delaware. Research and active AAG membership appear to be strong across the region. (Submitted by Pope via email.)

Review of Topical Developments

President Lawson asked the National Councillors to discuss the question "What are the challenges and opportunities that the trend toward interdisciplinary research poses for geography?"

Baerwald spoke about NSF's recent "Spatial Social Science" initiative to attract scholars from disciplines that are discovering the importance of geography and thereby drawing more funding to the Social Sciences. He felt that geographers have an inherent advantage in undertaking interdisciplinary research because unlike scholars in other disciplines they are not limited by the topics they study; it is the "where" of what they study that provides the common base. He noted that geographers have been involved in a number of high profile interdisciplinary projects funded by the NSF.

Miyares distinguished between interdisciplinary research teams and interdisciplinary degree

programs. She felt that a geography degree provides a greater advantage than an interdisciplinary degree for students seeking jobs. Miyares felt that we need to do better in selling the strengths and advantages of our "internal interdisciplinarity" to students and employers.

Bednarz reported that the soon-to-be-released NRC report on "Spatial Thinking" reinforces the importance of seeking patterns and then exploring processes, something that geographers are trained to do. She brought up the issue of the public perception of geography, and argued that the discipline needs a better public identity.

Foote spoke about the challenges of interdisciplinarity in a university environment. Interdisciplinary programs involve split appointments and often dilute faculty involvement in a single unit. Many young career faculty are being hired by departments in which geography is combined with other disciplines, and they face difficult decisions on how they allocate their time between the disciplines. Foote felt that there was need to improve the way interdisciplinary initiatives are implemented at the university level.

Oberhauser noted that geography has a long tradition of being involved in interdisciplinary research. Although this was positive, she worried that this could weaken geography in situations where faculty engaged in interdisciplinary research do not contribute sufficiently to their departments or the discipline.

Council members discussed these ideas further. Lawson thanked the National Councillors for their input.

STATUS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Richardson provided a brief review of recent AAG activities leading into a fuller discussion of the status of the association.

Finances

Treasurer Darrell Napton reviewed the financial situation of the AAG. He observed that the fiscal year for the Association has just ended and the books are being prepared for the annual audit. The audit report will be provided to the Council at the spring meeting.

Overall, AAG finances are in good shape and our net positive cash flow continues to be strong. Napton noted that both the AAG's operating funds and its endowment funds are growing. Napton noted that over the past year, the AAG has consolidated most of its accounts into one institution – the SunTrust Bank – for greater efficiency in making and tracking transactions. Richardson and Napton presented Council with the outline of the investment strategy recommended by SunTrust Bank. Matthews moved approval of financial management strategy under the SunTrust umbrella. Kilpinen seconded, and Council **unanimously approved** the motion.

Napton moved that Council approve two corporate resolutions to give Doug Richardson the continued authority to make transactions involving

AAG assets. Matthews seconded the motion which Council **unanimously approved**.

Pledges and contributions to the Centennial Fund continue to flow in. Richardson informed Council that the Centennial Fund will soon be renamed the "Advancing Geography Fund." He is also developing new capabilities within the AAG for planned giving. He also informed the Council that paperwork to make AAG the successor organization to International Geographic Information Foundation is now finalized. The AAG-IGIF Fund will provide scholarships and make other disbursements.

Membership

Richardson reported that AAG membership is over 8,000, and may or may not be slightly down from last year at the end of the calendar year. He observed that last year's membership figures may be slightly higher because of the Centennial meeting. AAG staff attended the ESRI User Conference in San Diego, CA and signed up several meeting attendees for AAG membership and distributed membership forms to others. A letter was sent to all non-member department chairs urging them to join the Association. The AAG has also had strong outreach programs to former members and to students as well. Council members discussed the survey of lapsed members that is currently underway.

Publications

Newsletter. Richardson observed that the AAG Newsletter now has a much more professional look and highlights the diversity of the profession and discipline. He suggested that it be considered as a recruitment tool for undergraduates.

AAG Journals. Murphy noted with approval that the turnaround time on Annals articles had been dramatically reduced. Depending on the section, the turnaround time now ranges from 2.9 to 3.5 months. The turnaround time for PG articles, however, was 5 months. Richardson mentioned that he is working with the publisher to increase the number of pages in the PG which will reduce the backlog of articles.

Murphy updated the Council about the issue of including cross-cutting pieces in the *Annals* that had received the general support of the editors. He noted that this issue involved a delicate balance between the authorities of the Council, the editors and the Publications Committee. Council discussed the implications of such cross-cutting pieces given the current structure of the *Annals*. Bednarz asked that we move carefully and explore what the membership thinks about this possible change. Richardson urged that the Publications Committee discuss this further with the editors.

Oberhauser updated Council about Publications Committee activities. The committee had received a number of applications for the PG editorship and had narrowed the search down to two candidates: David Wilson from Illinois and Sharmistha Bagchi-Sen from

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SUNY-Buffalo. Aitken commented on his experience as editor of the *PG*. He felt that the job is challenging because there is a heavy submission rate. The editor needs to have good management skills and support of their departments. Oberhauser also brought up the issue of editors and editorial terms. Specifically:

1. The terms of editors Michael Goodchild and Basil Gomez are expiring in December 2005. Napton made the motion that we advertise for replacements for these two editors. Bednarz seconded. Council **unanimously approved** this motion. Council suggested that the terms of the two editors be staggered to prevent them from expiring in the same year.

2. The editorial terms of Peter Muller (*PG* and *Annals* Book Review editor) and Dennis Fitzsimons (*PG* and *Annals* Cartography editor) are ending in Dec. 2004 which leaves a very short time to appoint new editors. Napton moved that the terms of Muller and Fitzsimons be extended by one year (subject to their willingness to do this). Matthews seconded. Council **unanimously approved** this motion.

Council also discussed various issues regarding the appointment of book review editors for the *PG* and the *Annals*. Lawson suggested that the Publication Committee discuss these issues with the editors and then come to the Council specific motions if necessary.

Richardson discussed AAG's agreement with Blackwell Synergy to publish the journals online. The agreement will go into effect on January 1, 2005. Besides making the journals more accessible to the public, there are other benefits to the AAG such as having our logo displayed whenever the journal was accessed, reciprocal access to journals of other societies, links to the AAG website, and space on the journal home page of an informational banner. Council discussed the implications of the trends toward online publishing for scholarly societies and thanked Richardson for his work in negotiating this agreement.

Interview of PG Editor Candidates. Council met in turn with two candidates for the *Professional Geographer* editorship. They presented their visions for the journal and responded to questions from the Council. After discussion in which Council noted that we had two outstanding candidates and that this was a difficult choice, a vote was taken and Sharmistha Bagchi-Sen was appointed as the next editor of the *PG*.

Meridian Place Operations

Richardson spoke highly of the efficiency and productivity of the AAG staff. They are functioning well together as a team, and have learned the many new systems in place at the AAG. Important capital infrastructure improvements have been conducted at Meridian Place.

Research and Outreach

Deputy Director Solís summarized the AAG's recent research and outreach activities. The success of the My Community Our Earth project has prompted the AAG and other sponsors to make it a longer term programmatic activity. Activities are now focused around the upcoming United Nations Decade for Education on Sustainable Development. The AAG also obtained NSF Travel funding for members to attend the 2004 IGU Congress in Glasgow, with renewal for the Regional Conference in Brisbane in 2006. The Association is partnering with the American Council on Education on a Carnegie Foundation funded project on internationalization of the discipline. The AAG has created a Senior Associates program to provide a structured mechanism to tap into the expertise of retired geographers. Projects under development include Living Learning Landscapes (creation of informal learning environments in the area of geography and ecology) and a proposal to NSF International Programs (spatial analytical approaches to studying human-natural systems in the Panama Canal Watershed).

Richardson reported on the specialty conferences sponsored/co-sponsored by the AAG this year. These were the Mapping in the News conference at the National Press Club in Washington D.C. (May 14-15, 2004), the Race/Ethnicity and Place conference at Howard University (September 16-18, 2004), and the GIScience conference in College Park, Maryland (October 20-23, 2004). The AAG also provided logistical support to the Healthy Departments Workshop in Seattle in June 2004. Richardson is planning a 2005 conference on Geography and the Humanities. These conferences have built many new relationships with academic institutions, media representatives, policymakers, and scholars from other disciplines.

Solís provided an update on the Diversity Taskforce activities. The AAG will be sending out a diversity-related survey to Department Heads on the recommendation of the Taskforce. She also reported on AAG's activities related to Geography Careers and Outlook. She is currently working with the Bureau of Labor Statistics to edit and review information on geographic technologies for their Occupational Outlook Handbook. The DOL O*Net Online Occupational Information Network plans to link to the AAG Careers website. GENIP has provided financial support for AAG activities related to Geography Careers.

Finally, Richardson updated Council on issues related to public policy. John Wertman, Director of the AAG's new Public Policy initiative, has been tracking legislation that impacts the geography community and publishes a report monthly in the newsletter. He and Gary Fitzpatrick, AAG Policy Fellow, and the AAG are working toward the eventual goal of setting up an office of a Geographer in Congress.

Educational Affairs

Richardson updated the Council on several ongoing educational efforts led by Michael Solem of the AAG. The AAG has received a 3-year grant from FIPSE for teacher professional development in geography. The project is being led by Michael Solem and Phil Gersmehl with Joseph Stoltman as the external evaluator. Michael Solem continues to work on a 3-year NSF grant on establishing an Online Center for Global Geography Education. A third project is the Geography Faculty Development Alliance funded by the NSF with Ken Foote as PI. The AAG has a subcontract. The GFDA workshops have filled up for the remaining two years on the grant. Council discussed ways to continue this program after NSF funding is over.

A number of educational projects are currently under exploration. A proposal has been submitted to NSF's Teacher Professional Continuum program to develop teacher training products and workshops focused on GIS and spatial literacy. Phil Gersmehl is PI along with co-PIs Wade Boykin of Howard University and Michael Solem from AAG. Another proposal has been submitted to NSF's Research on Learning and Education to examine graduate training in geography. The PI is Michael Solem and co-PIs are Ken Foote and Janice Monk. Finally, AAG is exploring a proposal with Texas State's Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education for NSF's Opportunities for Enhancing Diversity in the Geosciences.

Bednarz, in her capacity as Project Coordinator, updated Council on GENIP activities. GENIP and its constituent organizations, including AAG, are exploring strategies for securing funding for Geography under the current provisions of the No Child Left Behind as well as building political support for geography education when NCLB comes up for reauthorization in 2006. Council discussed ways in which Geography Awareness Week could be better publicized, and Bednarz volunteered to bring this issue up through GENIP to the National Geographic Society which initiates it each year.

STATUS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Future Meetings

Richardson reviewed the meeting schedule for the 2005 Denver AAG meeting. Future meetings will be held in Chicago (2006), San Francisco (2007), and Boston (2008). Las Vegas is under consideration as a location for the 2009 meeting. After discussion, Council directed Richardson to negotiate a suitable hotel and facility rate at Las Vegas. Alternate locations discussed were Salt Lake City, Phoenix, Houston, and San Antonio. The next Executive Committee meeting will be in Washington, D.C. on February 27, 2005 and the next Council meeting will be in Denver on April 3-5, 2005.

Pursuant to a resolution passed at the Spring 2004 Council meeting, Doug Richardson reported to the Council on union hotel options in cities that have been selected by Council for future meetings. For the 2008 Boston meeting (in advanced stages of negotiation when the resolution was passed) the AAG will have two official hotels: the Weston (unionized) and the Marriott (non-unionized). The hotels are one block apart and connected by an enclosed mall, and sessions will be held in both hotels. The Weston is slightly more expensive than the Marriott but not prohibitively so.

Negotiations with the Adams Mark Hotel for the 2005 conference in Denver were completed several years ago. Richardson noted the only unionized hotel in the city, the Executive Tower, has only about 300 rooms. However, in the interest of providing options to those members wishing to stay in a union hotel, the AAG website will provide information about this hotel which is approximately eight blocks from the Adams Mark conference hotel. Richardson observed that it is illustrative of the limited options often available to the AAG that there is apparently only one small hotel which is unionized in the entire city of Denver.

AAG Committees

Council approved the addition of Richard Marston, John Adams, and Marie Price to the Standing Committee on Healthy Departments. Council then voted to finalize the Nominating and Honors Committee slates. These will appear in the December 2004 newsletter. The regional councillors elected Sam Attoh as the Chair of Regional Councillors.

Honors and Awards

Marston announced that the 2005 Honorary Geographer Award would be given to Stephen Pyne in the Biology and Society Program at Arizona State. Murphy announced that the 2005 Presidential Awards will be given to Don Meinig and Al Voorhees. The selections of the AAG Honors

Committees for the various AAG Honors were presented to Council.

Lawson discussed the possibility of the AAG introducing a major new award "Geography Prize for International Understanding" which would be given to major public figures. Council expressed support for this idea. Lawson, Murphy, and Pandit will make up the ad-hoc committee to explore the feasibility of establishing such a prize and to report to Council in April 2005 with a specific recommendation.

Specialty Groups

Richardson announced that the AAG is making a number of new services available to specialty group members. These include hosting online forums for specialty groups, and handling specialty group finances. The link to specialty groups on the AAG website has been enhanced and Specialty Group chairs will have password access to update their group's information and post the annual report.

Richardson informed Council that the Aging Specialty Group that had asked to be deactivated. There was some question about what should be done with the approximately \$1000 balance of funds in the Specialty Group account. Attoh moved that in the event that a Specialty Group is inactive for several years, its funds revert to the AAG. The motion was seconded by Kilpinen. This led to a broader discussion about the process for designating a specialty group inactive. Pending clarification of this issue, the motion was tabled. Richardson also announced that a new Affinity Group on "Private/Public Sector Geographers" has been established. Other AAG affinity groups in place are Retired Geographers, Graduate Students, and Community College Affinity Groups.

Baerwald in his capacity as Chair of National Councillors reviewed Specialty Group reports and summarized the requests made by Specialty Group chairs. The majority of the issues related to electronic communications and financial services. He noted that these questions have been addressed by

the AAG move to host Specialty Group listservs and enhance the Specialty Group page on the AAG website. Other issues related to the annual meeting, viz. minimizing scheduling conflicts and reduction of registration fees for students and other groups. With regards to the reduction of registration fees Richardson noted that two programs are already in place: the AAG Enrichment Funds and a student volunteer program to help students get a reduced registration fee. Baerwald suggested that the National Councillors get together before the Denver meeting to discuss any specific recommendations to Council.

Other Business

Napton inquired whether the AAG should become involved in the certification of GIS specialists. Richardson noted that there was an Ad-Hoc Committee on GIS Certification and he will ask them to look into this. Baerwald updated Council on personnel transitions at the NSF. Murphy reported on the rising number of students taking the AP Geography exam. This is resulting in a direct increase in the number of freshman entering college with a declared geography major. Council also discussed the possibility of establishing another geography journal targeted more toward non-academic geographers.

Closed Session

Council met in closed session to review the Executive Director's performance and compensation. After discussion, Council members voted to extend Doug Richardson's contract by four years.

Adjournment

There being no further business, President Lawson adjourned the Council meeting at 11:45 p.m. on Sunday, October 3, 2004. ■

Respectfully submitted,
Kavita Pandit
AAG Secretary

Award Deadlines

2005 MARCH

10. Department of Defense SERDP funding for federal sector. www.serd.org/funding/funding.html.

10. Political Geography SG Non-Student Achievement Awards. Contact Phil Steinberg at steinberg@fsu.edu.

14. Political Geography SG Dissertation Enhancement Award. www.politicalgeography.org.

15. Intermountain West Research Grants at BYU. <http://fhss.byu.edu/reddcent/>.

15. Political Geography SG Student Paper Competition. www.politicalgeography.org.

APRIL

15. Best Practices in Science Modeling Competition. www.esri.com/science/modeling.

MAY

15. SWG Pruitt National Minority Fellowship Program. Contact Ruth Shirey at rishirey@iup.edu.

OCTOBER

14. McColl Family Fellowship. www.amergeog.org/scholarships_program.htm

15. Fulbright Teacher and Administrator Exchanges. www.fulbrightexchanges.org.

Association of American Geographers Council Meeting Minutes

Denver, CO
April 3 -5, 2005

Attending: Vicky Lawson, *President*; Dick Marston, *Vice President*; Alec Murphy, *Past-President*; Kavita Pandit, *Secretary and Regional Councillor (Southeastern Division)*; and Darrell Napton, *Treasurer and Regional Councillor (Great Plains-Rocky Mountains Division)*. **National Councillors:** Thomas Baerwald, Sarah Bednarz, Kirstin Dow, Kenneth Foote, and Ines Miyares. **Regional Councillors:** Stuart Aitken (Pacific Coast Division), Samuel Aryeetey-Attoh (East Lakes Division), Martha Geores (Middle Atlantic Division), Jon Kilpinen (West Lakes Division), Paul Matthews (Southwestern Division), Gregory Pope, *Regional Councillor (Middle States Division)*, Tim Rickard (New England-St. Lawrence Valley). **AAG Staff:** Executive Director Douglas Richardson and Deputy Director Patricia Solís.

Regrets: Ann Oberhauser, *National Councillor*.

Visitors: Monica Amerelo, *Press Consultant*; Will Graf and Jerry McMann, *USGS Science Planning Team*; Jack Schroder, *AAAS*; Barbara Chow, *Director, NGS Education Foundation*; Leslie Duram, *Publications Committee*; Audrey Kobayashi, *Section Editor of Annals of the AAG*; Dennis Fitzsimmons, *Cartography Editor of the Annals of the AAG*; Robert Andelman, Megan Nortrup, Robin Friedman, John Wertman, Michael Solem, Oscar Larson, *AAG Staff*.

PRELIMINARIES

President Lawson called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. on April 3. The agenda for the meeting was reviewed and adopted following a minor revision.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE ASSOCIATION

President's Priorities

Lawson updated the Council on activities related to her four Presidential priority areas: Healthy Departments, Enhancing Diversity, Social Justice, and Early Career Development. The "Healthy Departments" workshop was held in Seattle in June 2004, and a second Healthy Departments Workshop has been planned for Summer 2005 by Dick Marston. The Healthy Departments Standing Committee is now in place and has responded to numerous calls for advice from department heads. She noted that there is a tremendous momentum in the work of the AAG's Diversity Taskforce. On the topic of Social Justice, Lawson has organized two Presidential Plenaries under the theme of "Fear and Hope" at the AAG meeting.

Vice President's Priorities

Marston updated Council on planning for the upcoming Healthy Departments workshop. He will chair the Department Chairs luncheon at the meeting at which Dr. Chris Mayda will be a speaker. He has organized a panel on Healthy Departments at the Denver meeting. Also an important priority is to advance physical geography in the AAG. The Denver meeting program includes interdisciplinary plenary sessions, special sessions, and multi-specialty group sponsored events at the AAG meetings, which emphasize the links between physical geographers and other areas of the discipline. Marston is also encouraging the AAG to co-sponsor sessions with other physical geography societies. Marston is also working hard to promote geography and its role in the USGS.

Past President's Priorities

Murphy noted that there is a lot of common ground between the presidential priorities, and that in recent years there has been considerable continuity in the work of successive AAG Presidents. With respect to his work in enhancing the role of geographers in public policy, he noted that there have been a number of actions taken by the AAG including the introduction of a media and media relations link on the AAG website, the organization of specialty conferences, and the hiring of John Wertmen. In addition, to these, Murphy is representing the AAG/geography at a number of major conferences in the US and overseas and has organized a session on op-ed writing at the meeting. Murphy's Past President's address also addresses the role of geography in public debate. Murphy's other initiative is to foster interdisciplinary dialogue and the published papers from the Philadelphia plenaries that recently appeared in the *Annals* provide a good statement. Finally, Murphy sought Council guidance on the extent to which the issue of cross cutting pieces in the *Annals* should be pursued.

Review of Geography Programs

Great Plains-Rocky Mountains. Napton reported that Geography is thriving in the region. South Dakota State University and the Montana State University's Earth Science Department have established new doctoral programs. South Dakota State also has a new interdisciplinary GIScience Center of Excellence. Geography is thriving in Utah's community colleges which are channeling students to four-year colleges and universities. The Department at Brigham Young is refocusing its introductory physical geography class into a natural hazards class which has become a part of the core. Universities in Colorado are experiencing mandated funding reductions and several campuses are exploring private funding.

Private funding has been raised to construct a new building at UC Colorado Springs, which will include a new space for the Geography Department. The department is experiencing growth and has been designated a Department of Excellence.

East Lakes. Attoh reported that the Geography Department at Kent State University has received a 3-year \$1.87 million grant from NSF related to promoting inquiry-based learning in the physical sciences. Akron is now offering a M.S. degree in Geography/GIS, and a graduate certificate in GIS. Youngstown State made their first tenure-track hire in geography in 11 years. Geography at Eastern Michigan has teamed with the College of Education to develop an earth science education major and a GIS educator's certificate applicable to master's degrees.

New England-St. Lawrence Valley. Following up on a report made at the last Council meeting, Rickard noted that Vermont chose (rather than was forced) to give up its Masters degree in order to focus on the undergraduate program. Rickard noted the need for strong leadership in the region and expressed concern that there were at least a couple of vulnerable departments.

Southwest. Matthews reported that the Southwest Division was in good shape. Phil Suckling has been hired as the new head of Texas State and University of Oklahoma is getting energized behind the new head, Fred Shelley.

West Lakes. Kilpinen reported that he did not receive much of a response to his queries to department chairs. However the overall picture is positive. Macalester College is doing well. Concern about how information on geography/AAG makes its way to geographers in joint departments with non-geography chairs. Region is working on helping out for the Chicago meetings.

Southeastern. Pandit reported that many of the schools in the Southeastern region are finally emerging from several years of budget cuts. Many programs report brisk growth centered on GIS. There are promising signs that a Geography department may be established at Florida International University.

Pacific Coast. Aitken reported that the Geography Department at Nevada-Reno has recently submitted a proposal to establish a Ph.D. program and approval is expected within a year. Unlike the impression that may have been created by his report at the last Council meeting, the University of Idaho is doing well. The Cal State system employees may actually get a raise after several years of no raises. The Geography Department at Arizona State University is being elevated to a School of Geosciences. Overall, despite budgetary cutbacks and faculty loss, graduate programs across the board are doing well.

Mid-Atlantic. Geores reported that George Mason has just launched a new Ph.D. program in

Earth Systems and Geoinformation Sciences and is hiring new faculty. George Washington has made two hires, and geography is taking a leading role in the restructuring of Earth and Environmental Sciences. University of Maryland at Baltimore County has just appointed an urban geographer, and the Geography department at University of Maryland College Park has just opened an office in Kinsasha. They continue to be successful in the NASA Grants program. MAD-AAG has good participation in its monthly meetings which foster a sense of community in the region.

Middle States. Universities in Pennsylvania and New York are having difficulty in replacing faculty. Pope noted that the growth of multidisciplinary centers on campuses often come at the expense of traditional departments. With a few exceptions, Ph.D. granting institutions in the region generally are not involved in regional meetings. The Regional Division meeting will be at the Chautauqua Institution in October.

Review of Topical Developments

President Lawson asked the National Councillors to discuss the question "What should be the role of the AAG in social outreach given the sort of work in which geographers are engaged?"

Footo observed that GIS Science and Education areas have a long tradition of outreach toward various areas, and these could provide compelling models on which to build further. However, outreach can require considerable resources and we need to be careful that we do not stretch these too thinly over many areas. Bednarz noted that the intersection of spatial thinking and education is a new cross cutting area with great potential for outreach. Geographers and cognitive scientists are currently working together to on this topic. Miyares pointed out that her institution, Hunter College, is one that actively trains its students for public service. Keeping public service in focus has the potential for bringing back geography in smaller institutions and programs. According to Dow, geographers have a great opportunity to get more involved in key public policy issues such as redistricting. Specialty groups could get more involved in this issue as well. Baerwald noted that it is becoming increasingly important at NSF to demonstrate a research project's value to society. We need to think broadly about how we can best communicate the benefits of geographic research to the larger world.

Council members discussed these ideas further. Lawson thanked the National Councillors for their input.

STATUS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Finances

Richardson gave a brief overview of the AAG financial picture and noted that this was the best financial statement in the history of the AAG. Treasurer Darrell Napton reported that the AAG Finance Committee met in February to examine the audit report for the past fiscal year. He noted that

after 4 years of losses in our net assets, our total assets have grown over 2 years from \$1.5 million to \$2.4 million, and all debts have been retired. Our strong financial position has given us the ability to invest in new programs and initiatives and provide a robust suite of services to members. Napton also reported that the Finance Committee spoke at length with the investment broker and concluded that the current investment strategy which is somewhat conservative is the best option.

Napton moved that the AAG raise membership dues in all categories of membership by the rate of inflation. Kilpinen seconded. There was discussion about the fact that this raise is taking place when we have a positive growth in our finances. Napton pointed out that our growth in total assets reflects, to a significant extent, the growth of our restricted funds. The AAG is, however, faced with escalating costs on items such as health insurance at a time that the Association is expanding its member services. Council **unanimously** passed the motion.

The Council reviewed the AAG proposed budget for FYE 2006. After discussion, the budget was unanimously adopted by Council. Lawson thanked Treasurer Darrell Napton for his hard work and Council members thanked Doug Richardson for his excellent financial stewardship of the organization.

Pledges and contributions to the Advancing Geography Fund are now just over \$900,000. Richardson reviewed the new initiatives he is pursuing: formalizing a Planned Giving Program, seeking funding from private foundations and corporate donors whose missions are consistent with those of the AAG, developing a world mission-oriented fundable project, getting on the federal charitable payroll withholding program, developing new categories for revitalizing donations, and hiring someone to help with these efforts.

Membership

Richardson reported that contrary to the expectation of declines in AAG membership after the Centennial meeting, membership continued to grow last year and is now over 9,000. He noted that the number of members who are retiring is growing and there is a lifetime membership option for interested retired members.

Lawson introduced Rob Andelman, AAG Director of Membership. Rob discussed the efforts that the AAG is engaged in to broaden the membership. AAG staff members attend the meetings of organizations such as ASPRS and GITA, as well as co-sponsored events like the Race/Ethnicity and Place conference and have had many individuals sign up for AAG memberships. He also spoke about the efforts that the Membership Committee is making to help in this regard. Council discussed a range of issues related to AAG membership. On behalf of Council, Lawson thanked Rob Andelman for his excellent work and dedication to the AAG.

Publications

Lawson introduced Robin Friedman, AAG

Journals Manager and Megan Nortrup, AAG Newsletter Editor.

AAG Journals. Robin Friedman reported that AAG journals are being published in a timely fashion. With respect to production, she has taken over the copyediting which has improved quality and processing time. The term of the new PG editor began on January 1, 2005 and the transition has gone well. There was discussion of memorials appearing in the AAG and the need to indicate to authors that these need to be kept to a fixed length. Lawson thanked Robin Friedman and Megan Nortrup for their hard work on behalf of the AAG.

Council discussed the Book review editorships. Miyares moved that (1) there be separate Book Review editors for the *Annals* and the *PG*; (2) Council extend the term of the current *Annals* Book Review editor by 2 years; and (3) the AAG appoint a PG book review editor for a 4 year term. Bednarz seconded. Council **unanimously** passed this motion.

Lawson presented Council with the PG Editorial Board nominations as submitted by PG Editor Bagchi-Sen. Council **approved** the slate with two abstentions.

Richardson brought up the issue of optional journal subscriptions. A number of associations provide their members subscription discounts to relevant 3rd party journals. Council expressed strong support for this idea. Richardson will begin exploring this issue and will keep the Executive Committee and the Council apprised of developments.

Lawson welcomed Leslie Duram, the Acting Chair of the Publications Committee, and Richardson thanked Duram for stepping in as Acting Chair and for her work on the Committee. Duram provided a background on the work of the Publications Committee.

Lawson welcomed Richard Aspinall, candidate for the editorship of the Environmental Sciences section of the *Annals*. He provided his editorial vision and answered questions from the Council. Following discussion, Council **approved**, with one abstention, that Aspinall be appointed as the next ES editor of the *Annals*.

Council met with two candidates for the editorship of the Methods Models and GIS section of the *Annals*. They presented their visions for the MMGIS section of the journal and responded to questions from the Council. After discussion (in which Council noted that we had two outstanding candidates and that this was a difficult choice) Council **approved**, with one abstention, the appointment of Mei-Po Kwan as the next MMGIS editor of the *Annals*.

Council voted to appoint Tom Hodler as the next Cartographic Editor of the *Annals* and *PG*.

Vicky Lawson welcomed Audrey Kobayashi, *Annals* PPR editor, and Dennis Fitzsimmons, outgoing cartographic editor of the *Annals* and *PG*.

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Kobayashi reported that the editors of the AAG journals meet regularly and work well together. She also noted that the submission rate for her section is growing. Dennis Fitzsimmons spoke to the challenges of keeping up the quality of maps and graphics in the journals given the proliferation of internet maps and widespread use of Powerpoint. Lawson thanked both editors for their efforts on behalf of the AAG.

Meridian Place Operations

Richardson praised the quality of the AAG staff. Nikolas Schiller has been hired as the AAG Careers in Geography Program Coordinator. Patricia Solís will be working part time for the next year while she is in Panama. Ehsan Khater is also working part time. There is no pending litigation. Council discussed the need to make Meridian place wheelchair accessible. Richardson mentioned that he was working on finding additional space which would have accessible boardroom and workspaces.

Research and Outreach

Richardson introduced Monica Amerelo who has been hired as a press consultant to the AAG. Her charge is to build greater press coverage of the AAG meetings. Amerelo noted that several local reporters will be covering the Denver meetings, and the national press has been informed. The AAG has also reserved a room for reporters. Amerelo responded to questions from the Council on how the research of AAG members could better covered in media outlets.

Patricia Solís summarized the AAG's recent research and outreach activities. The AAG is continuing to generate new activities with the partners participating in the successful MyCOE project. These include the Maui Digital Bus Project with the Office of Naval Research, and a Coastal restoration and community geography project in Panama in collaboration with the Ocean Fund. The AAG publishes regular "Partner Updates" for distribution to the MyCOE collaborators on these developments. Collectively, these activities focus around the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, 2005-2014.

AAG received a continuation grant from the NSF to support the travel of AAG members to the IGU Regional Conference in Brisbane in 2006. The Association is also one of five participating disciplinary associations on the American Council of Education's project on Internationalizing the Discipline submitted to the Carnegie Foundation. The Senior Associates Program, spearheaded by Jan Monk, is moving forward in productive ways. Several other projects and proposals are in development.

Richardson recapped the successes of the many specialty conferences sponsored/co-sponsored by the AAG last year and the efforts underway to build on the links made at these conferences. Most recently there have been a series of meetings

between representatives of the AAG and USGS culminating in a USGS Geography Summit held in the Cosmos Club, Washington DC in January 2005. Richardson is also working with his counterpart in the Association of American Law Schools to organize scholarly exchanges between AAG and AALS initially through specialty sessions on Geography and the Law at the annual meetings of both associations. Other specialty conferences under consideration include those on Geography and Drug Addiction (possibly partnered by NIH) and Geography and the Humanities (possibly partnered by ACLS, NEH, and NHA).

Richardson next welcomed Will Graf and Jerry McMann, members of USGS Geography Science Plan Development team and Jack Schroder, Chair-elect of the Geology and Geography Section of the AAAS. McMann outlined the goals of USGS's science strategy for geographic research which focuses around human and environmental dynamics of land change. Graf discussed the ways in which the AAG and its members could support and complement the work at the USGS. Schroder then spoke about the structure of the AAAS and the work of the Geology and Geography section of the AAAS. He urged the AAG to identify a set of geographic issues that were timely and of wide interest around which he could develop proposals at the AAAS. Lawson and Richardson thanked Graf, McMann, and Schroder for visiting the Council meeting.

Solís provided an update on the Diversity Taskforce plans and activities. There are three diversity-related sessions at the Denver AAG. Strategic efforts to introduce geography programs at Howard University continue. The AAG Careers Project includes the Diversity Taskforce in its implementation plan. Analysis of the diversity survey is underway and the Diversity Clearinghouse will be launched soon. Council discussed various issues associated with the survey and Taskforce activities.

In the area of Careers and Employment in Geography, Solís reported that, thanks to AAG efforts, the US Department of Labor has broadened their scope of their Geography category and their website now includes a link to the AAG. AAG has also provided DOL with names of geographers they can contact for the O-Net survey. Richardson spoke about AAG's proposal with the Geospatial Information and Technology Association focused on enhancing workforce development in geospatial technologies.

Solís spoke about the Careers in the Geographical Sciences project being spearheaded by Nicholas Schiller, AAG Careers coordinator. With GENIP's support, this project will produce and disseminate information on careers in geography and the geographical sciences. Currently the project is in the data collection stage. Council discussed the activities planned under this project.

Vicky Lawson introduced John Wertman, Director of the AAG's Public Policy initiative. He is working on a range of activities toward the goal of augmenting geographic expertise available to Members of Congress and enhancing Federal funding of geographic education. Richardson noted that the AAG's public policy initiative dovetails well with other areas such as educational affairs, membership, publications, press/media coverage etc. Lawson and Richardson thanked Wertman for his excellent work on behalf of the AAG.

Educational Affairs

Doug Richardson introduced Michael Solem, Director of AAG Educational Affairs. Solem described the two major grants that AAG has recently received to support its educational initiatives. The first is an NSF grant close to \$1 million for a 3-year study on the professional development of graduate students. The project will result in practical resources for departments on ways to enhance their graduate programs. The second is a year-long grant from NASA to develop a rigorous teacher training program in physical geography and remote sensing drawing on NASA imagery and other resources. The program builds on recent relationships developed with Howard University.

Solem also updated Council on a number of continuing projects. These include a FIPSE grant to develop teacher professional development resources in geography. As a first step in dissemination of this work, a volume entitled *Teaching Geography* will be published this year by Guilford. Another is the Online Center for Global Geography Education which has now developed three prototype models that are being tested. The AAG is one of five scholarly organizations participating in a project to internationalize the disciplines. The project is spearheaded by ACE and funded by the Carnegie Endowment.

The AAG, along with a number of other institutions, is working on a NSF pre-proposal to seek funding for a Center of Spatial Learning. Full proposals are by invitation only. Richardson noted that this is one of the most ambitious and far-reaching of the AAG's educational projects.

Council member Bednarz who is also the GENIP Project Coordinator said that she was heartened by the rise in external funding for geography initiatives. She noted that the National Geographical Society is beginning to restore their funding to the state alliances and is planning a major national campaign promoting geography. More details on this were provided by Barbara Chow from the NGS who was introduced by Richardson. Chow spoke to the educational work underway at NGS which focused around three areas: getting K-12 geography education funded by Congress, developing a Public Service Announcement promoting geography, and K-12 teacher training in geography. Richardson thanked Chow for her efforts and for speaking to the Council.

CONTINUING AND NEW BUSINESS

Annual Meetings

Vicky Lawson introduced AAG Conference coordinator Oscar Larson. He anticipated that there would be over 5000 registrants and over 800 sessions at the Denver meeting. He thought that the digital submission of abstracts permitted later deadlines which helped generate more registrants. AAG has recently developed customized abstract submission software which in the long term will save the Association considerable time and money. Lawson thanked Oscar for his efforts on behalf of the AAG. Regarding future meetings, Council unanimously directed the ED to make slide projectors available on request only next year.

Lawson informed Councillors that she had received a union hotel petition that followed up on a resolution the Council had adopted in 2004. Murphy presented the following resolution drafted in response by the Executive Committee:

The AAG will actively solicit and give preference to a suitable unionized hotel in cities selected for the AAG annual meeting. If on review, the AAG Executive Committee concludes that cost or other considerations indicate that a non-union hotel should be used in a city with a union hotel option, then the Executive Committee should detail the rationale for its choice to the Council and at the AAG business meeting. The AAG will continue to negotiate, and if possible strengthen, existing force majeure language in AAG annual meeting hotel contracts.

The resolution was **unanimously** passed by Council.

Lawson asked the Council to consider what our options are if we face labor disputes at a future annual meeting. The overall feeling of the Council is that there is a need to inform the membership about the ramifications of holding vs. canceling meetings during a labor dispute and to develop a contingency plan.

Lawson then brought up a second petition that the AAG had received protesting the exclusion of non-US citizen members of the AAG on a field trip organized by the AAG Military Geography Specialty Group. She presented a resolution drafted by the Executive Committee:

In keeping with the AAC's effort to promote the fair and equal treatment of members, field trips organized by AAG members or specialty groups at the annual meeting will, as a rule, be open to all members. In instances where a member or specialty group wishes to organize a field trip that explicitly excludes any group of AAG members, the organizer will petition the AAG Council for an exception to this policy by the date when field trip proposals are due. If Council grants the exception, notice will be given in the AAG Newsletter, along with an explanation of the reason for the exception. The substance of this resolution

shall be included in the annual call for field trip proposals that appears in the AAG Newsletter.

The resolution was **unanimously** passed by the Council.

Future meetings will be held in Chicago (2006), San Francisco (2007), and Boston (2008). Councillors discussed the possibility of Las Vegas as the site of the 2009 meetings. Matthews moved we go to Las Vegas, Bednarz seconded. After further discussion of pros and cons of this site, Council **unanimously** voted for Las Vegas as the site of the 2009 AAG meetings.

AAG Committees and Council

Pandit presented Council with the Committee on Committees recommendations for new additions to AAG Standing Committees. Council unanimously approved the slate.

Council members unanimously approved the appointment of Sam Attoh as AAG Treasurer to succeed Darrell Napton and Jon Kilpinen as AAG Secretary to succeed Kavita Pandit. The regional councillors elected Paul Matthews as the Chair of Regional Councillors.

Honors and Awards

Lawson announced the names of the AAG Award winners who will be honored at the Awards Luncheon. Council unanimously approved the establishment of a new award, the "Geography Prize for World Understanding" as outlined in a proposal circulated by Lawson.

Specialty Groups

Baerwald, Chair of National Councillors, reported that the new services made available to the specialty groups have been received very positively. He noted that the business meetings had been shifted to new time slots, and recommended that the Specialty Group Chairs be allowed to make recommendations on the scheduling of their business meetings given current time constraints. He will also urge chairs to work on maximizing the quality rather than the quantity of specialty group sessions, and to provide input on how the AAG can provide an outreach to the wider community.

Richardson noted that the Aging and the Microcomputers groups have asked to be deactivated. Picking up discussion on a motion that was tabled in the previous year, Council **unanimously** passed that "In the event that a Specialty Group is inactive for three years, its funds revert to the AAG."

Council **unanimously** approved the establishment of two new affinity groups, Public/Private Geographers and Stand Alone Geographers. Council discussed the differences between Specialty Groups and Affinity Groups.

Other Business

Alec Murphy suggested, on behalf of the Executive Committee, that Council consider updating the AAG's Professional Ethics statement to reflect the effects of the proliferation of mass electronic communication. After discussion,

Council **unanimously** approved the addition of the phrase "in written, spoken, and electronic communications" in the second to last sentence in Section IIB of the AAG Professional Ethics Statement. The amended sentence would read:

"As members of the geographical community, it is the moral responsibility of geographers to respect the dignity of persons, to value a diversity of intellectual commitments and projects, and to treat colleagues with civil collegiality in written, spoken and electronic communication."

Resolutions

Council **unanimously** approved the following two resolutions.

Whereas, Alexander Murphy, as Vice President and President of the Association of American Geographers has exercised exceptional leadership in assisting the Association in addressing the challenges facing the discipline of Geography and working to strengthen academic geography, geographic outreach to the wider public, and collegiality within the discipline;

Therefore be it Resolved that the Association of American Geographers, assembled in Denver, Colorado on the occasion of its 101st Annual Meeting, heartily thanks Alec for his leadership of the Association during the past three years, and especially for his efforts to improve the standing of the discipline and the profession, and for "his role in presiding over the AAG's Centennial Meeting.

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

Whereas, the Council of the Association of American Geographers has confronted difficult issues and responded to unusual opportunities during the last three years,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Association of American Geographers, assembled in Denver, Colorado on the occasion of its 101st Annual Meeting, extends warm appreciation to Past President Alexander Murphy, and retiring AAG Councillors Ken Foote, Sarah Bednarz, Darrell Napton, and Kavita Pandit, for the energy, time, and talent they have contributed to the Association during their terms on the AAG Council.

Adjournment

There being no further business, President Lawson adjourned the Council meeting at 12:50 p.m. on Tuesday, April 5, 2005. ■

Respectfully submitted,
Kavita Pandit
AAG Secretary

Association of American Geographers Council Meeting Minutes

West Palm Beach, FL
November 19-20, 2005

Attending: Dick Marston, *President*; Kavita Pandit, *Vice President*, Vicky Lawson, *Past President*, Jon Kilpinen, *Secretary and Regional Councillor* (West Lakes Division); and Samuel Aryeetey-Attoh, *Treasurer and Regional Councillor* (East Lakes Division). *National Councillors:* Thomas Baerwald, Kirstin Dow, Carol Harden, Mei-Po Kwan, Ines Miyares, and Ann Oberhauser. *Regional Councillors:* Stuart Aitken (Pacific Coast Division), Kevin Blake (Great Plains-Rocky Mountains Division), Martha Geores (Middle Atlantic Division), Paul Matthews (South-western Division), Tyrel Moore (Southeastern Division), Gregory Pope (Middle States Division), and Timothy Rickard (New England-St. Lawrence Valley Division). *AAG Staff:* Executive Director Douglas Richardson and Director of Research and Outreach Patricia Solís.

PRELIMINARIES

President Marston convened the meeting at 8:32 a.m. on November 19 with a short welcome, introducing new members to Council. After a brief review, Council adopted the agenda for the meeting.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE ASSOCIATION

President's Priorities

Marston outlined four main priorities: 1) Advancing Physical Geography, 2) Healthy Departments, 3) Collaboration within Geography and between Geographers and Other Disciplines, and 4) Geography and Public Policy. He will seek to engage physical geographers in AAG affairs, including editorial positions, awards, and various committees, as well as encourage a Physical Geography reception at AAG Annual Meetings. He will also monitor and cultivate geography's place in the USGS. Marston co-organized the Summer 2005 Healthy Departments workshop with Alec Murphy in Portland, Maine, and he will work with Vice President Pandit on the Summer 2006 workshop in Georgia. Marston is organizing the President's Plenary Session for the Chicago meeting on "Geography—The Original Integrated Environmental Science." Finally, he will highlight

contributions of geographers to public policy through several Newsletter columns.

Vice President's Priorities

Pandit outlined two major focus areas for her Vice Presidential year. First, she will continue the Healthy Departments initiative, in part by organizing the Summer 2006 workshop in Athens, Georgia. She hopes to promote this during the chairs luncheon at Chicago by organizing a round-table format with various discussion topics solicited from chairs in advance of the meeting. She would also like to invite non-geographer chairs from joint departments to the 2006 workshop and hold more breakout sessions like those held in Maine in 2005. Second, Pandit wants to emphasize internationalization in geography. Pandit will include a session on the topic next summer at the Healthy Departments workshop. In Chicago, she will also highlight the International Reception and promote and participate in international sessions, including one on graduate students and one on Fulbright opportunities. Through both of these initiatives, Pandit will work to broaden the reach of geography to encourage geographers from all walks of life to participate in the AAG.

Past President's Priorities

Lawson commented on the dynamics and energy of many of the AAG's recent initiatives, including the Healthy Departments initiative. For her part, Lawson plans to continue to work on diversity issues during her Past Presidential year, including the Diversity Task Force. She has tried to encourage underrepresented students to attend the AAG meeting in Chicago, which the AAG has supported by reserving some Conference Assistants slots expressly for that purpose. She also noted that panels by the Diversity Task Force are in the works for Chicago. Lawson also plans to continue her initiative on geography and social justice. Geographies of care and responsibility will be the theme of Lawson's Past President's address in Chicago. Papers from the President's Plenary session last year in Denver, 'Geographies of Fear and Hope,' are currently under review as a possible *Annals* forum.

Review of AAG Regions

East Lakes. Attoh reported that East Lakes met in October at Bowling Green State University, with

Vice President Pandit present at a meeting of department chairs from the region. Chairs reported no major problems in their departments, but they discussed the issue of classification of geography courses where state funding is concerned. The chairs also discussed the idea of organizing themselves to educate state legislatures on the importance of GIScience, physical geography, and human geography. Next year's East Lakes meeting is slated for Toledo, and there is the possibility of a joint meeting with the Ontario group in 2008.

Great Plains-Rocky Mountains. Blake reported positive news from GPRM, including strong faculty numbers in many departments. Efforts continue within the region to get relatively inactive departments to host meetings in the near future. Student participation in GPRM meetings is significant. He mentioned the possibility of an on-line journal or newsletter.

Mid-Atlantic. Geores reported that the MAD-AAG is healthy, with tremendous GIS programs at George Mason, Salisbury, and Maryland, but not as much human geography. George Washington is smaller, but more balanced, and frequent Geography Bowl champions. Student enrollments are strong. At Maryland, many new majors have come out of introductory courses. There has been good participation in conferences, including international conferences. The division felt a great loss with the death of Bill Wood.

Middle States. Pope reported that New Jersey is looking forward to a capital improvement initiative in the state. Pennsylvania has seen an initiative to create a "state geographer" position. In New York, there has been a sweeping overhaul of general education requirements. Physical geography now fulfills a science requirement. Regional courses are in high demand. Some departments have noticed declining enrollment in physical geography due to a shift in environmental science towards a biological point of view. Faculty numbers, however, are stable to improving. The Middle States journal is doing well and should soon appear on the region's web page.

New England-St. Lawrence Valley. According to Rickard, NESTVAL is very excited about geography's return to Harvard. Despite continued strong attendance numbers, the regional meeting has seen a decline in the significance of its traditional banquet.

The NESTVAL *Proceedings* is still in some flux with too few submissions, but a publication is viewed as necessary. Perhaps the most important question in the region concerns strategies to replace retiring faculty members. Rickard recommended that the Healthy Departments workshop examine this concern.

Pacific Coast. Aitken reviewed faculty, student, and budget levels at Pacific Coast schools. Budget numbers are down a bit. There is some decline of geography majors in the California state system. San Diego State University has seen a decline in majors, but this may relate to the department's emphasis on the Ph.D. program. Reno's Ph.D. program will be up and running next year. The region met recently in Phoenix hosted by Arizona State. The region requests that the AAG provide more data on enrollment/staffing/budget trends in geography and more publicity, perhaps even a short video on the AAG website on career opportunities. The University of Alaska reports that the department may be rebuilding geography in Alaska, possibly adding an MA/MS program.

Southeastern. Moore reported that SEDAAG was honored to host the AAG Council's Fall meeting at a very successful meeting in West Palm Beach. Reports to the Division's Steering Committee meeting revealed that, with few exceptions, state funding concerns had eased since previous year. As is the case in other AAG divisions, SEDAAG is seeking greater participation from Ph.D. programs at the regional meetings. Membership in the region is on the rebound but remains a priority, particularly in the Division's regular faculty membership category. A new Ph. D. program focused on environmental geography - land use/land cover impacts and monitoring, geospatial applications and Latin America was launched in Fall 2005 at the University of Southern Mississippi. Another Ph.D. program in Geography and Urban and Regional analysis is pending approval for implementation in Fall 2006 at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Southwest. Matthews reported that SWAAG met last week, and departments across the region seem to be doing extremely well. Many are adding new faculty members. Northeastern State University, in Oklahoma, which was under some administrative pressure, is doing well and will host the regional meeting in 2008. The University of New Orleans still has not been able to get back on campus.

West Lakes. Kilpinen reported that West Lakes held a very successful meeting in November in Iowa City, focused in part on the theme of geography and public policy. The region will hold a joint meeting

next year with the GPRM division in Lincoln, with the University of Illinois hosting the following meeting in 2007. Members in the region expressed interest in creating a Liberal Arts Affinity Group. They also expressed concern about overly lengthy articles in the *Annals* and the cost of AAG journals at a time of contracting library budgets.

Review of Topical Developments

President Marston asked the National Councillors to identify possible constraints that might prevent physical and human geographers from working together and geographers in general from working with other scholars.

The National Councillors noted that while superficial constraints exist between physical and human geographers in their subdisciplinary language, jargon, and terminology, more important philosophical differences often exist between subfields on methods. There are also institutional constraints, with few schools providing incentives for this kind of collaboration. If departments buy into a change in culture with greater collaboration, it can start with students as a bottom-up approach, while simultaneously a top-down approach could start with NSF, etc., to encourage collaboration. Hurricane Katrina has certainly highlighted opportunities for physical/human researchers to come together. Good partnerships, the Councillors noted, emerge from common concerns or goals. Common objectives for geographers include scale—spatial, temporal, organizational, etc.—and the nature of change (and its implications). We could all benefit from a greater openness to other approaches in our work, recognizing contributions from fellow geographers in other specialties, as well as scholars in cognate fields. We should look to engage scholars from other fields who are doing geographic work and to publish and promote our broadly conceived work.

After further discussion among Council at large, Marston thanked the National Councillors for their responses to his question.

STATUS OF THE ASSOCIATION Finances

Richardson provided an overview of AAG finances. He noted especially the initiation or outright completion of many of the items he outlined in his 2002 article in the *AAG Newsletter*. There will certainly be opportunities for the future, but he noted the need to consolidate our recent gains.

Richardson showed the Association's change in net assets since 1999, highlighting the AAC's improved financial condition during this time, with

no current debt. Treasurer Attoh reported that the current financial statements confirm the financial health of the AAG, thanking Darrell Napton for his work last year as Treasurer. Our investments are conservative enough to protect our interests, but diverse enough to generate healthy income. A full audit of our financial statements is scheduled for December, 2005. At Marston's urging, Council thanked Richardson with a round of applause for his efforts and those of his staff to manage the AAC's finances.

The Advancing Geography Fund has now topped the \$1 million mark in pledges, with more than \$700,000 received. Within this umbrella fund, there are numerous specific funds on targeted projects to which donors can now contribute. Council members suggested adding examples of specific projects supported by these funds in a *Newsletter* column or on the AAG website, perhaps akin to "your tax dollars at work" ads. Discussion with Council also indicated that a subcategory targeted to students is desirable. Richardson is also working on cultivating relationships with several major foundations that could contribute to the AAG in the future.

Richardson proposed that the AAG not raise next year's membership dues. Pandit moved accordingly, and Miyares seconded. Attoh, as Treasurer, expressed support for increasing dues modestly, along the lines of 2 percent, in the spirit of fiscal conservativeness. Council **approved** the motion to hold membership dues steady for one year, with one abstention.

Membership

Richardson reported that membership should be around 9,300 at the end of this year, based in part in much improved member benefits, including online services, new membership options, new affinity groups, and services for regions and specialty groups. Members now also have the option to receive several optional third-party journals at discounted subscription rates.

In the category of enhanced member services, Richardson noted that the AAG recently added an automatic membership renewal option and has featured the retired life membership. AAG now offers listserv and on-line access to lists of officers and annual reports for specialty groups. Along these same lines, he highlighted the AAG's response to Hurricane Katrina as a service to those members and geography departments along the Gulf Coast affected by the disaster.

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Publications

Richardson indicated that the AAG's publications are strong and professional, and many are available on-line to members. The AAG *Newsletter*, for instance, has expanded in recent issues, accommodating the fall influx of job listings as well as many new features. The *Newsletter* has thus improved as a recruiting tool and as a vehicle to provide information on geography to university administrators and to scholars in other fields. The new op-ed section will allow for the raising of meaningful issues within geography and the AAG. Similarly, as part of our outreach to Latin America, the *Guide to Geography Programs* has been expanded to provide coverage to Latin America and the Caribbean.

Richardson noted an increase in submissions to the *PG* since 2004 and a turnaround time of under four months for both the *PG* and the *Annals*. He updated Council on the status of the AAG's agreements with Blackwell. For the *PG*, this will mean an increase of 160 pages for the 2006 volume. The possibility of publishing a fifth issue of the *Annals* is being explored. An upgraded version of Manuscript Central will debut on January 1, 2006, making manuscript submissions to both journals easier and more user friendly. Finally, all issues of the *Annals* and the *PG* are now available electronically through Synergy.

Council then discussed the terms of AAG journal editors. Baerwald moved, and Miyares seconded, that Kobayashi be offered a second term as editor of the PPR section. Council passed the motion **unanimously**.

Discussion then turned to the *PG* Book Review editor. Council voted to extend the deadline to February 15, 2006.

Council next considered the proposed editorial boards for the MMGIS and ES sections of the *Annals*. Baerwald moved to accept the MMGIS editorial board. Moore seconded, and Council **passed** the motion. Harden then moved and Miyares seconded that the board for the ES section be accepted. Council **passed** the motion. Kilpinen and Baerwald offered a motion as follows: In forming their editorial boards for approval by Council, editors should nominate individuals who do not serve as editors of either the *Annals* or the *PG*. Matthews seconded the motion. Council **passed** this motion.

Meridian Place Operations

Richardson offered an overview of staff and facilities issues related to Meridian Place. He noted the recent installation of a new computer and

telecommunication operations system, upgrades to the heating and air-handling system, general maintenance of the building and grounds, and the initiation of renovations in the attic for some new office space. He spoke of future plans for other interior upgrades and exterior repairs. Richardson also noted the recent hiring of Ivan Cheung as AAG Director of GIScience Programs, Beth Schlemper as full-time Research Fellow in Geography Education, and Jongwon Lee as Education Fellow. Richardson lauded the abilities and performance of the AAG staff.

Research and Outreach

Richardson and Solís summarized recent Association projects in research and outreach. The AAG continues to serve as the Secretariat for the "My Community, Our Earth" (MyCOE) initiative, which seeks to engage young people around the world in local projects that use geographic methods and technologies to investigate sustainable development. The project is focused on the current United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, 2005-2014. Other current AAG projects include an NSF grant providing travel money for conference attendance in Brisbane. The AAG is concluding work with an American Council on Education proposal to the Carnegie Foundation to promote internationalization of teaching and learning at U.S. universities through collaborative efforts.

Richardson then updated Council on AAG specialty conferences, mentioning especially the Geography and Humanities conference. This symposium, scheduled for February 2007, involves AAG partnership with the American Council of Learned Societies and the University of Virginia. Funding is being sought from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Humanities Alliance.

Richardson also reminded Council of the Geography and Drug Addiction Symposium, jointly sponsored by the AAG and the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and scheduled for March 8, 2006, in conjunction with the AAG Annual Meeting in Chicago.

Besides these conferences, Richardson mentioned a third Race, Ethnicity and Place conference in November 2006 in San Marcos, Texas, to be co-sponsored by the AAG, and a collaboration with the Association of American Law Schools on "Geography and the Law." All of these events evidence the efforts of the AAG to highlight the importance of geography to allied fields.

Solís provided an update on the Diversity Task Force, circulating minutes from recent meetings. She reminded Council of the launching of the AAG's online Diversity Clearinghouse, which represents a searchable database of information on diversity within the field of geography. The Task Force also forwarded to Council a request for the creation of an AAG Enhancing Diversity Award. Attoh moved that Council create this award, and Lawson seconded. Council **unanimously** approved the motion. Following the recommendation of the Task Force, Miyares moved, and Lawson seconded, the nomination of Don Deskins and Saul Cohen as recipients of the 2006 Enhancing Diversity Award. Council **unanimously** approved this motion, as well.

Council then shifted to the AAG's public policy initiative. Richardson reiterated the AAG's concern for policy issues that affect geography, including federal funding in several key areas, and provided Council with an update from John Wertman, the AAG's Director of Public Policy. The AAG has sent several letters to Congressional members and federal agencies on the issue of scientific freedom and on behalf of federal funding for geography education, among other topics. The AAG has also organized congressional briefings on topics like building geographic management systems. Information from these activities is then distributed via the *Newsletter* to all AAG members.

Richardson then discussed the recent culmination of a long-running initiative to bring geography back to Harvard. Working with Peter Bol, Professor of East Asian Languages and Civilizations at Harvard, the AAG provided support and information as Harvard University officials established a new Center for Geographic Analysis. Support for this initiative reached to the upper levels of Harvard's administration, suggesting a long-term commitment to the Center and perhaps to a geography program at Harvard in the future.

Finally, Richardson updated Council on the AAG Senior Associates Program, designed to engage retired geographers in ongoing activities and to make their considerable talents and experience available to the AAG and its ongoing projects on research, public policy, and education. AAG Past President Jan Monk helps coordinate the Senior Associates Program.

Educational Affairs

Richardson circulated and summarized a written report from Michael Solem, Director of Educational

Affairs, and Educational Fellows Jongwon Lee and Beth Schlemper. He indicated that the AAG is emphasizing higher education in geography, as that reflects the majority of the membership, but has launched initiatives at the secondary level as well.

Recent efforts in this area include an NSF-funded project called "Enhancing Departments and Graduate Education" or EDGE. This is a three-year study of the process of professional development in graduate-level geography. EDGE has supported two on-line resources: the AAG Guide to Careers in Geography and the Geographic Sciences and 2) the AAG Healthy Departments website. Another AAG educational project includes a three-year grant from the Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) to develop a "Teachers Guide to Modern Geography." Lee joined the AAG staff to work as a post-doctoral fellow under this project.

Two education-related proposals are currently pending. First, in September 2005, a proposal went to the NSF for Geospatial Resources for Secondary School Teachers. If funded, this \$1.2 million project will support workshops and professional development resources for integrated math, science, and geography education for four years. Second, NASA has awarded the AAG a one-year planning grant for Project Geo-START (Geo-Spatial Thinking Activities and Resources for Teachers of Geography and Earth Science). This project will improve teaching and student learning in physical geography and earth system science through resources using GIS datasets and NASA earth-observing remote sensing imagery.

Richardson emphasized the remarkable contributions to AAG initiatives in the educational affairs area by Michael Solem. The development of resources and materials that geography teachers can

use in their classrooms through the AAG's educational projects is a remarkable achievement, one Solem deserves considerable credit for spearheading.

CONTINUING AND NEW BUSINESS

Annual Meetings

Richardson reviewed the planning and preliminary schedule for the Chicago meeting, scheduled for March 7-11, 2006. Early indications point to yet another meeting with more than 5,000 attendees. Richardson also noted the exciting variety of field trips that members had already submitted for the Chicago meeting.

Future AAG meetings will occur in San Francisco (2007), Boston (2008), and Las Vegas (2009). Council discussed several possible sites for the 2010 meeting, including cities in the central United States, but reached no decision on the matter.

AAG Committees and Council

Kilpinen provided Council with nominees for the Honors and Nominating Committees. Following discussion, Council selected the final slates for these committees, the candidates' names and biographical materials to appear in the January 2006 AAG Newsletter.

Honors and Awards

The Honors Committee forwarded its selections for AAG Honors to Council, these to be announced at the Chicago meeting in 2006. Marston announced that Barbara Kingsolver, noted author and activist, has accepted the 2006 Honorary Geographer Award. Lawson then discussed the 2006 Presidential Achievement Award, indicating that she would circulate the names of nominees to the Executive Committee for approval in the coming weeks. Finally, Richardson reported that a

committee to seek funding for a "Geography Prize for World Understanding" will consist of Lawson, Richardson, and Harm de Blij.

Specialty Groups

Baerwald highlighted the status of Specialty Group annual reports, important issues, and requests. Specialty Groups expressed gratitude for the support provided by the AAG central office. Pandit asked about the issue of moribund Specialty Groups and whether the Specialty Groups had discussed this issue and how to address it. Council requested a status report of the World-Wide Web Specialty Group, which has not reported to Council in a while.

Matthews moved that Council confirm that the procedure for establishing and maintaining Affinity Groups be identical to that for establishing and maintaining Specialty Groups. Harden seconded, and Council approved the motion **unanimously**.

Kilpinen discussed the possible creation of a Liberal Arts affinity group.

Closed Session

Council met in closed session to review the Executive Director's performance and compensation. Following discussion, Council commended Doug Richardson's efforts as Executive Director and approved his salary and benefits for the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

Adjournment

There being no further business, President Marston adjourned the Council meeting at 11:50 a.m. on Sunday, November 20, 2005. ■

Respectfully submitted,
Jon T. Kilpinen
AAG Secretary

Quarter Century

The April 1981 AAG Newsletter informed AAG membership that **Robert Aangeenbrug**, professor of geography at the University of Kansas was appointed by the National Research Council to serve as a member of the U.S. National Committee for the IGU as a representative for ACSM from January 1, 1981 to December 31, 1984...AAG Research Grants were given to **Paul A. Kay** (Utah) for "Late-Pleistocene and

Mid-Holocene Fields of Annual Precipitation," **Colin E. Thorn** (Illinois) for "Spatial Stratification of Geomorphic Processes in the Alpine by Tundra Plant Communities," **Marilyn A. Brown** (Illinois) for "The Impact of Public Programs on Residential Energy Conservation," **William C. Johnson** (Kansas) for "Reconstruction of Late Quaternary Vegetation at Natural Trap Cave, Wyoming," **Lydia M. Pulsipher** (Tennessee) for "The Historical Archaeol-

ogy of Galways Plantation, Montserrat, West Indies," and **John D. Tremont** (Anchorage, Alaska) for "A Geographical Investigation of Arctic Frontier Road Development Policies"...**Stanley D. Brunn** and **Gyula Paure** joined the faculty of the University of Kentucky...the University of Illinois established new graduate programs in regional science and geomorphology. ■

Association of American Geographers Council Meeting Minutes

Chicago, IL
March 5-7, 2006

Attending: Dick Marston, *President*; Kavita Pandit, *Vice President*; Vicky Lawson, *Past President*; Jon Kilpinen, *Secretary and Regional Councillor* (West Lakes Division); and Samuel Aryeetey-Attoh, *Treasurer and Regional Councillor* (East Lakes Division). *National Councillors:* Thomas Baerwald, Kirstin Dow, Carol Harden, Mei-Po Kwan, Ines Miyares, and Ann Oberhauser. *Regional Councillors:* Stuart Aitken (Pacific Coast Division), Kevin Blake (Great Plains-Rocky Mountain Division), Martha Geores (Middle Atlantic Division), Paul Matthews (Southwestern Division), Tyrel Moore (Southeastern Division), Gregory Pope (Middle States Division), and Timothy Rickard (New England-St. Lawrence Valley Division). *AAG Staff:* Executive Director Douglas Richardson and Director of Research and Outreach Patricia Solís.

PRELIMINARIES

President Marston convened the meeting at 3:10 p.m. on March 5 with a brief welcome. Council then adopted the agenda for the meeting.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE ASSOCIATION

President's Priorities

Marston reviewed his main priorities: 1) Advancing Physical Geography, 2) Healthy Departments, 3) Collaboration within Geography and between Geographers and Other Disciplines, and 4) Geography and Public Policy. He especially noted the President's Plenary Session for the Chicago meeting on "Geography—The Original Integrated Environmental Science." Marston also commented on his involvement with AAG fundraising activities, including meetings in Chicago.

Vice President's Priorities

Pandit reiterated her two main initiatives: internationalization in geography and healthy departments. She reminded Council of the next Healthy Departments Workshop, to be held in Athens, Georgia, June 9-11, 2006. She also hopes to encourage regional divisions to organize "healthy departments" sessions at their meetings in 2006-2007. To highlight internationalization in geography, Pandit will meet with counterparts from other countries at the IGU in Brisbane in July 2006 and during other overseas trips. She will also work more closely with the AAG's International Research and Scholarly Exchange Committee on international matters.

Past President's Priorities

Lawson thanked those AAG officers who have joined Council the last two years and continued many of her initiatives, especially the Healthy Departments project. She noted that the Healthy Departments' web page has been established and is growing. Summer workshops may go to alternating years after 2006. Lawson hopes to add some new members to the Healthy Departments Committee to continue its work. On the issue of diversity, the Diversity Task Force will meet in Chicago and submit a report to Council later in 2006. Lawson continues to work on funding for the Geography Prize for World Understanding. Finally, she mentioned that her Past President's Address later in the Chicago meeting will focus on "Geographies of Care and Responsibility."

Review of Geography Programs

East Lakes. Attoh reported that geography is well in the East Lakes, with only minor changes in some departments. State-level issues, including transfer assurance guides in Ohio, have been mildly controversial, but few chairs are concerned about their impacts on geography. Subsidies for geography courses remain low in many departments, despite higher costs for GIS and environmental lab courses. Bowling Green State University is looking to establish a school of Earth, Environment, and Society to compete for more state support. Grand Valley State University is working on some international initiatives. Toledo is readying to submit its Ph.D. proposal to the Ohio Senate before final state approval.

Great Plains-Rocky Mountain. Blake reported that a slate of dates and locations is in place for the next three annual regional meetings (2006, 2007, 2008) and that the planning efforts for the 2006 meeting are going very well. He also reported on the state of geography in several departments in the region in which geography is combined with earth science or environmental studies. Geography is doing well in these departments in terms of faculty and student numbers; in a couple of instances geography is the sole focus of the department's programs and these departments are experiencing growth.

Mid-Atlantic. Geores reported that MAD-AAG held its annual meeting at the USGS this year as part of an effort to expand the involvement of public-sector applied geographers. The academic departments all seem to be in good stead. Students are declaring geography majors earlier than ever—a good sign of the health of the discipline. The fall meeting is going to be held in conjunction with SEDAAG at Morgantown, West Virginia.

Middle States. Pope reported that many departments report having high standing in their colleges,

being model departments, etc. Enrollment is generally stable, with Syracuse having major growth. Pennsylvania's state budget cuts have prevented faculty hiring there. Rutgers has a hiring freeze, but Montclair State has had hires the past two years. Slippery Rock University, Montclair State, and Syracuse have all enjoyed new buildings or infrastructure in recent months. Syracuse now has a "community geographer," who carries out outreach initiatives with the city. Pennsylvania's initiative for a State Geographer has been tabled, pending a resolution of the administrative home for the position. Middle States will hold its next meeting in New Brunswick, New Jersey in October.

New England-St. Lawrence Valley. Rickard reported that NESTVAL is set to meet at the University of Vermont in October 2006, the department there perhaps resuming its role as a regional leader. Rhode Island College is facing challenges in servicing its majors due to a hiring freeze.

Pacific Coast. Aitken reported only a few significant changes in the region since Fall 2005. He noted that the University of Idaho is doing well, having had a solid external review, an NSF grant, the addition of a new position, and increased graduate applications. The University of Arizona reported a record number of geography majors—about 350—this academic year and approval of a Graduate Certificate in GIS. The California State University system has seen new hires in geography at several schools, and geography at Cal State Longbeach has been designated a "growth pole" in the College of Liberal Arts, expecting to reach 200 majors in the next few years. The debut of Reno's Ph.D. program is slated for next year.

Southeastern. Moore reported good news on geography in SEDAAG. Budgets at many schools have improved. The department at the University of Kentucky is doing especially well with several current hires in progress and a new GIS teaching and research lab. The University of Tennessee is also doing well, with two new faculty positions and a growing number of majors. East Carolina University and the University of Georgia have enjoyed recent hires. One ongoing concern in the region involves membership, which is not as strong as in the past. SEDAAG hopes to work with the AAG to promote regional membership renewals.

Southwest. Matthews reported that SWAAG seems to be quite healthy, with no major changes since December. In New Mexico, the Department of Higher Education, a recent creation, has moved to create a core curriculum for higher education, though its implementation across the state seems unlikely. At the request of a SWAAG member, the George Carney situation was raised.

West Lakes. Kilpinen reported that plans for the joint West Lakes meeting with the Great Plains-Rocky Mountain division in Lincoln, Nebraska, are well under way. News from some of the larger West Lakes' departments indicated that geography is well even in the face of changes. The University of Illinois reported an impending inclusion of geography in a new School of Earth, Society, and Environment, with hiring priorities in interdisciplinary research areas. The University of Wisconsin-Madison reported new appointments in each of the last few years and a very successful GIS certificate program. Indiana University noted some challenges to replacing retiring faculty members, but remained very optimistic given the results of recent hires.

Review of Topical Developments

President Marston requested that the National Councillors consider the role of petitions and resolutions in the AAG, including the process of bringing those petitions to Council. Marston and Baerwald reviewed the articles and by-laws of the AAG regarding established procedure. Baerwald pointed out that there are two broad questions: what is the broader role of petitions, and what are the mechanisms of the petition process?

The National Councillors noted that there are various levels of expression (individual members, Specialty Groups, and the AAG as a whole) and two kinds of petitions/resolutions: those addressed to Council to shape Association policy, business, or operations and those that speak on behalf of the AAG in a larger dialogue as a public statement. Our task with the latter type of resolution is to find the best way to have experts in our field express their views on various issues. Many agreed that geography's breadth gives it expertise in science fields and in social/political policy; it has the ability to connect these areas. Many also agreed that resolutions issued by the AAG on the advancement of science and sound policy represent an appropriate expression of the Association's mission, provided that these resolutions are well written, focused on a specific issue related to geography, and free from politically inflammatory language that could weaken the AAG's overall credibility. Councillors then thoroughly discussed the pros and cons of the process by which resolutions come to Council and are approved, especially the merits of resolutions that could emanate from a small number of individuals but hope to speak on behalf of all 9,500 AAG members. Many asked rhetorically if these kinds of Association statements should go to the membership for a vote. Ultimately, Marston charged the National Councillors with the task of reviewing the AAG's resolution procedures with the goal of issuing a set of recommendations to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

Discussion then turned to a climate change petition forwarded to Council by John Paul Jones III and Robert Christopherson, signed by a number of AAG

members and supported by the Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Committee. Many Council members embraced the spirit of the proposed resolution, but several were concerned about its length and language. Marston circulated copies of a statement on climate change endorsed by, among others, the National Academy of Science. After much reflective discussion and editing, Council approved the following revised version of the resolution with five abstentions:

AAG Resolution Requesting Action on Climate Change

Whereas, climate change is a process that constitutes a major threat to Earth's environment and to the well-being of people in all nations;

Whereas, geography is an integrative science that synthesizes and analyzes data regarding human-environmental relationships, thereby increasing understanding about global climate change and contributing to more informed policy decisions;

Whereas, members of the Association of American Geographers (AAG) petitioned the AAG Council to consider this issue;

Whereas, global scientific efforts established a substantial body of evidence and reached a scientific consensus on global climate change, including reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA), among others;

Whereas, the International Polar Year for science and research takes place from March 1, 2007 to March 1, 2009, focusing on the Polar Regions, which are affected by climate change at a greater rate than middle and lower latitudes; and

Whereas, eleven national science academies, including the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, issued a joint statement on June 7, 2005, that calls on world leaders to take prompt action to reduce the causes of climate change, adapt to its impacts, and include the issue in all relevant national and international strategies.

Therefore be it resolved that, the Association of American Geographers (AAG) affirms the international scientific consensus on climate change, including endorsement of the June 7, 2005, joint statement of the national academies entitled "Global Response to the Climate Change;"

Be it further resolved that, the AAG urges the U.S. Government to take a leadership role in addressing climate change, support open scientific debate about the issue, and fully cooperate with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) of the Arctic Council, the national science academies, and other governmental and nongovernmental organizations, as well as with the international community of countries, to better scientifically understand climate change and to develop sound policies to attenuate greenhouse gas emissions;

Be it further resolved that, the AAG enjoins the U.S. Government to act upon commitments made by the U.S. in the UNFCCC, May 9, 1992, and ratify the

Kyoto Protocol and Rulebook that is presently international law;

Be it further resolved that, the AAG encourages geographers to continue to engage in climate change research, education, scientific assessments, policy discussions, and political action, as they deem appropriate; and

Be it further resolved that, the AAG, as an important representative organization of geographic science, direct its Council and President to establish a committee to draft a formal position paper as a reference document on global climate change.

Council agreed that the submission of the original petition was very valuable for raising an important scientific and policy-related issue and for highlighting the process of AAG resolutions.

Harden then moved, with Matthews seconding, that the Council appoint an ad hoc committee to participate in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change review process on behalf of the Association. Council approved the motion unanimously. Marston thanked the National Councillors for their thoughtful responses to the complicated matter of AAG resolutions.

STATUS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Finances

Richardson and Attoh reported that the AAG is on very solid financial ground with no debt, a fact confirmed by a recent audit. Net assets of the AAG increased by \$755,258 from FYE 2004 to FYE 2005. The Association's investment portfolio is also performing very well. The auditor was pleased that all previous recommendations of the firm had been followed. The Finance Committee reported discussing a number of issues, including the possibility of investing in socially conscious funds. The Finance Committee also voted unanimously in favor of increasing membership dues in 2007 in line with cost-of-living increases (this following the previous year with no dues increase). Attoh moved that Council adopt this recommendation, and Baerwald seconded. Council passed the motion unanimously. Richardson then outlined the proposed 2007 budget. The budget included no major changes from last year's budget. Baerwald moved approval of the proposed 2007 budget, and Moore seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Richardson then provided a brief update on the Advancing Geography Fund, which continues to grow through the addition of recent gifts like the bequests of Sandra Mather and Duane Marble. Priorities for the Fund include the ongoing refinement of a planned-giving program at the AAG, further cultivation of relationships with several key foundations, pursuit of new corporate donations, and the development of a broadly engaging, fundable project to add visibility to the AAG's work.

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Richardson envisions hiring an AAG staff member in the future to assist in these efforts.

Membership

AAG staff members Robert Andelman and Oscar Larson joined Council's discussion of membership and annual meeting issues. AAG membership in 2005, Andelman reported, hit a record high of 9,478 individual members. Richardson indicated that the AAG staff will examine whether the growth has been largely in the student or non-student category. Noting the link between membership growth and annual meeting attendance, Larson reported that nearly 5,300 people had registered in advance for the Chicago meeting. Both sets of numbers indicate that geographers are finding the AAG valuable and want to be associated with it. Council then discussed the results of a "lapsed member" questionnaire conducted by the Membership Committee. Richardson noted the many of those lapsed members had rejoined the AAG. Richardson introduced Ivan Cheung, the AAG's Director of GIScience Programs to the Council.

Council then discussed the ongoing role of the Membership Committee. The Committee has completed, in many ways, its charge of several years ago, given the increases in AAG membership. Richardson recommended continuing the Committee, but with a revised charge that includes coordinating its activities with the ongoing membership operations of the AAG staff more closely. Matthews moved to continue the Membership Committee with its new charge; Dow seconded. Council passed the motion unanimously.

Publications

Richardson noted that the op-ed section in the *Newsletter* has been well received and will continue. Topics are not solicited; they are submitted by members. One or two pages of submissions are printed in the *Newsletter* each month, and all submissions are posted to the AAG website. The AAG staff will also be developing a Media Resources area on the website. Richardson noted that the AAG had recently published the 2005-2006 *Guide to Geography Programs in the Americas*, though with incorrect numbers for membership in the Specialty Groups. The AAG will mail errata sheets to purchasers of the *Guide* with the correct numbers.

Journals Manager Robin Friedman noted that the average turnaround time for both the *Annals* and the *PG* is less than 3.5 months. The debut of the new version of Manuscript Central has been delayed slightly. Several memorials are slated for coming issues of the *Annals*. Rickard raised the question of the recent increase in the decline rate for the *PG*. Friedman reminded Council that new submissions to the *PG* increased by 50 percent in 2005. Marston suggested having more editors' panels or sessions to

discuss "how to" aspects of article preparation and submission at annual meetings. Friedman reported that the AAG may not need the page increase in the *PG* that Council had discussed in previous meetings. Richardson praised Friedman's work on the journals as a major asset to the AAG.

Council then discussed the idea of adding a fifth issue to the *Annals*, reviewing several options from Blackwell. Originally, this idea was to facilitate publication of papers from the upcoming Geography and Drug Addiction Symposium. Subsequently, Springer approached the AAG to publish this work as a book. Kwan commented on the difficulty the *Annals* editors have had in meeting and discussing a fifth issue. Oberhauser relayed the Publications Committee's overall support for the idea despite some concerns about diluting the quality of the articles.

Oberhauser reported that Audrey Kobayashi has agreed to serve a second term as editor of the PPR section of the *Annals*. Council then considered additions to the editorial boards of both the *Annals* and *PG*. Baerwald moved and Pope seconded that Council approve an addition to the ES editorial board. Council approved unanimously. Attoh moved and Miyares seconded that Council approve an addition to the PPR editorial board. Council approved unanimously. Finally, Harden moved and Oberhauser seconded that Council approve an addition to the *PG* editorial board. Council approved unanimously. Oberhauser then reported that the Publication Committee recommended Jay Gatrell for the position of *PG* Book Review Editor. Baerwald moved and Blake seconded Gatrell's appointment. Council approved the appointment unanimously, Gatrell's term to be January 2007 to December 2010. Finally, Harden agreed to serve as Council's representative on the Publications Committee.

Meridian Place Operations

Richardson mentioned the addition of new staff members in the past several months, the result of which is that nearly every usable space at Meridian Place has been filled. Most recently, this involved completing renovations in the attic for new offices. Richardson also discussed the ongoing search for a Deputy Director and an Executive Assistant/Writer. The Association will likely need to lease some ancillary office space in the near future to accommodate any additional staff or any new operations undertaken by the Central Office. He reiterated his pride in the professionalism and integrity of the AAG staff.

Research and Outreach

Solis provided a summary of several recent projects. The Chicago meeting will provide a venue for a special panel on the ongoing "My Community, Our Earth" (MyCOE) initiative with featured

speakers from the USGS, ESRI, the U.S. Forest Service, the USDA, and USAID on efforts in the U.S., the Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean. The AAG is working to gain the support of the Inter-American Development Bank for a project on "Geographic Education, Science, and Technology in the Americas" (GESTA). This project will support the gathering and exchange of information about geographic educational programs, scientific endeavors, and the geographic technology industry toward improving competitiveness and facilitate regional collaboration around the use of geographic knowledge/technology for sustainable economic development.

Richardson reported on two specialty conferences will take place in conjunction with the Chicago meeting: the NIH National Institute on Drug Abuse/AAG Symposium on Geography and Drug Addiction and the Association of American Law Schools/AAG Geography and the Law Sessions. Work also continues to proceed on the Geography and the Humanities conference in February 2007 at the University of Virginia.

Solis reported that the Diversity Task Force will be meeting in Chicago principally to discuss production of a final report to Council that includes its recommendations. The AAG will make its Enhancing Diversity Award presentations at the Awards Luncheon.

Richardson continues to work to integrate several career-related initiatives into a more centralized career program at AAG. He noted that the AAG held two workshops with the Department of Labor to clarify the status of geography in labor statistics and job classifications. The AAG will also hold a series of career and graduate school-related sessions as part of the Chicago meeting.

John Wertman and other AAG staff continue to monitor legislation related to funding for geographic research and for geography education, as well as many broader policy issues. They have worked steadily with National Geographic Society staff members and others on behalf of geography in the impending reauthorization of No Child Left Behind in 2007. Wertman will also chair a session at the Chicago meeting on U.S. electoral geography.

Richardson discussed the AAG's recommendation to the National Research Council to list four subfields for geography in its Assessment of Research-Doctorate Programs. He also commented on the publication with the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS) of the *GIScience and Technology Body of Knowledge* book. Finally, Richardson and Solis provided details of a memo of understanding between the AAG and the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), to be signed in a special session at the Chicago meeting. Through this agreement, the AAG and PAIGH hope to cooperate on a variety of future activities.

Educational Affairs

Michael Solem spoke to Council on the educational affairs of the AAG. He commented on how collaborative the staff work on the many education projects at AAG has been and the great synergy among all the projects at the AAG. He noted that NASA has agreed to fund Project Geo-START (Geo-Spatial Thinking Activities and Resources for Teachers) for \$92,834 to improve teacher quality in physical geography and earth system science. Three future projects are currently under development: one with Penn State on ethics in GIScience, one through the Carnegie Foundation's CASTL Leadership Program on the scholarship of teaching and learning, and one through NSF's GEO-Teach program for pre-service and in-service teacher training in the geosciences. Solem complimented the excellent work Jongwon Lee has done on behalf of the AAG's educational initiatives.

Richardson informed Council that he had been asked if the AAG would consider an affiliation with the National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE), in light of its search for a new administrative home and executive director. Council discussed the pros and cons of such an arrangement, both for the AAG and the NCGE, as well as the logistical arrangements it would require. Considering the strong synergy of the organizations in the area of geography education, Council expressed interest in exploring the possibility. Miyares moved that Council authorize Richardson and Solem to develop a letter of intent, which, if successful, would result in their developing with the Executive Committee of a full proposal. If the full proposal is accepted by NCGE, the Council will make the final decision on any agreement. Blake seconded the motion, which Council passed with one abstention.

CONTINUING AND NEW BUSINESS

Annual Meetings

Richardson commented on the tremendous program assembled for the Chicago meeting, including the many special events and sessions, guests, and field trips. He also mentioned that planning for the San Francisco meeting, April 16-21, 2007, is already underway. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for Boston in 2008 and Las Vegas in 2009. Council considered potential sites for the 2010 meeting, mentioning Baltimore and Miami as possibilities.

AAG Committees and Council

On behalf of the Committee on Committees, Kilpinen moved that Council establish an AAG Parliamentarian for the specific purpose of ensuring that the annual AAG Business Meeting follows appropriate procedures and protocols, this position to be appointed by Council for a term of three years. Pandit seconded the motion, which Council passed unanimously. Council then appointed

Darrell Napton to the position of Parliamentarian, his term beginning July 1, 2006.

Kilpinen also presented Council with a slate of candidates for vacancies on AAG Standing Committees. Harden moved that Council appoint two nominees to the Committee on College Geography, filling one fewer vacancy next year. Moore seconded, and Council passed the motion unanimously. Council then approved the Standing Committee appointments unanimously.

Council unanimously approved the appointment of Ines Miyares as AAG Secretary and Kirstin Dow as AAG Treasurer. For 2006-2007, Miyares and Dow will serve as co-chairs of the National Councilors, and Aitken will serve as chair of the Regional Councillors.

Current Membership Committee co-chairs Julie Winkler and Don Vermeer and member Bill Crowley met with Council and provided an overview of the Committee's recent work. Council shared its revised charge for the Committee. Vermeer raised the matter of a survey of the entire AAG membership. Winkler mentioned that the American Meteorological Society conducts such a survey every five years, which is valuable on topics like salary, diversity, and employment. Moore suggested that the AAG should think about establishing a procedure and a tentative survey interval in the short run before implementing such a survey. Moore agreed to serve as Council's representative to the Membership Committee.

Honors and Awards

Council reviewed the recipients to be recognized at the Awards Luncheon, including AAG Honors, Enhancing Diversity Awards, book awards, and specialty group awards, as well as the Presidential Achievement Award recipients to be recognized at the Past President's Address. Council also discussed the Geography Prize for World Understanding. Before conferring this award, which is intended to be high profile, Lawson noted the need to work on fund raising for the prize.

Specialty Groups

Baerwald reported on the status of the specialty groups, most of which continue to operate very well. On-line services have been very beneficial to the specialty groups. Many long-standing problems have been addressed, if not solved, by these new services. Richardson indicated that the AAG now handles the bookkeeping for most specialty groups.

Other Business

Audrey Kobayashi, editor of the PPR section of the *Annals*, reported to Council. She indicated that the *Annals* are in very good shape. A small number of delinquent reviewers represent the largest problem. Members of the Editorial Board have begun consideration of the possibility of a fifth issue for

the *Annals*. A general discussion about special issues then followed. Kobayashi was highly complimentary of Robin Friedman's work. Council was pleased to hear of the cooperation between the editors and Friedman as a real team.

Resolutions

Council approved the following resolutions unanimously:

Whereas, Victoria Lawson, as Vice President and President of the Association of American Geographers, has exercised exceptional leadership in assisting the Association in addressing the challenges facing the discipline of Geography and working to enhance diversity within the discipline, to engage the work of geographers with an ethic of social justice, to support early faculty career development, and to promote healthy academic departments in geography;

Therefore be it resolved that the Association of American Geographers, assembled in Chicago, Illinois, on the occasion of its 102nd Annual Meeting, heartily thanks Vicky for her leadership of the Association during the past three years, and especially for her efforts to improve the standing of the discipline and the profession, and for her role in promoting the AAG's Healthy Departments initiative.

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

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

Therefore be it resolved that the Association of American Geographers, assembled in Chicago, Illinois, on the occasion of its 102nd Annual Meeting, extends warm appreciation to Past President Victoria Lawson and retiring AAG Councillors Samuel Aryeetey-Attoh, Thomas Baerwald, Jon T. Kilpinen, Paul Matthews, Ann Oberhauser, and Gregory Pope, for the energy, time, and talent they have contributed to the Association during their terms on the AAG Council.

Adjournment

There being no further business, President Marston adjourned the Council meeting at 11:55 a.m. on Tuesday, March 7, 2006. ■

Respectfully submitted,
Jon T. Kilpinen
AAG Secretary

AAG Council Meeting Minutes

Norman, Oklahoma
October 27-29, 2006

Attending: Kavita Pandit, *President*, Thomas Baerwald, *Vice-President*, Richard Marston, *Past President*, Ines Miyares, *Secretary*, Kirstin Dow, *Treasurer*. *National Councillors*: Kirstin Dow, Carol Harden, Mei-Po Kwan, Sallie Marston, Ines Miyares, Dawn Wright. *Regional Councillors*: Stuart Aitken (Pacific Coast Division), Craig Colten (Southwest Division), Donald Friend (West Lakes Division), Martha Geores (Middle Atlantic Division), Lisa Harrington (Rocky Mountains-Great Plains Division), Keith Henderson (Middle States Division), Tyrel Moore (Southeast Division), Timothy Rickard (New England-St. Lawrence Valley Division). *AAG Staff*: Executive Director Douglas Richardson and Director of Research and Outreach Patricia Solís. *Excused*: David Kaplan (East Lakes Division).

PRELIMINARIES

President Kavita Pandit convened the meeting on October 28 with a brief welcome of new National and Regional Councillors. Kevin Blake was acknowledged for his service to the AAG and his resignation as Rocky Mountains-Great Plains Regional Councillor for health reasons was accepted. Lisa Harrington was introduced as elected to complete his term. The agenda was adopted. Minutes from the Spring Council meeting were circulated previously, approved and published. President Pandit reported that the AAG Executive Committee met in Burlington, VT, October 14-15, 2006, to prepare and review the agenda for the Fall Council meeting. In attendance were Kavita Pandit, *President*, Thomas Baerwald, *Vice-President*, Richard Marston, *Past President*, Ines Miyares, *Secretary*, Kirstin Dow, *Treasurer*, and Douglas Richardson, *Executive Director*.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE ASSOCIATION

President's Priorities

Pandit reviewed her main priorities of continuing the Healthy Departments Initiative and promoting internationalization. Pandit reported a successful Department Chairs luncheon roundtable in Chicago. The Healthy Departments workshop in Athens, Georgia hosted 30 participants. Several AAG regional meetings are holding Healthy Departments workshops, expanding

the idea at a regional level. Wright reported the positive impact on the Oregon State campus. Kennesaw State is developing geography in combined department. Friend reported similar positive impacts at Minnesota State. Pandit led a discussion around a potential reduced rate AAG membership program for geographers in developing regions. The AAG Central Office will explore further how to implement such a plan.

Vice President's Priorities

Baerwald spoke about his interest in promoting Geography as interdisciplinary discipline and suggested several forums for such work: working with the journal editors to plan special issues, forums; encouraging specialty groups to continue to cross-promote and organize special sessions at meetings of cognate disciplines; broadening participation in the International Polar Year; and others. He expressed his support for continued promotion of previous initiatives, including the Healthy Departments Initiative, internationalization activities, implementation of recommendations from the Diversity Task Force, further development of geographic education programs and a potential new relationship with NCCE, and further involvement in public policy development and public discussions to which geographers can contribute.

Past President's Priorities

R. Marston reviewed priority activities including efforts by the Advancing Physical Geography working group to increase subdisciplinary representation in journal publication, editorships, committees and activities at the AAG Annual Meetings. R. Marston discussed the role of geography at USGS – the smallest unit with the fewest PhD level scientists in the agency. He addressed the topic of the Healthy Departments Initiative, which is currently seeking input on a location for summer 2007. R. Marston's Past Presidential Address at the AAG Annual Meeting in San Francisco will relate to his work in Mountain Geography. R. Marston raised the need to find an appropriate way to honor Gilbert White and is focusing on continued fundraising for the Mel Marcus Fund, and other development activities.

Review of Geography Programs

Association of Pacific Coast Geographers

Aitken reported that despite declines in budgets, geography programs appear to be

improving overall. California departments report increases in tenure track hires and Arizona departments report having more majors than they can serve. Hawaii also reports improvements. Southern Oregon is a small department having difficulty replacing retirements. The APCG meeting in Eugene was well attended, one of biggest meetings. A chronic concern is that larger PhD programs do not participate in regional meetings. The California Geographical Society provides networks that have become very important for community colleges and K-12 teachers. This opened a discussion to be continued at the Spring AAG Council meeting concerning the importance of networking with state and other subregional geographical societies.

West Lakes Division

Friend reported that the West Lakes Division held its regional meeting jointly with The Great Plains Rocky Mountain Division in Lincoln, Nebraska. The region has no archive, instead relying on the institutional memory of long-time members. John Frazer Hart has offered his 40+ year library of programs with abstracts to begin an archive. As rural agricultural regions lose population and metropolitan areas grow, there is also a clear decrease in regional/rural high school grads. Thus regionally located colleges and universities are now developing plans to maintain enrollment levels by increased recruiting of urbanites which includes drawing "diverse" populations away from the city.

Mid-Atlantic Division

Geores reported that the geography program at UM-Baltimore County is targeted as a growth department, with a projected increase from 9 to 14 faculty. UM-College Park is moving away from a regular MA to an applied MA in GIS, with a shift toward just a PhD. The department has developed a new study abroad program. George Mason University is focused on physical geography and is now a program in Earth Systems. George Washington University and Frostburg State's programs are doing well. The region hosts 550 AAG members who are non-academics, mostly in government positions. Programs in the region are heading toward earth science, but demand for human geography continues. Richardson added that USGS and the Census Bureau have organizational memberships.

Middle States Division

Henderson reported that the region recently held its autumn meeting at Rutgers University with roughly 75 paper presentations and approximately 130 in attendance. With the exception of Rutgers, the region has had difficulty attracting attendees from the larger Ph.D. Departments but students from Syracuse and Penn State have begun to attend again in the last few years. The main action item at their board meeting was to approve the transition of the 'Middle States Geographer' to an electronic journal beginning next year. Many departments in the region report continued growth and success, such the award of a large NSF grant to Syracuse University to create an Integrated Spatial Analysis lab, an increase in the undergraduate program at Rutgers, new faculty, department chair, and new research programs at Penn State, a new online Master's program at California of Pennsylvania, and a new Provost in the SUNY system, Dr. Risa Palm.

New England-St. Lawrence Valley

Rickard noted that the NESTVAL Newsletter includes many departmental reports which show that Geography is increasingly strong in the region. There are significant achievements in the following areas: GIS, Geographic Education, environmental geography, grants and international outreach with several study abroad programs to Europe and the Caribbean. A Healthy Departments Workshop was held during the successful autumn regional meeting at Burlington, Vermont, which reflected the Society's increasing emphasis on student and service awards. The society is searching for a new journal editor.

Great Plains-Rocky Mountains Regions

This year's regional meeting was held jointly with the West Lakes Division and hosted by UN-Lincoln. Harrington reported that it was a good coordinated effort. GPRM is a large region so it is a challenge to get people there and PhD granting departments have limited involvement. Harrington is the first female regional Councilor from the division. BYU has furloughed its MA program to focus on their undergraduate program with 300+ majors. The GIS Center of Excellence at South Dakota State University is doing well. Kansas State and the University of Kansas are working together on an AGS-funded ecological project.

Southeastern Division

Moore reported that the status of Geography in SEDAAG is robust, as evidenced by increasing enrollments and numbers of majors, additional faculty positions, and programmatic ini-

tatives. The bright look of this "big picture" seems to emanate from a variety of positive influences: 1) generally improved state budgets, 2) state policies that encourage access to higher education, and, 3) the reputations that geography departments enjoy on their campuses. An improved state financial climate has helped geographers at the University of Richmond secure new faculty lines that, over the next few years, can make current progress toward a Geography program a reality. In Kentucky, a five-year state economic development initiative has increased university enrollments. At Western Kentucky, that has translated to an increase in credit hours coupled with the Department's participation in AP Geography teacher workshops. There seems to be a lot of mobility among faculty with several moves taking place within the Division. Departments are well positioned to absorb these changes; faculty lines have been retained and replacement searches are underway. Departments also have been actively recruited to participate in interdisciplinary environmental science programs, a development that attests to Geography's relevance. The future status of SEDAAG departments' leadership was buttressed by several SEDAAG faculty members' participation in a highly successful and well-attended AAG Healthy Departments Workshop this summer in Athens Georgia.

Southwest Division

Colten reported that, unlike other regions, SWAAG has good participation by the larger PhD larger programs, and that they actually compete to host the meetings. Senior faculty enjoy the meetings. Students take paper competitions seriously. Departments support student to participate. Texas A&M will host in 2007. The region's journal is healthy. There are currently 16 faculty searches active. Departments have been able to replace retirements. There are growing numbers of majors, and small programs and programs on urban campuses are growing. Spatial analysis and mapping sciences are areas of growth, as are international programs. UT-Austin and Louisiana State University have developed an interdisciplinary focus. The University of New Orleans is still experiencing effects since the hurricanes of 2005.

East Lakes Division

Kaplan reported that, despite challenging budgetary environments in Ohio and Michigan, several programs are expanding their faculties and graduate programs. University of Toledo is in the process of developing a new, cross-disci-

plinary Ph.D. in spatially integrated social science. Western Michigan University has made progress towards establishing a Ph.D. program with a recommendation from its review committee and is pushing a graduate certificate program in GIS. Miami University has created a GIScience Certificate program which will be offered at the regional and main campuses. Several departments are working through potential realignments. The University of Toledo hosted the annual East Lakes Division Meeting in October, and the 2007 meeting will be hosted by Michigan State.

Richardson and Pandit reminded regional Councilors that elections should be held in a timely manner when the region's Councilor's term is coming to an end. New regional Councilors should be elected and in place by June 30 of the expiring term year. It was noted that AAG Bylaws call for mail ballot of elections. AAG Central Office will explore the possibility of internet-based voting.

Review of Topical Developments

National Councilors led a discussion focused on how can geography contribute to internationalization of universities from a departmental level. Dow opened by discussing the tension between interdisciplinary and disciplinary voices. She mentioned several areas of potential collaboration toward that goal— area studies interest groups, guest speakers, colloquium series – each of which can build toward collaboration and can focus on internationalization.

Wright described NSF partnerships for international research and education such as the partnership between Oregon State and the Scripps Institute focused on coastal mapping.

Additionally, departments can develop partnerships in graduate training with non-US institutions and participation in Fulbright programs such as the shorter-term senior specialist program where one only has to be away for 2-6 weeks. A third opportunity is to participate in International Working Groups and Research/Education Collaboration/Coordination grants where we can build collaborative networks, develop workshops, and/or student and researcher exchange opportunities.

Harden raised the need to always be ready to respond to significant global initiatives. Geographers need to be at the table when planning initiatives and need to be willing to serve. There is a need to refocus on area studies/regional geography and to develop links between GIS

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and area studies and rethink GIS applications courses and research to address global questions. Departments also need to document what they do for their universities in this area.

R. Marston raised the importance of knowing what the university wants and to be there to participate.

Kwan discussed the importance of developing relationships with language programs and international studies, as well as student exchange programs and visiting scholars.

Miyares reiterated the importance of involvement in area studies programs, language programs, and study abroad. One key problem is that university rewards systems may not value these activities.

Baerwald described numerous NSF initiatives that are examining the same question. The Office of the Director now manages international collaboration programs, including PIRE funding for collaboration to develop networks around central themes, although not just geography; OISE is examining who should serve on panels. He raised the question of how the SBE should be involved.

Additional discussion among the whole council focused on levels of engagement at departmental levels in curriculum – how aware are advisors of study abroad? Is it encouraged? Are regional courses part of general education requirements?

Concerning Regional Studies, it was noted that the State Department and other government agencies are in need of regional experts. It may be time to reword, retile, or repackage regional geography as Integrated Regional Analysis and Synthesis.

Geores raised the need to continue to support places where regional courses are no longer offered.

Richardson described related ongoing AAG international activities, including rejuvenating area studies; focusing on global perspectives that geography offers that many other area studies programs do not; the AAG's several Latin American initiatives; Spanish language sessions at the AAG meetings; international travel and research grants; joint sessions with Canadian geographers on cross-border issues; IDB funding; the MyCOE programs; IGU partnerships; a hazards conference now in the development stage; the Carnegie/ACE-funded Internationalizing the Disciplines project; reciprocal international membership programs; developing regions membership program; and many others.

STATUS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Finances

The Council reviewed preliminary FYE 2006 financial statements. Dow and Richardson presented an overview of the robust financial health of the association, including an increase in net assets of over one million dollars (\$1,106,205) in the past year alone (FYE 2006); strong fund raising through grants and contracts; building financial assets to protect the organization from future deficits and to sustain programs; and long-term plans and investments. Richardson described the current implementation and future needs of new management systems and appropriate technology at the central office. He has hired new staff with skills to handle redesigned workflow. The solid financial foundation that the AAG has achieved is helping to provide better membership services to increasing numbers of members. It also assures we can continue and expand our work with other organizations to build geography, not just the AAG. Richardson reviewed plans for new projects and for external fundraising, and discussed the significance of the recent growth and dynamism of our annual meeting to the AAG's future.

Dow reviewed the major categories of income and expense in the preliminary financial statement. The largest area of income source was the category "other," referring to external sources such as grants, contracts, bequests, and donations. Membership dues represent 15% of the total AAG income. Not surprisingly, the largest expense category is for salaries and fringe benefits which represent 40% of total expenses. Costs are likely to grow over the coming year with anticipated added staff and infrastructure needs.

Richardson reviewed the investment portfolio, indicating that the major area of asset investment for the association currently is a conservative portfolio that includes a mixture of stocks, bonds, and CDs. The recommended balanced investment plan includes liquidating individual stock holdings to maintain value and reinvest in long-term managed securities and short-term annual CDs. SunTrust Bank is the AAG's banking and investment company.

Concerning the AAG Advancing Geography fund, the committee and leadership have identified 11 areas of fundraising focus for the near term. Two of these areas are planned giving and foundation funding. Richardson has also successfully sought corporate donations. Several

categories for donations have been identified and publicized, including those such as for diversity enhancement, community college scholarships, student research and travel grants, among others. Donors who make at least a \$1,500 donation to the Advancing Geography Centennial Fund will be honored on a brick walkway at the AAG. A ceremony is planned at Meridian Place in Washington, DC on February 17, 2007 to lay the first of these bricks.

Membership

Richardson noted continued growth in membership and estimated that it would at least reach 9,700 by the end of 2006. Member services have similarly continued to improve, including a recent focus on increased online services; sustained membership solicitation/renewal; student recruitment; retired lifetime memberships; automatic membership renewal; support for specialty conferences and regional conferences; new affinity groups, e.g., the Stand Alone Geographers Affinity Groups; and programs to engage the talent and experience of the membership, such as the AAG Senior Associates Program.

In 2005, the AAG decided to forgo any annual increase in dues for 2006 because of the good financial picture of the association. The Executive Committee had discussed how over the long term, a continued pattern of not raising dues annual to adjust for inflation as the policy has historically been, could prove financially unwise for the association later. At present, much of the AAG income comes from grants and not dues, but in the future we may have less contract income. The bylaws state that dues can increase routinely up to the rate of increase of the national Consumer Price Index (CPI). As there was no increase in dues last year, the Executive Committee recommended an increase in dues of 3% for 2007. Harden moved to accept the recommendation of increasing membership dues for 2007 by 3%, below the currently projected CPI for this year. Friend seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Richardson and Solís provided a draft document for input and for consideration at the San Francisco Council meeting, regarding an AAG Developing Regions Membership program. The basic idea is to allow geographers and related professionals who live in regions of the world where incomes are much lower than in the US, to become members of the AAG at a substantially lower fee and receive most of the same membership benefits. For a reduced, subsidized

membership fee, these geographers would get online journal and newsletter access and receive other benefits such as reduced meeting registration rates. The Council expressed consensus supporting the idea and authorized the AAG staff to pursue a detailed plan for consideration at the next meeting.

Publications

Richardson described the healthy and active state of publications activities within the AAG. For the *AAG Newsletter*, the current format of production via offset press is increasing in cost. Changing to web press would have slightly higher costs, but would allow for increased content and more copies. Richardson has solicited price proposals for moving to web press. Web press mandates content in 16-page increments. Additional content production would also demand additional staff, maybe a 2-time person who is a professional writer. The council discussed whether there is a demand for more content and whether the newsletter should include advertising. Baerwald made a motion that the council approve inclusion of advertising in the newsletter from publishers, software companies, academic institutions and research institutions, and other organizations related to geography or of interest to geographers. S. Marston seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. The Executive Director offered to screen advertising to ensure that it is not inconsistent with the mission of the AAG.

The AAG Guide and Membership Directory now spans all of the "Americas." The new edition will contain 25 Latin American listings. Submission of information can now be conducted online and can be submitted in English, Spanish or Portuguese.

AAG has arranged for a site on Amazon.com for the sale of volumes produced or published by the Association. Richardson described new publications, including the *GIS&T Body of Knowledge*, developed by UCGIS and published by the AAG, for which an agreement is in process to translate into Chinese. The book, *Geography and Drug Addiction*, is in progress. That publication resulted from the joint symposium by AAG and NIDA. The AAG and NRC are also exploring funding for a symposium and book on The Earth Sustained.

The journals, *Annals of the AAG* and the *Professional Geographer*, are both available online and are produced on time. The total number of pages published has increased and the journals have strong editors. The newsletter is also available online and includes the table of contents for

forthcoming issues of the AAG journals. Several optional third party journals are also available at discounted rates to AAG members.

Harden, the Publications Committee Chair, noted that the turnaround time for journal manuscripts is excellent. The environmental science section of *Annals* has a lower submission rate, and efforts are underway to increase submissions to this section. Manuscript Central, the online interface is working well.

Several topics concerning the possibility of a fifth issue of the *Annals* were discussed, including how such an issue would be edited. Initial discussions suggested papers could come from special conferences such as the one with NIDA, but those papers are now being published as a book. A fifth issue could be cost neutral but could affect the Citation Index in counter-intuitive way because of the number of articles published. R. Marston noted however, that special issues can often increase the citation index of those issues. Other ideas for content included papers that are cross-cutting or with special themes. A challenge is how to institute cross-cutting articles in the journals, especially the *Annals*. Kwan stated that the editors currently sort out which section a cross-cutting piece would go into and believe the process is working well and maintains quality of papers. Council discussed ways to encourage and support editors with cross-cutting papers and considered the possibilities such as guest editors to work with the other editors. Aitken express his support of special issues and guest editors. The Council reiterated their consensus for pursuing the possibility of a fifth issue. Richardson asked R. Marston, Aitken, and Harden to develop a written proposal for how the fifth edition might be concretely managed. Kwan agreed to provide input as an editor and Councillor.

Richardson pointed out that the publishing contract with Blackwell on the journals is up for renewal at the beginning of 2008. Other publishers have also expressed an interest in preparing a proposal to the AAG. Richardson noted the benefits of competitively bidding the journals, even if we decided to stay with the same publisher, in order to explore achieving stronger marketing services and better financial return, and to maintain quality and increase citation ratings, among other potential benefits.

Harden noted that Karl Zimmerer's term ends in 2007, Sharmista Bagchi-Sen's term ends in 2008, and Peter Muller's term ends in 2008. Harden will contact Zimmerer to see if he wants to be considered for a second term. Editor Audrey Kobayashi submitted her editorial board for approval. Harrington moved to approve the

editorial board as proposed. Colten seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Meridian Place Operations

Richardson introduced the new members of the Central Office staff and described their roles. He reported on the AAG's new wireless internet systems, upgraded IT infrastructure, and improvements in building infrastructure. At this point Meridian Place is at the maximum use of existing space and supplemental office space is essential. Richardson is looking into options.

The AAG is also developing improved information on the discipline through a Geography Disciplinary Data Initiative, designed to collect membership and departmental information. Staff is now in the process of evaluating what has been collected, sorting out what is essential to collect for the future, and incorporating federal agency and other third party data related to geography into an online resource for the AAG website. Progress has been made but a lot of work remains.

The association has hired a new law firm, Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw and Pittman, LLP. Gerald Jacobs, the AAG's lead lawyer, is a nationally recognized general counsel on association law. The law firm is working with the AAG Executive Director on contract language related to annual meetings, in an attempt to reduce the AAG's financial risk and liability. Richardson pointed to a recent newsletter article on union issues that elaborates and explains that the AAG has joined INMEX, an organization that provides information from hotel unions and on potential labor dispute status.

Annual meeting insurance costs have increased. The AAG also has an event cancellation policy to protect the association and the Annual Meeting, but if cancellation occurs because of the AAG's decision, the insurance is generally not applicable.

Research and Outreach

Solis described three new initiatives under the My Community, Our Earth program, a long-standing AAG partnership. First, the US State Department will potentially provide resources to support Geography and GIS for supporting basic science and math education in the Islamic world. Geography materials will be translated into Arabic and master teacher-training workshops are being developed tentatively for Tunisia. The plan is disseminate this same model in South Asia, namely in the Philippines.

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Secondly, MyCOE is awaiting approval from USAID to extend work currently being done in Central America to 10 additional countries with a new focus on supporting university student projects on biodiversity. Third, a current project with support from USDA is forming constellations of students, faculty and extension personnel in land grant universities to design and conduct local sustainable development projects in geography. There will be a special session in San Francisco with presentations from competitively selected participants.

Richardson described activities that have been building from the joint conference with NIDA, and continued developing projects around GIS with a new part of NIH, namely the Office of Projects and Special Initiatives (OPASI). A GIS&T Cyberinfrastructure proposal has been submitted to NSF by the AAG together with Howard University and the University of California Santa Barbara. A GIS&T for development proposal has been submitted to IDB that will link US, Korean, and Latin American geographers to analyze workforce needs and skills in those areas and design a proposal for a new center of excellence in the region. The AAG was invited to submit a full proposal to the Teagle Foundation on Geography and Liberal Education and awaits a decision in the coming weeks, and has also developed proposals the NEH and the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities for funding of the upcoming AAG Geography and the Humanities Conference.

The AAG continues to co-sponsor special conferences and scholarly events. These include but are not limited to another successful Healthy Departments workshop held in June, the North American Land Cover Summit with USGS and the National Academies of Sciences held in Washington in September, and a recent Hazards Symposia also with USGS and the University of Pennsylvania. Richardson noted the AAG's activities at the upcoming Race, Ethnicity and Place Conference in San Marcos; next year's plans for a Geography in the Americas Conference in La Serena, Chile; and the Geography and the Humanities Conference for next year, co-sponsored by the AAG, the American Council of Learned Societies, the University of Virginia, and with support from the National Humanities Alliance's Director Emeritus John Hammer.

The Diversity Task Force has submitted its final report and documented the significant progress that has been made on the 10 actionable items. The DTF has asked the council to continue support of ongoing actions. They also

recommend that the Council form a standing committee on enhancing diversity by redesigning the Affirmative Action and Minority Status standing committee with a new charge to continue the work of the task force.

Work on careers and employment in geography is continuing. One project has aimed to improve the Department of Labor's classification of jobs in geography. Additionally, there are improvements planned for the AAG's Annual Meeting Jobs in Geography Center, including representation from more potential employers, a large number of posted available jobs and online employment resources, and new sessions and presentations related to employment in geography. Other activities include the design and distribution of careers materials, development of new online contacts, launching of the GIWIS system, and conducting of two workshops on employment. A major area of growth has been in web-based resources for careers in geography.

The AAG also is a member of the GIS Certification Institute (GISCI), a consortium of organizations that includes the AAG, URISA, NSGIC, and UCGIS, to address the GIS certification movement. The organization "MAPPS" has recently filed a court case arguing that only certified engineers, architects, and surveyors should be eligible to bid on most US government contracts that involve nearly any type mapping or GIS, with profound implications for the entire mapping community. AAG is analyzing this threat and considering options for responding.

The AAG continues to work in the public policy arena. Funding from Al Voorhees and his estate helped initiate and now supports part of the AAG's public policy work. The AAG has also received some support from the Decade of Behavior through Distinguished Research Awards to W.A.V. Clark and Susan Cutter, that also funded congressional briefings, and also a Distinguished Lecture Award that funded Jeffrey Sachs to come to a previous annual meeting. AAG Staff continue to monitor activities that affect the geography research and education community, including the effort to include geography funding and programs in the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act. AAG also provided support in the case of the arrest of geographer Ghazi Falah, writing letters and making high-level contacts to support his release and the observance of human rights. The AAG's Policy Office also works on a variety of scientific freedom issues. Richardson received many letters of support from members on all of these activities.

Richardson mentioned the press and media relations that the AAG is involved with for outreach purposes, including the regular column he writes for the ESRI ARCNews that reaches hundreds of thousands of readers worldwide, and numerous other interactions with the mainstream media, both print and electronic. The AAG is also considering holding another "Mapping the News" conference during the next year or two.

Richardson reported that the AAG provided recommendations to the National Research Council regarding the categories for geographic subfields in preparation for the new NRC PhD departmental rankings. While there are many ways to describe the discipline, AAG submitted four subfield proposals, in consultation with many members, and all were accepted by NRC and have been implemented in the rankings process.

Solis reviewed some of the additional international activities the AAG has been conducting, including two projects funded by the NSF: the AAMIGA program to facilitate relationships among geographers in the Americas and the Travel Grant program for US researchers to attend IGU meetings.

Educational Affairs

Richardson briefly reviewed the multiple education grants and contracts the AAG is conducting under the leadership of Solem and others. These include the NSF funded EDGE project, Enhancing Departments and Graduate Education in Geography; the NASA funded Project Geo-START: Geo-Spatial Thinking Activities and Resources for Teachers to improve teacher quality and student outcomes in physical geography and earth system science; and the FIPSE-funded Teacher's Guide to Modern Geography, to provide geography teachers with a suite of high-quality training products.

The AAG continues to have a strong relationship with GENIP. Michael Solem, Roger Downs, Duane Nellis are representatives for the AAG. GENIP has developed a statement defining a "highly-qualified K-12 geography teacher." Moore moved and Wright seconded a motion to endorse the statement provided by GENIP. The Council voted unanimously to approve the motion.

The NCGE is seeking another location and has approached the AAG to consider co-location. Solem and Richardson have developed proposals for possible co-location and financial support for NCGE. Working more directly with NCGE to improve K-12 geography education

could have significant benefits for geography education broadly. Richardson and Solem presented proposals at the NCGE meeting in Lake Tahoe. Richardson reviewed the components of the proposals and how it would benefit both NCGE and affect the AAG. The future need for additional office space, the impacts on membership, the financial risks for the AAG, and other topics were all discussed among the council. A motion was put forward by Friend, and seconded by Harden that if requested to do so, Richardson and Solem are authorized by the council to move forward to enter into a memorandum of agreement with NCGE. The council voted unanimously in approval of the motion.

CONTINUING AND NEW BUSINESS

Annual Meetings

Attendance has been up each year since New Orleans and the San Francisco meeting is expected to set a new record. The dates for future Annual Meetings are San Francisco, April 17-21, 2007; Boston, April 15-19, 2008; Las Vegas, March 22-26, 2009. Dates are being considered for the 2010 AAG Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

AAG Committees and Council

The council continued their discussion of the need to update the standing committee structure. Awards committees have clear charges, but many others do not. Some committees may need to be consolidated with others, some need to have their charges clarified or brought up to date. Some committees have quasi-judicial charges that may place the AAG at legal risk.

Colten moved and Moore seconded a motion to task the Committee on Committees with examining the committee structure and developing a proposal for restructuring committees by the spring Council meeting. Concern was raised that some committee chairs need to be contacted in advance for their input in the process. The motion passed unanimously.

The charge of the Endowment Trust Committee was reviewed. The activities of the Endowment Committee have now been incorporated into the Finance Committee, and the need for a separate committee for the endowment fund is no longer current. The AAG Treasurer also sits on both committees. Richardson stated that this would streamline the process without diminishing its function. Baerwald moved and Colten seconded that the Endowment Trust Committee be decommissioned, as its functions are now vested in the Finance Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

The slates for the Honors and Nominating Committees were reviewed. One more candidate was needed for Honors A. Miyares was empowered to invite an additional former honoree to stand for election for the committee. The slate of candidates for Vice-President and National Councillors submitted by the 2006 Nominating Committee were presented and unanimously endorsed.

Baerwald and Dow reviewed the ongoing Council discussion regarding the need to revise the resolution process in order to eliminate ambiguity currently present in the bylaws. There is also a need to clarify differences between a petition, a resolution and a public statement. Sections of the bylaws that may need to be clarified or revised were identified. A current white paper developed by Baerwald and Dow will be given to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee to review and then it will be reviewed by the AAG's attorneys. Once drafted, a plan would then be circulated among the membership for discussion. Various venues will be arranged for discussions on this, with the hope of a Council vote to implement a clear resolution process by the Boston meeting in 2008. R. Marston moved to send a revised draft of the white paper to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for review and comment, then back to the Executive Committee and the Executive Director to proceed with a legal review. Baerwald seconded the motion which then passed unanimously.

The Council had discussed earlier developing a white paper on climate change. Instead, since the Council has voted to endorse the IPCC report as its position, Dow proposed conducting a survey of the membership to identify contributors (individual geographers, specialty groups) to the IPCC report. This would provide the necessary information to demonstrate ways in which geographers play an important role in this process. It would also provide a list for AAG for press contacts and press releases to local media, as well as a newsletter article. R. R. Marston agreed to contact *Annals* editor Richard Aspinall about the possibility of a forum section focused on how climate change affects physical processes and on human impacts of climate change. S. Marston and Colten raised the need to involve the Political Ecology and Historical Geography Specialty Groups as members of these groups have been involved in research and activities on climate change as well.

Baerwald updated the Council on the status of the next Healthy Departments workshop to be hosted by Louisiana State University, possibly in Baton Rouge.

Honors and Awards

R. Marston recommended developing an award in honor of Gilbert White and submitted a proposal for an additional AAG Honors category called the Gilbert F. White Public Service Honors. S. Marston moved and Harden seconded the motion to create the Gilbert F. White Public Service Honors as a 6th category of AAG Honors. It was unanimously approved.

Jeffrey Sachs was selected as the 2006 Honorary Geographer. The 2006 Presidential Award will be co-awarded to Laura and Jack Dangermond and to James Knox. Joe Darden was unanimously endorsed to receive the Enhancing Diversity Award for 2006.

Specialty Groups

Richardson noted that most of the specialty groups (SGs) have requested that the AAG handle their bookkeeping, accounting, and check writing. The AAG provides this administrative and accounting service to the SGs at no charge. He also noted the difficulty of determining who is still a member of those SGs which have no membership fee for some of its members. It was suggested that SGs have a nominal annual membership fee of one dollar per member to aid in keeping membership numbers current and accurate. Pandit suggested contacting groups that have no fee, and that any new group would need to have a membership fee of at least \$1. The council expressed consensus for the policy.

The Council reviewed the petition for and approved the establishment of the Paleoenvironmental Change Specialty Group (membership fee \$5 for regular members, \$1 for students).

Pandit reviewed the dates for upcoming Executive Committee and Council meetings.

Closed Session

Council met in closed session to review the Executive Director's performance and compensation. Following discussion, Council commended Doug Richardson's efforts as Executive Director and approved his salary and benefits for the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

Adjournment

There being no further business, President Pandit adjourned the Council meeting at noon on Sunday, October 29, 2006. ■

Respectfully submitted,
Ines Miyares
AAG Secretary

AAG Council Meeting Minutes

San Francisco, California
April 15-17, 2007

Attending: Kavita Pandit, *President*, Thomas Baerwald, *Vice-President*, Richard Marston, *Past President*, Ines Miyares, *Secretary*, Kirstin Dow, *Treasurer*. *National Councillors*: Kirstin Dow, Carol Harden, Mei-Po Kwan, Sallie Marston, Ines Miyares, Dawn Wright. *Regional Councillors*: Stuart Aitken (Pacific Coast Division), Craig Colten (Southwest Division), Donald Friend (West Lakes Division), Martha Geores (Middle Atlantic Division), Lisa Harrington (Rocky Mountains-Great Plains Division), Keith Henderson (Middle States Division), David Kaplan (East Lakes Division), Tyrel Moore (Southeast Division), Timothy Rickard (New England-St. Lawrence Valley Division). *AAG Staff*: Executive Director Douglas Richardson and Director of Research and Outreach Patricia Solís, Jenna Watson, Education and Outreach Coordinator.

PRELIMINARIES

President Kavita Pandit convened the meeting on April 15 with a brief welcome. The agenda was amended to add an item under New Business and was adopted. Minutes from the Fall Council meeting were circulated previously, approved and published. President Pandit reported that the AAG Executive Committee met in Washington, DC, February 17-18, 2007, to prepare and review the agenda for the Spring Council meeting, and that it had met on April 15 prior to the beginning of the full council meeting. In attendance were Kavita Pandit, *President*, Thomas Baerwald, *Vice-President*, Richard Marston, *Past President*, Ines Miyares, *Secretary*, Kirstin Dow, *Treasurer*, Douglas Richardson, *Executive Director*, Director of Research and Outreach Patricia Solís.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE ASSOCIATION

President's Priorities

Pandit reported on her two primary initiatives—continuing the Healthy Departments Initiative and Internationalization. Louisiana State University will host the Healthy Departments Workshop in Summer 2007. Regional meetings are offering panels and workshops on healthy departments. Geores asked about helping departments grow in new areas. Pandit explained that the AAG Healthy Departments Committee is examining growth of departments as well as other issues such as department mergers. Pandit reported a good response

to newsletter columns on Internationalization, particularly those addressing study abroad and best practices for internationalization.

Past President's Priorities

R. Marston thanked everyone for their support and involvement over his tenure on the Executive Committee. He reviewed his initiatives to advance physical geography, which included nominations for positions, gift memberships, and activities at national meetings. He represented AAG at the Gilbert White memorial service and discussed the proposed new Gilbert White honors. Guidelines for the Mel Marcus Award were presented as well as progress on the Presidential Achievement Award. He, Aitken and Harden are working as a subcommittee to coordinate with editors on guidelines for a proposed 5th issue of the *Annals*.

Vice President's Priorities

President-elect Baerwald presented a statement on his commitment to interdisciplinarity—bridging geography within and across cognate disciplines. He suggested a variety of ways in which specialty groups could coordinate work beyond co-sponsorship of sessions and of participation of geographers in other conferences, specialty meetings and workshops. He emphasized the importance of interdisciplinarity at NSF. He will be continuing to help with the Healthy Departments Initiative and will participate in the upcoming workshop at LSU. He plans to work on strengthening ties with the regional divisions doing outreach at host campuses and regional meetings, and encouraged regional councillors to be active facilitators in this process.

Review of Geography Programs – Regional Councillors

South West

Colten reported that things are going well in the region. Meetings are being hosted by several institutions. A number of departments report a healthy status of hires. Universities without geography departments are hiring geographers. University of Texas geographers are in international and interdisciplinary leadership roles.

Pacific Coast

Aitken reported that the California State University system came close to holding a strike. CSU Long Beach is doing great and will be host-

ing APCG in the fall. Sonoma State departments of geography and global studies are well. San Francisco State is excited about their role in this year's annual meeting. Humboldt State is weathering budget cuts. Steve Cuhña has received the Social Sciences Award for California. CSU San Bernardino is down to 3 FTEs from 8. At UC Davis, retirements are not being replaced. The University of Arizona reports 380 majors—possibly the 2nd largest undergraduate program after Texas State. Southern Oregon's program closed after the loss of faculty and budget support. The University of Oregon recently received an NEH grant for a summer program for K-12 teachers. Richardson responded to a question "What AAG can do to help departments face some of these challenges?" By invitation from departments, AAG helps educate administrators about the central role of geography in the university and society, to citizenship in globalized world, and in providing greatly expanded employment opportunities for students. This process has had positive impacts at numerous colleges and universities. Also, materials to help strengthen geography departments and programs are available from the AAG office and online at the AAG's Healthy Departments website.

East Lakes

Kaplan reported that the University of Toledo hosted the annual East Lakes Division Meeting on October 20-21. They discussed the idea of fielding a Geography Bowl team, but have yet to develop a formal mechanism for it. Youngstown State University is working on a plan to renovate space in the basement to dedicate a 10 machine GIS lab for student internship work and research. They have also received distance learning video camera equipment from OhioView to place in a small conference room in the same area. Ohio Wesleyan's Department of Geology and Geography has hired a new human/cultural geographer, to start this fall. Ohio University's department remains heavily involved in interdisciplinary research and teaching, primarily with Environmental Studies, International Studies and Women's Studies. University of Cincinnati's department will be jointly celebrating, with the department of Geology, their centennial on April 26 and 27. Kent State University just went through two graduate/doctoral reviews. One was an overall review of the department and the second was a decision by the University to reallocate graduate doctoral lines. Both reviews were positive and their doctoral and masters programs continue to thrive.

Southeastern

Moore notes that Department Chairs across the 10-state region indicate a quite healthy status of Geography. Budget concerns are few, no programmatic cuts are reported, and undergraduate and graduate programs are solid and expanding. Geography also seems strongly positioned on campuses where multidisciplinary restructuring has created new departments. Departmental links with Geographic Alliances are vibrant in a number of states and campus-wide internationalization initiatives further enhance Geography's visibility as do awards for faculty research and teaching honors. SEDAAG's membership is improving, and increased by 11% last year. The Division's joint meeting with the Middle Atlantic Division, hosted by West Virginia University was a huge success. The SEDAAG Steering and Executive Committees approved travel funding for Stand Alone Geographers (SAGE) to facilitate their participation in the Division's meetings. Great venues for future meeting sites include Charleston, SC (2007), Greensboro, NC (2008), and Savannah, GA (2009). Discussions have begun for a possible joint SEDAAG-SWAAG-NCGE meeting in New Orleans.

New England-St. Lawrence Valley Geographical Society

Rickard noted that NESTVAL has appointed an Editor, John Hayes, and an Associate Editor, Steven Silvern, for its new regional *Journal* which will replace its long-standing *Proceedings*. The new format for the *Journal* is intended to encourage high-quality article submissions and analytical work on regional issues. Rickard stated that it had been a period of generally improved budgets and support for higher education in the region. In the past three years many geography departments have reported successful new programs and increases in faculty numbers. The Geography Department at Southern Connecticut State University, where the next regional conference will take place on November 2-3, 2007, is hiring two new geographers, one of whom will serve in a revitalized urban studies program housed in the department. The University of Vermont, which hosted a successful regional conference last October, hired two new geographers and reconfigured its curriculum to allow specialization in geospatial science or in human, physical or global geographies. The department's support of the Vermont Geographic Alliance is typical of the support for K-12 geographic education in the region. The forthcoming meeting in New Haven will emphasize this support and give geography teachers an important role in NESTVAL's affairs.

Great Plains-Rocky Mountains

Harrington reported that her information is based on regional meetings and academic programs; but in the future, she hopes solo academic geographers can be included as well. Non-academic members in the region are also difficult to identify for contacting about submitting information for the report. Several programs are seeing growth related to GIScience, including BYU, Wyoming, North Dakota, and Kansas State. A new emphasis area in GeoSpatial Intelligence at BYU already has attracted 25 majors. Geography at BYU also has increased by about 40 majors from a year ago. The University of North Dakota is seeing several changes, most positive. The biggest concern at present is covering course offerings with current faculty. Due to retirements and resignations, Wyoming is likely to be advertising at least three positions in the next two years. The new Department Chair is Jerry Webster (relocating from Alabama). Kansas State University has just hired three new faculty members, two of whom have been made possible by grant work and one by negotiations by Richard Marston when he was hired as Head.

Middle States

Henderson conducted a survey with specific questions around themes and initiatives. There has been significant growth in graduate students, some growth of undergraduates. New Jersey is experiencing a budget crisis. The University of Buffalo expects 5 new hires. Villanova is launching a new program/department. There are concerns about accrediting programs i.e. GIS certification—budget links to accreditation. Internationalization is a major trend in the region.

West Lakes

Friend reported that there were no known major issues since fall report. Three departments are lined up to host regional meetings, with a push to have the PhD-awarding institutions host. The next meetings will be hosted by Illinois, Indiana, and Macalaster. Macalaster's department has grown from one person to five.

Mid-Atlantic

Geores reported that the Mid-Atlantic region is unique in that it includes many applied geographers and is close to the AAG central office. Within the last year with Molly Brown as president MAD has made a renewed effort to involve these geographers. One of the questions that seems to have made a difference is for us to ask "What can you bring to the AAG?". It's different than "What can the

AAG bring to you?" The hope is for a greater sense of ownership. Inclusion of the applied geographers has changed both the times and formats of our meetings. Applied geographers who tend to be most active in MAD come from schools that have actively been part of the AAG. Departments are in good shape, but the organization itself is not very active. There is a strong technical orientation for the 150 undergrads at the University of Maryland – College Park. UMCP is seeking to expand its human geography offerings and is conducting a search for multiple hires in human geography. Richardson reported that Towson State may have an interest in becoming more involved in the region.

Baerwald reminded regional division councillors to check the dates that their terms end and help to ensure that their replacements are elected in a timely fashion, i.e., before the terms of existing councillors expire in June of the next year.

R. Marston raised the idea of holding joint regional division meetings with the regional meetings of other associations.

Review of Topical Developments

National Councillors led a discussion on the growth of the AAG in both membership and programs, raising the question of how best to respond and prepare for the future. There has been steady growth in attendance and the size of the program at national meetings. Councillors discussed whether to limit program participation beyond current limits, particularly the number of panels on which one can serve. A subcommittee was proposed to examine this issue, consisting of Miyares, S. Marston, Wright, and Baerwald.

Kwan inquired as to the composition of the growth and whether we needed any structural changes to meet the needs of new members. Harden raised the question of whether international growth would necessitate governance changes, and whether we should reopen earlier discussions of a name change for the association. Wright added that one benefit of growth is an increase in geography majors and raised questions about the importance of engaging these new members, particularly American minorities/communities of color and "would-be geographers"—K-12 students. Dow emphasized the need to maintain a sense of community with the growth.

Richardson reported on the AAG's efforts to increase AAG membership and participation in our annual meetings. Most of the growth in membership has been in the academic sector. There has been some but limited member recruitment in private and public sector. AAG

remains inclusive of all sectors and all subfields in its activities. There are many returning lapsed members and strong increases in student membership. Every category has grown, but the highest relative growth is among students and younger geographers. Social activities geared to students are important and create a sense of community for the next generation. Sustaining an ethic of inclusiveness and collegiality has been important to expanding the AAC's membership and annual meeting attendance. Creating venues for "shared experiences" at the annual meetings, through plenary sessions, featured sessions, and international receptions, etc., have been effective in drawing and retaining attendees. Specialty groups are invited to identify highlighted sessions. International attendance has increased with approximately 25% internationals attending. Also, approximately 1,400 non-members, many from unrelated disciplines, now attend the AAC Annual Meetings. With the increasing number of members comes greater influence for the AAC on important public policy issues and our participation in the broader intellectual enterprise gives geography stronger presence in the university, creating new linkages across disciplines.

STATUS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Finance

At the Fall Council meeting the draft financial statement had been reviewed. The audited financial report was presented at this meeting and reviewed by Richardson and Dow. AAC investments were not affected negatively by the recent decline in the stock market, as most funds were invested in low risk guaranteed return investments prior to the decline.

Richardson proposed that a Conflict of Interest policy be drafted with assistance of the association's attorneys.

Dow reported that the Finance Committee met on February 17, 2007 with the auditor who described the association as being on the cutting edge of best practices of non-profits. Recommendations of the audit are based on anticipated changes in federal accounting requirements for non-profits, but the AAC will not have to make any significant changes. A suggestion was made to be less conservative in investments, but to do so slowly with Richardson's judgment since the market is so volatile. Dow presented a recommendation to restructure the Finance Committee to include the immediate Past Chair (AAC Treasurer) to stay on the committee in an ex-officio position. The Finance Committee has historically included the Publications Committee chair as

an ex-officio member, but since the treasurer serves on the Publications committee, there are enough links between the committees, and that ex-officio position could be removed to lighten the burden upon the Publications Committee chair. Dow moved to restructure the AAC Finance Committee such that the immediate past chair (AAC Past Treasurer) would be appointed to serve as member of finance committee, replacing the position of the publications committee chair. Pandit seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Dow and Richardson reviewed the FYE 2008 budget. Friend asked about the budget's decline in projected future revenue. Richardson explained that he budgets and makes projections conservatively. Richardson further clarified that the budgeted 2008 change in income from 2007 for grants and contracts is conservatively projected at 50% of current income, but if pending proposals are funded. It could be as high or higher than in FYE 2007. Since the Finance Committee had already meticulously reviewed and recommended approval of the budget, Dow moved to approve the budget as presented. Friend seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Kaplan asked why there had been substantial debt in the past and positive income now, and whether this was related to the growth in the annual meeting. Richardson explained that contracts and grants and other external sources of income, such as donations, are the major variable on income fluctuation. The AAC has been aggressively pursuing grants and contracts and managing them efficiently. The annual meeting and membership income accounts for a relatively smaller percentage of revenue stream and they also have associated expenses that rise in proportion to any rise in income. The AAC's growth in total revenue and net income has occurred while holding membership fees and annual meeting registration fees at very low levels, relying on dramatically growing the number of AAC members and annual meeting attendees, rather than by increasing the fees substantially.

Advancing Geography Centennial Campaign

Richardson referred to the Advancing Geography Campaign progress report and the AAC's plan for fund raising. The association does not have a designated fund raiser. Richardson himself and other staff respond as opportunities arise, which is an uneven approach. He has developed a list of potential donors, including foundations, to guide future systematic efforts. There was a donor brick ceremony held at Meridian Place on February

17, 2007. Colten suggested that departments could purchase a brick or that bricks could be purchased in honor of significant mentors. The desire was expressed to begin a fund to support the AAC's new developing regions membership program, scheduled to begin in early 2008.

R. Marston discussed the Mel Marcus Fund. Carol Harden, Richard Marston, Andrew Marcus, and Geoffrey Jacquez comprise the proposed committee. The fund aims to foster student field work in physical geography. Founding principles, objectives, eligible expenses, and application committee composition were presented.

Membership

Richardson reviewed AAC dues structure, and noted that dues had increased very little in the recent past, and that they are also based upon a graduated scale for social equity. There is a highly discounted rate for full-time students as well as for retired members. He mentioned that the "retired lifetime" membership might be a good gift for retiring faculty. It was suggested by council members that departments consider the lifetime membership category as a benefit in hiring packages for new faculty. The association is developing ways to keep retired geographers involved. A reduced rate for multi-year membership is also available, as is an option to renew memberships automatically by keeping a credit card on file. Members can also access online cognate journals at a reduced rate. Web-based services are much more organized now. Now the focus is on professionalizing web site and improving functionality. Council suggested various assessment options for how to get member input to improve web-services.

A concept paper developed by the AAC to establish a Developing Regions membership category was presented and discussed. Richardson discussed the importance of designing an administratively workable program, one that is easy and inexpensive to implement. Developing regions would be defined using World Bank database categorization up to and including World Bank upper middle income. Developing region members who make less than \$20,000 could join at the greatly reduced developing region membership rate, and would receive journals online. This would be limited to resident citizens of developing countries. The membership has expressed support for this initiative. Moore moved to establish the AAC Developing Regions Membership Program as presented and discussed. Wright seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

S. Marston raised an idea she received from a member to consider having a professional

publicist for books authored by geographers. Richardson expressed support for the idea and would work on it with AAG staff. Such a publicist might identify new audiences and move beyond internal marketing, as well as identifying reviewers for popular outlets. Aitken suggested organizing sessions for the annual meeting on how to promote books.

Publications

Jim Ketchum is the new editor of the AAG *Newsletter*. The most recent issue is included in this Annual Meeting's tote bags. It was only mailed to those who are not attending. This was the first issue with paid advertising as approved at the Fall 2006 council meeting.

The new AAG *Guide to Geography Programs in the Americas* is out with many new Latin American region entries. The GIS&T Body of Knowledge is available both in book and e-book form. Springer will be publishing the book that resulted from the Geography and Drug Addiction joint symposium with NIDA held in Chicago last year. There is now an Amazon.com web link for ordering AAG publications.

Journal editors reported good turnaround times for article submission, review and response. Michael Watts requested a memorial be written in honor of Allan Pred although he was never AAG president. Friend moved, Baerwald seconded to include a memorial for Pred in the *Annals*. The motion passed unanimously. There is also a need to find someone to write the memorial for Joseph Russell. Tables of contents of upcoming journal issues are now printed in the AAG *Newsletter*.

Harden noted that Sharmistha Bagchi-Sen's and Peter Muller's terms expire in 2008. Zimmerer has agreed to serve a second term. Bagchi-Sen has also agreed to serve longer. Pandit asked that the Publications Committee make a recommendation at the next meeting in the Fall.

S. Marston raised a concern received by a member about receiving rejections of manuscripts despite good reviews. R. Marston suggested setting up a system for author feedback on their review experience and explained the example of how *Geomorphology* works. Richardson will check on capabilities.

The Nature and Society editorial board was presented. Council discussed representation among subfields and suggested additional names to be considered. Harden will present these to the editor and will follow up with the council via email.

R. Marston presented a proposal outlining the procedure for a possible 5th issue of the *Annals* and for editorship procedures. Submissions would still be handled online. One senior editor would be assigned to insure quality

control. R. Marston and Aitken will present the proposal to the Editorial Board meeting. A number of questions were discussed, including how papers would be selected, how quality control would be maintained, whether the focus would be on cross-cutting and/or interdisciplinary themes, and how special issues might affect regular submissions. Harden will encourage discussion of these issues with the Publications Committee.

Richardson has drafted and circulated a Request for Proposals (RFP) to four major international publishers, outlining what the AAG would like to see in a new publishing contract for the AAG journals. The initial responses are all substantially better than our current publishing contract. Richardson will enter negotiations with the publishers submitting proposals in order to secure the best possible contract. The negotiation process will likely be completed by June. Considerations will include intellectual property, production quality, finances, broadening distribution and readership internationally, and programs to enhance the quality of the journals, among others.

Kobayashi presented the editors' report. The council gave formal thanks and recognition to the hard work conducted by editors. *Annals* editors will discuss the proposal of a fifth issue of the journal. Journals have used a new version of Manuscript Central since January. There have been some problems with servers on campuses limiting access to Manuscript Central for reviewers. Muller explained that a separate book review editor has been selected for the *PG*. They are waiting to see how it works out in terms of the books reviewed for each. Friend inquired as to the impact factors for each journal: 1.76 for *Annals*, 0.96 for 2006 for *PG*.

Meridian Place Operations

New employees at the AAG central office were introduced: David Coronado is the new Communications Director; Jenna Watson will assist with Education and Outreach. AAG currently has two new interns, Karim Thompson and Melissa DeSomma.

Richardson reviewed the MAPPS legal briefing, explaining that the case currently pending in federal court could have significant consequences for the geography and mapping communities, including the GIS industry. An adverse outcome could effectively exclude nearly everyone but licensed architects, engineers and surveyors from federal government contracts for "mapping" services of every sort and description – not just those mapping services traditionally performed by surveyors. The AAG, et al., amicus brief is being considered by the court. The court has not

stated when a decision might be made, but the attorney believes that the judge could respond within the next few months. The AAG's responses have all been made in consultation with the lawyers. The AAG has established a fund to recover some costs. Kwan commended Richardson in this action for conceptualizing the response and by organizing with sister organizations. Pandit called for an affirmation of the vote made via email, whereby the Council supported the development and submission of the amicus brief. The earlier email vote approved submission of the amicus brief unanimously. Friend moved to reaffirm the email vote approval and Colten seconded. Unanimous affirmation of the previous unanimous vote was registered, with Baerwald having recused himself during both this vote and the earlier email vote.

Research and Outreach

Solís presented an update on the My Community, Our Earth (MyCOE) project, which remains key to the AAG sustainable development, informal education, and outreach programs. The US State Department is funding activity supporting science and math education in the Muslim world through the use of GIS. MyCOE will be collecting and translating materials into Arabic and sponsoring a master-teacher workshop in Tunisia. The USAID is continuing to fund projects supporting university-level students, this year around GIS and biodiversity in Central America. USDA has provided support for MyCOE constellation grants to groups of students, faculty, and extension personnel in land grant institutions conducting activities focused on sustainable development. IDB has approved funding for a feasibility study for using GIS&T for economic development in Latin America through a partnership with the Korea Fund for Technology and Innovation. Many other new proposals to various agencies including NSF and private foundations are submitted or in development.

Richardson presented the Earth Sustained project, a joint proposal of the AAG, NRC, Ecological Society of America, and the George Perkins Marsh Institute, to be completed in part for the 2012 Earth Summit (Johannesburg Plus 10). Previous work focused on how earth has been transformed. Now the focus is on how it can be sustained. AAG has taken a lead in the effort to raise \$2 million. An initial advisory board has been selected and a budget drafted to cover a symposium, publications, products for policy and education, website for dissemination, and communication.

The AAG is participating in and, in some cases, helping to organize the following special

conferences: The North America Land Cover Summit; a Hazards Symposium with USGS and the University of Pennsylvania; The Geography in the Americas Conference with AAG and the Grosvenor Center at Texas State University to be held in La Serena, Chile, May 2007; the Geography and the Humanities conference at the University of Virginia, June 22-24, 2007; and several others. In addition, the AAG staff participates in extensive outreach, attending and organizing numerous meetings, workshops, conferences, and events.

Derek Alderman has submitted a request for funding for a book project stemming from a place name workshop. Dow raised the caution concerning setting precedent for unsolicited proposals that do not fall within existing AAG grants and awards programs. Colten suggested a letter of support from the AAG instead of funds. Richardson noted that if the meeting were held at a national AAG Annual Meeting, the AAG could provide financial support through existing programs.

The Jobs in Geography area has been restructured to provide more online access, more posted jobs, and to include both academic and nonacademic jobs. AAG has organized several workshops and special sessions on careers issues.

AAG continues to work on Public Policy initiatives. Key local politicians have been invited to attend this AAG Annual Meeting in San Francisco. A member of Senator Barbara Boxer's staff plans to attend and other RSVPs are expected. Friend noted that Representative Walz from Minnesota is a former geography teacher. AAG has written letters of support for increased funding for the National Science Foundation, and supports increased federal funding for geography education.

Educational Affairs Update

Solem reported on the EDGE Project, currently in its 3rd year. Research components include interviewing participants, and examining factors affecting development of early scholars, starting at MA level. The project is now being extended beyond academia, covering topics such as preparing students for non-academic career alternatives. Data are currently being analyzed. The goal is to identify ways departments can address the needs of students in professional development and movement into careers in geography. The project will produce a package of materials to disseminate to graduate programs, as well as books on several aspects of the research. A publishing agreement for the books is in negotiations.

AAG staff is conducting a NASA-funded project in collaboration with Howard Univer-

sity, focusing on applications of spatial skills and spatial thinking for Earth Science teachers, and testing materials this summer in DC schools. AAG's FIPSE funded—*Teachers Guide to Modern Geography* addresses the problem of the shortage of geography in teachers colleges by providing resources in print and in digital form. Solem has organized a workshop at this annual meeting to review the materials for introductory courses.

Additional projects include developing undergraduate materials for international e-learning experiences around particular themes and a workshop at La Serena for materials development/collaboration. Wright and Dave DiBiase are collaborating on a project to develop an ethics curriculum related to GIS research. The AAG is also working with NCGE on K-12 school curricular programs, and working with GENIP to address requirements of NCLB. A new Marren Fellows program has been developed to broaden involvement in GENIP. Richardson proposed the development of an online information clearinghouse, along the lines of the one developed for the Diversity Task Force, to enhance access to educational materials.

Richardson reported that he received a letter from NCGE on April 10, 2007, stating that the NCGE leadership had unanimously agreed to request that the AAG host the Central Office of the National Council for Geographic Education in Washington, D.C. The AAG will be providing co-location facilities and support services for an initial period of five years, which will be reviewed in the fifth year. By contributing support to the NCGE, the AAG hopes to support programs for K-12 geography education, thus also benefiting geography in higher education, the public and private sectors, and in society. The arrangement will also demand increased space, which the AAG central office is currently seeking.

Richardson has been examining buying versus leasing options within walking distance of Meridian Place. Colten moved to authorize the Executive Director to explore purchase and lease options to address space needs as he sees necessary, in consultation with local council members Baerwald and Price, with information and final approval by the executive committee for quick turnaround on any major purchase decisions that need timely response. Harden seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Annual Meetings

For the San Francisco, April 17-21, 2007 AAG Annual Meeting, records show 6,468 pre-registered attendees. Richardson noted with on-site registration a projected number of about 6,800 participants was expected. The confer-

ence will present 4,196 papers, 113 illustrated papers, 326 posters, 225 panel sessions, and 92 interactive short papers, in a total of 974 sessions in 65 concurrent sessions, 15 illustrated paper sessions, and 11 short paper sessions. There are 129 additional meetings. The total is approximately 4,700 direct participants in 1,250 sessions, not counting meetings. S. Marston raised the issue of reconsidering whether to limit the number of sessions any one participant could present in. A suggested exception might be organizing and chairing sessions. Several council members raised the issue of the seeming proliferation of panels, particularly since upcoming meetings will have fewer rooms available. Dow suggested encouraging self-limiting to one paper, one discussant and one panel for the Boston meeting. Dow and Miyares will raise awareness of this issue at the Specialty Group Chairs meeting. Harrington suggested asking student workers to count numbers attending panels to obtain data before developing a new policy. Richardson mobilized staff quickly to be able to collect data at this meeting for consideration in future discussions.

For the Boston 2008 meeting, the Local Support Committee is being formed. Jeffrey Sachs has been invited and has accepted. Noam Chomsky has also been invited. Future meeting dates are for Las Vegas, March 22-26, 2009 at the Hotel Riviera, and the 2010 meeting will be held on April 13-18, in Washington, DC at the Marriot Wardman Park Hotel. Richardson reviewed the *force majeure clauses* of the 2010 agreement, which provides the association with excellent legal protection in the event of cancellation.

Richardson relayed to Council a request from a group of members for creating a child care program for AAG Annual Meetings. The Council discussed ways for the AAG's existing child care reimbursement program and family activities to become better known among members. Richardson said staff would continue looking into ways to improve efforts in this area.

Committees and Council

Miyares presented the proposed restructuring and new charges of standing committees developed by Solis and Richardson, the Committee on Committees, and the Executive Committee. The goal is to give committees meaningful work that is in support of what is done by the central office without duplicating or conflicting with that work. Some current committees are dormant and some have charges that reflect the era in which they were organized but need a new, more relevant charge. Committees will be asked to coordinate with the Executive Director or designee at least once a year to be

synergistic with the work of the Council and the central office. One committee situation is not yet resolved—ties between the Committee on the Status of Women in Geography and the new Enhancing Diversity Committee. The slate of membership for the new committees developed by the Committee on Committees was presented. Colten moved for its acceptance with the caveat that the configuration of the two previously mentioned committees would depend on the outcome of the upcoming discussions with them. Harden seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

S. Marston was nominated by Dow to be the AAG Treasurer. Wright seconded the nomination. The Council elected her unanimously. Colten was nominated by Miyares to be AAG Secretary. Harrington seconded the nomination. The Council elected him unanimously. Wright was elected by the National Councillors to serve as Chair of the National Councillors. Friend was elected by the Regional Councillors to serve as Chair of the Regional Councillors.

AAG Election results for terms beginning July 1, 2007, were formally announced: President Tom Baerwald, Vice President John Agnew, National Councillors Marie Price and Audrey Kobayashi; Honors Committee Edward J. Malecki, Barney Warf, and Kelley Crews-Meyer; and Nominating Committee Patricia McDowell, Fred Shelley, and Gary Gaile.

Miyares raised the question of whether the election could be moved online to possibly increase participation. Baerwald and Richardson will work with the attorneys and the Constitution and Bylaws Committee to examine the legality and feasibility of online voting.

Baerwald reported that he will work with Constitution & Bylaws committee to review the document he and Dow are developing concerning procedures for Council to receive petitions and resolutions. Richardson will have the materials reviewed by the AAC's attorneys when they are completed by the committee.

Pandit reviewed the list of honorees recommended by the Honors committee: Darrell Napton, Ronald F. Abler Distinguished Service Honors; Reginald Golledge, Lifetime Achievement Honors; Peirce Lewis, Lifetime Achievement Honors; Sarah Witham Bednarz, Gilbert Grosvenor Honors for Geographic Education; Nigel Thrift, Distinguished Scholarship Honors. Harden moved and Friend seconded an affirmation of the vote made by email that unanimously confirmed those selected to receive AAG honors. The affirmation vote passed unanimously.

Pandit announced that the Executive Committee had selected Jeffrey Sachs to be the 2007 Honorary Geographer. R. Marston announced

that Laura and Jack Dangermond and James Koch would receive the 2007 Presidential Award. Pandit announced that Joe Darden would receive the 2007 Enhancing Diversity Award.

Dow and Miyares reported on their review of specialty group reports. Most of the specialty groups are active, although some have late or out-of-date reports. The chairs of groups with out-of-date or missing reports have been notified. Many report balances of funds but with an unclear purpose for those funds. All specialty groups have minimum dues of \$1. The central office manages funds for about 70% of the groups. A proposal for a new specialty group on Studies of the American South was submitted to the council. Friend moved and Colten seconded for approval of this new group, which was approved unanimously by Council.

Kaplan asked how regional divisions receive support funds from AAG. Richardson explained that Council recently established a policy for the AAG to provide regional divisions a certain amount based upon a rate set by Council multiplied by the number of full-time member residents in the US belonging to the region. Some regions have their own dues structures. Aitken asked how this affects international members. Richardson explained that they were not assigned, but there are reciprocal relationships with the Canadian Association of Geographers for joint membership, for example. Richardson also explained that he expanded the AAC's insurance policy to include regional meetings, and that matching grants are now also being offered to regions for World Geography Bowl teams.

Richardson gave a brief update on Affinity Groups, emphasizing their importance in connecting particular needs of members, including stand-alone geographers, Retired Geographers, Community College, Senior Associates, Public-Private sector geographers, and graduate students.

Pandit reviewed the dates of upcoming council and executive committee meetings as follows: Executive Committee, October 27-28, 2007, in the DC area; Fall Council meeting, November 9-11, 2007 at Urbana-Champaign in conjunction with the West Lakes Meeting; Executive Committee, Spring 2008 to be determined; and Spring Council meeting, April 13-15, 2008 in Boston, Massachusetts.

Council Met Briefly in Closed Session.

Council approved the following resolutions unanimously:

Whereas, Richard Marston, as Vice President, and President of the Association of American Geographers has exercised exceptional leader-

ship in assisting the Association to address the challenges facing the discipline of Geography, has contributed valuable efforts to improve the standing of physical geography within the discipline, has played an important role in supporting healthy geography departments, and has taken a personal interest in promoting membership, fostering collegiality within the discipline, and recognizing outstanding members of the association;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Association of American Geographers, assembled in San Francisco, California on the occasion of its 103rd Annual Meeting, heartily thanks Dick for his leadership of the Association during the past three years, and especially for his efforts to improve the standing of physical geography within the discipline and the profession, for fostering collegiality within the discipline, and for his role in supporting a stronger association.

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

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

Therefore Be It Resolved that The Association of American Geographers, assembled in San Francisco, California on the occasion of its 103rd Annual Meeting, extends warm appreciation to Past President Dick Marston and retiring AAG Councillors Stuart Aitken, Kirstin Dow, Martha Geores, Ines Miyares, and Timothy Rickard for the energy, time, and talent they have contributed to the Association during their terms on the AAG Council.

Whereas, Members of The Association of American 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 Association of American Geographers, assembled in San Francisco, California on the occasion of its 103rd 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.

There being no further business, President Pandit adjourned the council meeting at 11:10 am April 17, 2007. ■

Respectfully submitted,
Ines Miyares
AAG Secretary

AAG Council Meeting Minutes

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois
November 10-11, 2007

Attending: Tom Baerwald, *President*; John Agnew, *Vice President*; Kavita Pandit, *Past President*; Craig Colten, *Secretary* (Southwest); Sallie Marston, *Treasurer*; Doug Richardson, *Executive Director*. *National Councillors*: Carol Harden, Audrey Kobayashi, Mei-Po Kwan, Marie Price, and Dawn Wright. *Regional Councillors*: David Kaplan (East Lakes), Lisa Harrington (Great Plains-Rocky Mountains), Molly Brown (Middle Atlantic), Keith Henderson (Middle States), Cathleen McAnneny (New England-St. Lawrence Valley), Tyrel Moore (Southeast), Donald Friend (West Lakes). *AAG Staff*: Patricia Solís (Director of Research and Outreach) and Rachel Franklin (Deputy Director).

PRELIMINARIES

Baerwald opened the meeting, welcomed new and returning council members, and led introductions. He introduced new agenda items and Moore moved to adopt the agenda with the changes, seconded by Harden. The Council approved unanimously. Colten reviewed the minutes from the Executive Committee meeting held in Cambridge, Maryland on October 27-28. The Council reviewed the minutes from the Spring 2007 meeting held in San Francisco, California and approved them unanimously.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE ASSOCIATION

President's Priorities

Baerwald discussed his presidential priorities around interdisciplinarity, explaining that we would continue to support seeking speakers from other fields and geographers who interact with other disciplines, encouraging scholars from other disciplines to publish in the *Annals*, and interdisciplinary research in education. Baerwald also pledged to continue the focus on priorities of his predecessors such as leadership training workshops (healthy departments workshops), chairs' luncheons, internationalization, diversity, engagement in public policy, and outreach to regional meetings. Richardson noted that the AAG Enrichment Fund is one way to support the attendance of

non-geographers at the AAG Annual Meeting. Price suggested inviting public officials to participate at meetings to help instill a geographic perspective, as was done in the San Francisco meeting and other meetings. Council discussed the challenges non-geographers face to publish in the *Annals* and council supported the expectation that non-geographers should become conversant in geographic literature.

Vice President's Priorities

Agnew indicated he will continue to support effective programs of predecessors and outlined his priorities. He noted that the AAG meeting has become the major international geography meeting and he will seek to maintain the international prominence of that meeting along with increasing its interdisciplinarity; he will emphasize themes that blend human and physical geography, and promote the competitive advantage that geographers have in human/environment discussions. Agnew aims to direct attention to the critical issue of funding for geography in public universities, as the health of the discipline is very much tied to the health of public universities.

Past President's Priorities

Pandit expressed her appreciation for being able to work with AAG officers and council, and looks forward to working with Baerwald and Agnew on continuing the focus on internationalization during the coming year.

Review of Geography Programs – Regional Councillors

West Lakes

Friend reported that the status of geography in the region was good. There is concern with budget cuts in the public universities. Most universities in the region report that an international focus and GIS are attracting students and that there are more majors at the freshmen level, due in part to Advanced Placement. Environmental awareness also helps attract students to geography classes. Challenges include cooperation between human and physical geography, realignments of departments, and a brain drain from the region.

New England-St. Lawrence Valley:

McAnneny reported that the regional meeting in New Haven was a success. The region is making headway with its new journal. Challenges for departments in the region include an upturn in majors without corresponding increases in faculty lines. Faculty in the region are its greatest asset and they are doing exciting research that interests students. There is an overall trend toward younger faculty, as universities replace retirees.

Middle States

Henderson reported that the overall health of geography departments appears to be strong. Most departments report growth. Increasing interest in geography is linked to at least three areas. In many departments geography is playing a larger role in interdisciplinary environmental programs. Majors, minors, or certificates in Environmental Studies and Environmental Science have geography at their core. As long as geography is in a position to control its own place within these interdisciplinary programs and not be usurped by them, this appears to be a positive trend. The use of GIS within the business community is opening the door for geographers to collaborate with business faculty, and to attract business students to geography classes. Finally, smaller programs are reaching out to primary and secondary education departments to renew or forge new links to the social science curriculum. These ties bring many more students into the classroom. Departments are able to replace retiring faculty. The only cautionary notes came from smaller state universities where state budget-conscious administrators are increasingly trying to raise graduation numbers to justify programs and funding requests are ranked by professional certification programs. Penn State, University of Delaware, and others reported Nobel Prize winners, geographers working on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

East Lakes

Kaplan reported a successful regional meeting in East Lansing. The region organized a panel on enhancing diversity at

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the meeting to follow up on the AAG national level initiative. Successes include the advancement of several geographers to prominent university administrative positions, including two presidents. No departments have been the target of cut backs, and overall there has been a positive trend in hiring. Departments report success with grants and lab upgrades. Undergraduate enrollment increases have been achieved through international and environmental programs, and online courses. Challenges include funding cuts at the university level and declining overall university enrollments, and stereotyping of geography as being only about computers. One concern is the possible impact of a new University System of Ohio and how that might play out.

Southwest

Colten challenged the other regions to follow SWAAG's lead and donate funds for a regional brick in the AAG's walkway. Departments in the region are finding themselves incorporating multidisciplinary activities including urban studies, environmental studies, and Atlantic studies. Enrollments are up especially in undergraduate programs. Several large departments have full-time undergraduate advisors which have proven effective in tending to the needs of large numbers of majors. Certificate programs or other special programs in GIS also are on the upswing. Departments are being prompted to reduce the number of total credit hours for graduation. This is forcing some small programs to fight to maintain their standing with the consequent reduction of Semester Credit Hours (SCH). Faculty hires were healthy across the region with departments replacing retiring faculty and in some cases adding new lines. Online courses are showing up with greater frequency. SWAAG met in Bryan, Texas with more than 200 in attendance. A key challenge remains how we effectively convey what geography is to students and administrators.

Middle Atlantic

Brown reported that the region has shifted its regional meeting to the fall and met at the Census Bureau in October. There are a large number of private and public sector geographers in the region

and the regional meeting allows an exchange between university and non-university based geographers. Departments in the region are healthy and several are adding lines. A goal of the MAD chair is to increase involvement of university programs in the regional meeting.

Great Plains – Rocky Mountains

Harrington indicated that departments reported a variety of challenges, opportunities, and assets. Challenges included increasing enrollments; space pressures; pressures on faculty for more teaching, research, and service; changing expectations of universities (to be a "research-oriented profit center" or to focus on "entrepreneurship"); faculty transitions with retirements and new hires; and funding issues. Opportunities include connections with alumni, collaborations within units and across campuses, and funding possibilities in research. Assets include good students, productive faculty members, location, and connections to regions. Other notable conditions and trends are increasing student numbers and interdisciplinary connections, although there is some concern about the development of competing programs that are geography-focused, but not geographer-populated. There were concerns about assessment standards and identification of model programs, and the meaning of NRC rankings.

Southeast

Moore reported that several states have serious budget concerns, but even in those states geography is alive and well. Departments are enjoying increasing enrollment and new initiatives. Degrees in GIS, meteorology, and planning are contributing to this trend. New faculty lines and success with external grants help departments maintain their university status.

Pacific Coast

Wilkinson reported that the state of geography was quite good. The Cal State system averted a strike and faculty will receive raises. Several departments reported new hires are underway; others reported new degrees or programs. Chairs sought AAG assistance in developing "best practices" to help deal with new environmental studies and geoscience

programs; they also seek comparative data to help sell the importance of geography; and others desire sample protocols and material for Student Learning Outcomes Assessments.

A discussion proceeded among Councilors relating to improving the inclusion of all types of departments in the AAG regional level meetings; suggestions included sharing a set of ideas and a guide for meeting organization and developing and exchanging techniques to promote regional meetings. Richardson offered to include an additional invitation for Regional Division meeting organizers to attend the Regional Division breakfast at the Boston meeting to discuss regional-level activities. Also, Council raised the issue of how to promote diversity in geography in the regions. Richardson encouraged re-thinking the important and changing roles that regional meetings might play in an era of electronic communication.

Topical Issues

Wright opened the discussion of geography and sustainability. She suggested making geography the place to go for sustainable practices and possibly forming a special committee on sustainability. Harden urged that geographers take the discussion of sustainability out of the academy and put it into practice; she noted AAG plays the role of promoting geography as a specialty with expertise in sustainability and partners with other organizations with interest in the topic; she emphasized that sustainability is critical for our food and fuel futures. Kwan encouraged geographers to develop ideas that blend environmental and economic concerns, how to sustain environment and economy; that geographers can integrate and should incorporate equity into sustainability discussions; and that geographers can also contribute by being sensitive to context and scale. Kobayashi stressed that geographers are well positioned to address the intersection of social and environmental justice and that without references to social justice and human rights there is something missing from sustainability discussions. Price called for geographers to align with university initiatives such as urban sustainability and to participate in the policy arena. Marston stated that the discipline can become a

leader in sustainability by reaching out to distant constituencies via electronic means and also by reducing our own carbon footprint; that the discipline needs to make a commitment to lead. Richardson noted that the meanings of sustainability vary and advocated a consistent use of the term. He pointed out that the AAG has several sustainability projects, many ongoing since before the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, that promote geography's contributions as a discipline to both understanding and practice in sustainability.

STATUS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Richardson provided an overview of the Association's recent accomplishments and activities. Since the early 2000s, the Association's financial picture has improved dramatically. Membership services have increased through the use of technology. Publications remain a primary component and are now in a very advantageous situation with the new agreement. The Association has expanded its office space by renting additional space near Meridian Place in order to accommodate new staff and activities. Research and outreach have become more prominent and involve numerous international programs and specialty conferences and publications. The Association is watching for opportunities to protect geography through public policy (for example, currently through No Child Left Behind legislation and supporting defeat of the MAPPS lawsuit). Educational efforts include EDGE, GENIP, and cooperation with NCGE.

Richardson reviewed the Association's financial documents. The preliminary FYE07 balance sheet showed a net income of \$2.1 million and a total equity of \$5.7 million. This puts the Association in a much better position than in 2002. The AAG Treasurer presented the 2008 budget, explained that it was reviewed by the AAG Finance Committee, and recommended approval. The Council unanimously approved the 2008 budget. Given the positive current financial picture the Executive Committee recommended that the Council charge the Finance Committee with the task of examining options to protect the Association's assets for the long term while putting a portion of them to work. The Council supported moving the recommendation to the Finance Committee.

Richardson reported that the Association is seeking a new auditor, due to recent changes in the current auditor's offering of services toward consulting practice only. He requested Council's authorization to hire a new auditor in consultation with the AAG Treasurer, which was provided unanimously.

Advancing Geography Centennial Campaign

Richardson reported that the AAG continues to seek donations for the fundraising campaign. Although efforts have been largely opportunistic since there is no full-time development staff, they have been successful. Richardson currently handles most fundraising himself. Donations now total more than \$2.0 million, mostly from sources outside of the discipline. Estate planning is one area where the association has been active recently, and hopes to expand its efforts.

Membership

Richardson reported membership has climbed above 10,000, students constitute almost half the membership, and regular members just over half. Richardson indicated the AAG is in the process of rolling out the new Developing Regions Membership Program.

The Executive Committee recommended to Council to approve a dues increase at 1 percent less than the rate of inflation to be effective in 2008. Agnew reported an estimated rate of inflation of about 4 percent. Council unanimously approved a 3 percent dues increase effective in 2008. The Executive Committee also recommended to the Council that the AAG Treasurer begin a process to reconsider the details of the graduated dues categories. The current scale has been in place for some time and has no steps above the \$100,000 level. Council approved this recommendation to review dues structure unanimously.

Publications

The Council unanimously approved the following recommendations from the Executive Committee: (1) approach Clifton Pannell to write a memorial for Norton Ginsburg to appear in the *Annals*; (2) approve Sharmistha Bagchi-Sen to continue as editor of the *Professional Geographer* until the end of 2010; and (3) extend the term of Peter Muller as Book Review Editor of the *Annals* until

2010 and begin looking for a successor. Council unanimously affirmed the email vote on the approval of the editorial board of the Nature-Society section of the *Annals*. Kobayashi raised a question about establishing terms for editorial boards. Baerwald recommended that the Publications Committee consider that question in consultation with the editors. Richardson noted that he had increased the stipends for editors to thank them for their hard work and dedication.

Richardson reported on the new publications agreement with Routledge. After extended negotiations with several publishers, Routledge provided the best proposal that will provide sustained and guaranteed income for the two journals. The agreement will also allow the publication of a fifth issue of the *Annals*, abstracts in Chinese and Spanish, extensive marketing of the journals, free full online access, and many other benefits. Council applauded Richardson's success at forging an extremely favorable agreement for the AAG.

MERIDIAN PLACE OPERATIONS

Richardson reported on new staff and interns and explained the matrix team management approach in which staff collaborate on projects. He introduced Dr. Rachel Franklin, who recently joined the AAG staff as Deputy Director. Regarding legal matters, Richardson and AAG staff invested considerable time in the effort to prepare an amicus brief in support of the government's position. The Federal Court rejected the MAPPS lawsuit that would have limited most federal contracting for mapping services to engineering, surveying, and architectural firms. This was a major victory for the mapping community, but one that will likely not end with this court decision. In other news, the AAG has also secured a nearby office suite to accommodate expanding staff. It is also in the early stages of revamping its web page.

Regional Division Funding

The Executive Committee recommended to the Council to increase contributions from the AAG to the AAG Regional Divisions from \$1.20 to \$1.40 per member. Council discussed the merits of raising the contribution even higher for the benefit of regions with small memberships. Kaplan offered a motion to make a

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flat contribution of \$1,000 to each region. He accepted a friendly amendment that modified the original motion allowing the AAG to make a flat contribution of \$1,000 to each region this year, while allowing regions with large memberships to select between the flat contribution of \$1,000 and the existing \$1.20 per member contribution, for this year only. The Council unanimously approved the motion as amended to make a flat contribution, with an option for regions to choose to receive the \$1.20 per member contribution for this year only in lieu of the flat contribution.

Research and Outreach

Solís and Richardson reviewed various programs that seek to advance the mission of the AAG and enhance the position of geography. Brown asked if AAG had a strategic plan for seeking grants. Solís noted that AAG Staff target grants that are in line with the AAG's broader strategic plan for the association and also the My Community, Our Earth Program. Baerwald indicated he was impressed with the strategic fundraising activities at the AAG. Council suggested several additional organizations that might collaborate with the AAG.

Solís provided updates on an upcoming program under the My Community, Our Earth Program to conduct a teacher workshop in Tunis that will now be held near the dates of the IGU conference. The AAG also has recently developed proposals to various foundations (Nippon, JRS, and Coca-Cola). AAG is working with the National Academy of Sciences and the George Perkins Marsh Institute to attempt to fund a publication, *Earth Sustained*, that will follow up to the series on *Man and Nature*, *Man's Role*, and *Earth Transformed* with an objective to point toward some solutions to environmental problems. A call for papers for contributions to the Geography and the Humanities conference publication were issued recently, after a successful conference event in Charlottesville. Richardson encouraged Council to have colleagues stay in touch with congresspeople on the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind legislation, noting that while geography has been identified as a core discipline, no federal funding was provided in the earlier passage of the act.

Richardson reported that an effort to move the Geographers on Film collection to the AAG from the Michigan State Library since they did not have the funds or staff to properly curate and distribute the collection. AAG is seeking to digitize the collection and make it more accessible. Richardson has appointed an ad-hoc committee of Wes Dow, Fritz Nelson, Alexander Murphy, Kent Mathewson, Rachel Franklin, and Richardson to coordinate effort. Richardson asked for Council approval of this committee. Council asked if experts in film preservation to be included. Richardson indicated such expertise is available to the committee. Council approved Richardson's formation of the ad-hoc committee.

Education

Richardson reported the AAG is moving into phase two of the Center for Global Geography Education under the direction of Michael Solem and continues its involvement in the Enhancing Departments and Graduate Education (EDGE) and GENIP. It is also working with the Carnegie Foundation on the CASTL (Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning). The AAG's already strong education staff has been strengthened with the addition of Dr. Susan Gallagher as Senior Project Manager for Geography Education. Co-location of the National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE) with the AAG will facilitate additional coordination toward advancing K-12 and university geography education.

CONTINUING AND NEW BUSINESS

Annual Meetings

Attendance continues to rise since the 100th anniversary meeting in Philadelphia in 2004. Increasing attendance has created increased demands for space. Three hotels are necessary in Boston to accommodate the conference. A census of attendance in San Francisco indicated specialty group sponsorship tended to increase attendance at particular sessions. About a third of the sessions were "well-attended." AAG will conduct a data collection effort again this year for future planning purposes, but will reconsider whether to continue the practice after Boston. Future meetings to be held in Las Vegas (2009), Washington, DC (2010), and a West Coast site in 2011. Friend raised the question of whether

the AAG allowed commercial sponsorship of the tote bags. Council considered the discussion of this and other meeting expenses that may be offset by sponsors. Council encouraged Richardson to explore possible options.

Committee on Committees

Colten presented a field of nominees for the AAG Nominating Committee and the AAG Honors Committee. Pandit moved that the Committee on Committees narrow field and submit it to the Council for an email vote. Council unanimously approved the motion. The Secretary will send an email ballot for the Council to select the slate of candidates for the member ballot to choose these committees.

The Secretary reported the AAG Nominating Committee submitted a slate of officers and National Councilors for the ballot.

Kobayashi raised a question regarding the AAG Enhancing Diversity Committee and the AAG Committee on the Status of Women – both concerned with gender. Richardson and Solís indicated that council had deliberated that point and current structure reflects input of those two committees. Council indicated it could reconsider if it becomes an issue.

Procedures for Council Resolutions

Baerwald presented a revised proposal on a clarified process for members to submit requests to Council for resolutions. Key points are: any member should feel free to request consideration of any issue related to the objectives of the AAG; a minimum number of 50 (rather than a percentage) is included to reflect a group action; and the group must affirm AAG membership of those signing petition. Discussion covered expanding the term "in writing" to include email and the need to clarify the meaning of a "majority of those who vote." Richardson indicated he would have the association's attorneys ultimately look at the proposal. Baerwald moved to have the AAG Constitution and By-Laws Committee to make a recommendation on the proposal. Pandit seconded moving it to the committee. Council unanimously voted in favor.

Healthy Departments

Agnew offered to host the next workshop in Los Angeles. Future events

will emphasize leadership development in addition to the past successful themes. Agnew will consult with the AAG Healthy Departments Committee to develop a new name that would reflect this focus.

Honors and Awards

The selections made by the AAG Honors Committee were disclosed to Council, but will remain confidential until announced to full membership. The Executive Committee recommended Charles Mann as Honorary Geographer for 2008. Pandit had proposed David Ward as recipient of the 2008 Presidential Award, which was approved by the Executive Committee. The AAG Enhancing Diversity Committee recommended Janice Monk and Jacqueline Meyer to receive the AAG Enhancing Diversity Award. Kaplan moved to accept the recommendation, seconded by Wright. Council unanimously approved the recommendation. Richardson is working with the AAG History of Geography Specialty Group on a lifetime achievement award for Wes Dow and Geoffrey Martin. He requested that Council also present a special citation of appreciation for their contributions, which was accepted.

Specialty and Affinity Groups

Wright reported that most of the 58 specialty and affinity groups had submitted annual reports. Some requested that Council consider a sliding scale for annual meeting registration fees. Richardson noted there is an equity scale for association membership dues, and that Annual Meeting fees also already were prorated for students and by participation days. Council noted other AAG programs that offer support for annual meeting attendance, such as the AAG Conference Assistants Program and the AAG Enrichment Funds. They discussed the administrative burden of a sliding scale and decided no action was necessary. Specialty groups also reported seeking improved mechanisms for coordinating co-sponsorship of sessions. Richardson indicated that planned modifications to the registration web page will facilitate this. Specialty groups expressed an interest in bringing in high profile scholars from cognate fields to address annual meeting. Another specialty group advocated allowing sponsorship of poster sessions.

Executive Committee recommended the approval of an application received for the creation of a Cyberinfrastructure Spe-

cialty Group and the Council approved unanimously.

Richardson provided an update of Affinity Groups.

Future Council and Executive Committee Meetings

Council discussed the next Executive Committee Meeting to be held in Tucson, March 29-30, 2008, and the Council meeting to be held April 13-15, 2008 in Boston. Further planning hinges on securing dates of the regional meetings in the fall.

The Council met briefly in closed session.

Baerwald thanked Friend and the West Lakes Region for hosting the Council meeting. With business completed, Wright moved to adjourn. Harden seconded. The Council unanimously agreed to adjourn at 11:11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Colten
AAG Secretary

AAG Council Meeting Minutes

Boston, Massachusetts
April 13-15, 2008

Attending: Tom Baerwald, *President*; John Agnew, *Vice President*; Kavita Pandit, *Past President*; Craig Colten (Southwest), *Secretary*; Sallie Marston, *Treasurer*; Doug Richardson, *Executive Director*. *National Councillors*: Carol Harden, Audrey Kobayashi, Mei-Po Kwan, Marie Price, and Dawn Wright. *Regional Councilors*: David Kaplan (East Lakes), Lisa Harrington (Great Plains-Rocky Mountains), Molly Brown (Middle Atlantic); Keith Henderson (Middle States), Tyrel Moore (Southeast), Donald Friend (West Lakes), Cathleen McAnneny (New England-St. Lawrence), Nancy Wilkinson (Pacific Coast). AAG Staff: Patricia Solís and Rachel Franklin.

PRELIMINARIES

Baerwald called meeting to order, welcomed Council, and led introductions. Moore moved to adopt the agenda, Harrington seconded, and Council adopted the agenda unanimously. Kaplan moved to approve the minutes of the fall Council meeting, Harden seconded, and Council approved unanimously.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE ASSOCIATION

President's Comments

Baerwald summarized activities related to his interdisciplinary initiative during the past year, reviewed the upcoming presidential plenary session at the Boston meeting on interdisciplinarity, and commented that he was pleased with the range of interdisciplinary activity on the program. He noted that the work of the healthy departments, internationalization, and geographic education efforts continue, and observed that geographers can help with diversity and play a role in public policy.

Vice President's Comments

Agnew expressed interest in following through with interdisciplinary and internationalization initiatives, and that he also seeks to encourage interaction among geographers (especially human and physical) and to strengthen an integrative geography with the goal to inspire intradisciplinary collaboration. He will

promote sessions at Las Vegas that point toward integration, with drought in the southwest as one example. The AAG Healthy Departments Workshop will continue under a new title – the AAG Department Leadership Workshop. He noted that current topics of concern for departments include state budgets and how to maintain department resources. He recommended that chairs should be made aware of journals that showcase interdisciplinary research.

Past President's Comments

Pandit expressed pleasure with internationalization developments within the AAG, such as the multi-lingual abstracts in AAG journals and the new AAG Developing Regions Membership Program. She concurred that we need to be mindful of budget issues.

Review of Geography Programs – Regional Councillors

Pacific Coast

Wilkinson reported that despite severe budget cuts, some departments are hiring. Two key concerns: interdisciplinary encroachment, especially in environmental sciences and need for guidance in best practices for program assessment.

Great Plains/Rocky Mountains

Harrington reported that departments seek comparable data to use in program reviews, such as comparative, discipline-wide tabulations; she also noted that, although not directly related to the AAG, leadership in geographic alliances is experiencing significant rates of retirement with scarce replacements.

Middle Atlantic

Brown noted that federal government agency personnel are the leading group of geographers in the region and called for greater efforts to strengthen public/private partnerships. She noted a potential for growth and engagement among geography professionals in government agencies.

Middle States

Henderson relayed that department chairs in the region offered positive

reports; some expressed concern with multi-disciplinary programs encroaching on smaller departments and encouraged thinking about ways to feature geography as a discipline even while departments participate in such university initiatives.

West Lakes

Friend reported that the region is pleased with the new allocation of \$1,000 per region of supplemental support from the AAG. He noted that the most pressing concerns are with belt tightening and budget shortfalls in state schools.

East Lakes

Kaplan observed that the region is experiencing economic decline, and this presents a challenge to departments to stay strong in contrast to regional patterns; however, the strength of geography has been to showcase how the discipline can contribute to a region's growth. Departments are seeing growing number of majors. He encouraged AAG to continue to support small departments and stand-alone geographers.

SEDAAG

Moore shared concern from department chairs in the region with tight budgets and the growing number of non-tenure positions. He noted that the region is also pleased with the \$1,000 per region annual support from AAG.

New England/St. Lawrence Valley

McAnneny reported that programs in the region are also concerned with budgets as well as with securing good data for program reviews. Most programs are largely undergraduate and greater undergraduate participation could be promoted in AAG activities.

SWAAG

Colten noted that there are a growing number of interdisciplinary programs and noted that numerous departments were able to help direct the direction and growth of these interdisciplinary programs, which included inserting geography courses in their curricula.

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Friend led discussion of five themes that emerged from the regional reports: (1) Stand Alone Geographers: he noted the AAG Stand Alone Geographers Affinity group is in place and Council discussed how to engage this constituency in regional meetings and in departments in the regions nationally, (2) Engaging Professional (non-academically based) Geographers: Council discussion centered on how to learn from other organizations that had successfully engaged with public and private constituents, including how we could make annual meetings more appealing; (3) Interdisciplinary Programs: Council discussed how geographers need to be involved in the conceptualization and administration of university interdisciplinary programs, and how departments need to remind university administrators that geography is inherently an interdisciplinary program. Departments must be mindful that many interdisciplinary programs are not pre-professional programs, hence degrees in geography are still of value; (4) Information Needs for Assessments and Program Reviews: It was noted that the AAG Healthy Departments web page has some valuable information that can be used for department assessments and statewide organizations may also have comparable data for assessing programs. It was noted that increasing demands for accountability means increasing need for comparable and accessible data on departments' outcome assessments. AAG is working on a data clearinghouse that includes data collected by the AAG as well as links to third-party sources; (5) AAG promoting geographic research at the national level and retention of geography in K-12 curricula: Council discussed how faculty need to be alert to university initiatives, be prepared to compete for funds, be alert to threats, be on committees and positioned to respond to opportunities, and be involved in multidisciplinary programs as one way to solidify geography's position on campus.

Topical Issues: National Councillors

Dawn Wright led a discussion addressing the questions: (1) What questions should geography be studying over the next 10 years? (2) What makes geographers particularly suited to answer them? (3) What are the greatest challenges facing geographical sciences today? She opened

the discussion by noting that a major challenge/need for geography is in the area of "human capital," (e.g., having enough faculty to maintain and extend geography programs, fighting budget cuts, seeking to change academic culture to fully meet the need of non-tenure track instructors, etc.) and well-staffed departments will enable us to address these questions. Marston observed that focusing training in the geographical sciences more toward coupled human and physical systems and delivering knowledge about these coupled systems is essential to motivate people to change their behavior to deal with environmental changes. Kwan stated that geography is prominent in many important issues but needs to translate its capabilities across specialties, which demands an ability to share a common language with other specialists and convey the importance of what we do. Kobayashi reported that there is a dire need for geographers to engage in international, global endeavors, to make contact with geographers across borders. She cited an example of the Metropolis Project (a study of international migration, the largest social science project ever in Canada) in which U.S. geographers are poorly represented. She also urged more geographers to address world issues, such as securing peace. Harden noted that we need to improve our visibility on campuses, to earn greater buy-in to what we do. She observed that geography is resource-poor compared to some disciplines, so we must seek out opportunities and remind administrators that we teach more, while competing with science counterparts for funding. Price commented that geographers are rarely at the table when policy decisions are made, even though spatial inequalities may be at the heart of the policy issue; our challenge is to position geography to be a "fundamental" and "essential" player. Baerwald asked if there is something that geography can do as a field to address and build fundamental knowledge, are there core fundamental geographic theories (such as in health, policy, planning, management) that we can advance together? What can we collectively work toward as a geographical community (human and physical)? An example in oceanography is the common goal of all sub-disciplines of oceanography to understand El Nino, and a global project such as the Tropcial Atmospheric

Ocean (TAO) experiment moves them as a community toward that end.

Discussion continued and touched on how to construct a campaign that would convey how geography is a fundamental base of knowledge and also how geographers can apply core geography practices to societal needs. Geographic scale is one key contribution that should be conveyed to the larger academic world. Regarding the question posed: what are "burning" concepts in geography? Council discussed how geography has many questions which may need to be prioritized for outside consumption. Richardson noted the significance of the emerging disciplinary synergy among formerly disparate trends in geography, such as between the rapidly growing areas of GIScience and critical theory. Others suggested that our most common goal is how we might better care for the world (e.g., in terms of environmental health of the planet and the well-being of the world's people).

STATUS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Executive Director's Comments

Richardson provided an overview of the association's budget. The change in net assets was positive and more than \$2.1 million for FYE 2007 alone. Total liquid assets were nearly \$8 million as of the date of the council meeting. Financial position reflects AAG programs that have boosted membership, grants and contracts to help grow the discipline, and efforts to create an inclusive annual meeting with "room for everyone." Membership has climbed to over 10,000. The AAG will maintain a separate count of the new Developing Regions membership. Other developments include expansion of space at Meridian Place, initiating efforts to upgrade the association's web site, continuing outreach activities, engagement in policy discussions, promoting geographic education through many programs, including EDGE and support of NCGE.

Finances

Treasurer Marston reviewed the FYE 2007 Audit. The Association currently has total cash and investments totaling \$7.7 million. Most investments are liquid and spread between long- and short-term funds. Total assets rose from \$4.3 million at FYE06 to \$6.6 million at FYE07.

Marston reported that the Executive Committee had discussed a recommendation by Richardson to dedicate a portion of AAG assets to an endowment that would be used to fund long-term association programs and financial stability. Recommendation from Executive Committee was to place \$5 million into a permanent, restricted endowment that would protect the growth in assets from recent years for the long-term benefit of the association.

Council discussed how funds would be invested differently and how interest would be dedicated. The purpose of the endowment would be to provide long-term protection of a sizable portion of association assets, and would build on two existing smaller endowments. Endowment would be invested to protect funds, but at the same time to optimize earnings. Other funds will remain liquid for future needs. Details of this investment will be discussed by the Finance Committee and reported on at the next council meeting. Furthermore, the Treasurer and the Executive Director will report to Council at its Fall 2008 meeting regarding all of the AAG's endowments. Marston moved and Agnew seconded the following motion: *The AAG Council resolves that \$5 million in assets of the Association of American Geographers should be placed in an endowment to support long-term development of the AAG. The motion passed unanimously.*

Marston concluded that the association books were in great shape, that its funds were in good hands at the association and also as reported by the AAG's accounting firm. Richardson noted that AAG's finances currently go through a higher-level audit required for entities with substantial external federal grant funding. The AAG staff is also developing an accounting manual.

Richardson outlined a projected budget of \$4.4 million for 2009 based on recurring income, royalties, subscriptions, and the new publications contract. New expenses include additional staff, many new initiatives, inflation, and significant medical and liability insurance cost increases. Marston forwarded a motion from the Finance Committee to adopt the 2009 budget; Price seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Advancing Geography Campaign

Richardson discussed the AAG's planned giving program. AAG is developing a letter to circulate to members and retired geographers regarding bequests. Also, AAG

annually sponsors a donor's reception to acknowledge donors. Richardson pointed out that departments and individuals can support the new AAG Developing Regions Membership Program by offering gift memberships for colleagues in eligible countries, noting that it is also easier for US members to pay with credit cards than for members in many developing regions.

Membership

Membership numbers over 10,000, with strong student membership. Discussion of retaining members explored options for discounts for multi-year memberships. AAG already offers some special promotions. Richardson accepted Kaplan's suggestion to explore a 5-year membership option. The AAG Lifetime membership category was suggested as a gift from departments for retiring colleagues. Marston reported on the effort discussed at the Fall Council meeting to update income levels for membership dues based on 7 categories at \$25,000 increments with weighted averages of dues. Marston moved and Wright seconded a motion to update the AAG dues structure based on \$25,000 increments, starting at \$25,000 and below, with \$150,000 and above representing the top category. The motion passed unanimously.

Richardson led a discussion of the AAG's new Developing Regions Membership Program. He encouraged Council to help promote the new program among colleagues, distributed examples of multi-language fliers, and pointed out that fliers in additional languages are forthcoming as resources to produce them are generated.

In light of this new program the Council revisited the idea of changing the association's name brought up a few years ago. With increasing global presence and international membership, Association of "American" Geographers may seem increasingly parochial. Some international scholars, however, have expressed that they favor belonging to association with America in the name. Council also discussed the related issue of "geographers" versus "geography" in the name. Richardson suggested that we let the Developing Regions Membership Program grow and then revisit the idea later on, should it be of interest to do so.

Publications

Richardson distributed copies of the new *Annals* and reported that increased color pages for maps and graphics will

be a regular component along with the foreign language abstracts. Other developments include a revamped AAG *Guide to Geography Departments* and an Amazon.com site to promote publications sales. Council discussion stressed the importance of strengthening the environmental sciences section of *Annals*. The Association also is moving to put individual articles online. Association will include acknowledgments of geographers who review abstract translations. Editors are moving manuscripts from submission to decision efficiently on a 3-month average. The Fifth issue of the *Annals* is moving forward; each will have special theme. The first two will focus on Peace and Conflict (2009) and Climate Change (2010).

The PG editor, Sharmistha Bagchi-Sen, is willing to serve an abbreviated extension for 2 years. Council reviewed her proposed editorial board and recommended that the editor add a geographer representing the cultural-historical specialty. Moore moved that the Council accept the PG editorial board recommended by Bagchi-Sen with the stipulation that she nominate a board member representing the cultural-historical specialty. Marston seconded. The motion passed with one abstention.

Council discussed overlapping editorial boards and a Council resolution passed in 2005 restricting editors of AAG journals from serving on editorial boards of other AAG journals. Council discussed the desirability of maintaining an open editorial process, to have broad representation on boards. The Council emphasized that the deliberations were not about individuals, but about ensuring an open review process. Council also acknowledged that editors would retain the freedom to select reviewers from outside of their editorial boards. Friend moved and Harden seconded the following motion: *As of July 2008, no editor of an AAG journal or a member of an editorial board of an AAG journal should serve as an editor or member of the editorial board of another AAG journal. If an editorial board member becomes the editor of another AAG journal, that editor should resign from the editorial board of the first journal. This action in no way should inhibit any editor from seeking targeted advice from any member of the AAG, including other editors or editorial board members. This action will not affect the composition of any editorial boards approved before June 30, 2008. The motion passed with one abstention.*

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Discussion of journals continued covering the impact of articles in special issues and the upcoming survey of journal subscribers.

Meridian Place Operations

Richardson introduced AAG staff and the Council acknowledged their fine work. AAG employs a matrix management system and staff members collaborate on projects as teams.

Richardson noted that the first set of donor bricks was now in place and there is room for additional bricks. New carpet is being laid now while the staff is at this annual meeting. Main initiatives for the next two years include the AAG's Developing Regions Membership Program, the web site redesign, and establishing a disciplinary data clearinghouse. A new web site redesign contract was bid and awarded to BrowserMedia. The new AAG website will include a "content management system" which will allow for easier updating by staff and for new features such as flash media, podcasting, discussion modules, and a job bank module. Richardson anticipated one year until the new system is fully operational.

Educational Affairs

Michael Solem, Director of Educational Affairs, highlighted current AAG educational programs. The EDGE (Enhancing Departments for Graduate Education) project is entering a no-cost extension period to further analyze data collected; He noted the publication of two books resulting from the project (*Aspiring Academics and Teaching College Geography*) along with several articles; additional material can be found on the AAG website. The Association is working on an NSF-funded Center for Global Geography Education Program. The AAG is also participating in a program to develop ethics for geospatial professionals. Project GeoStart is preparing materials to help teachers develop geo-spatial thinking activities; and development of material for teachers linked to standards. Richardson reported that the AAG continues to support NCGE, is working with GENIP, and continues to manage the visiting Geographical Scientist Program with GTU. The AAG also is collaborating with CIRGE on its study of recent Ph.D. graduates examining the movement of graduates into the workforce

and their preparation for its demands. Baerwald thanked Solem for his efforts.

Research and Outreach

Solís reported on current AAG projects using geography and geographic technologies for biodiversity in Central America; State Department funded projects to support basic math and science education in the Muslim World, with workshops scheduled in Davao, Philippines, and in Tunis, Tunisia; and the AAG's *My Community, Our Earth* involvement with the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development. Additional proposals are in development or under review. Richardson reported that the AAG has been involved in several specialty conferences: GIScience 2008; Race, Ethnicity, and Place; and Global Dialogues on Emerging Science and Technology. He recently traveled to Eastern Africa and South Africa for State Department sponsored dialogues on geospatial science for sustainable development, and on building collaboration between US and African scientists. He noted that a key aspect of the initiative included working with ongoing local projects and networks rather than displacing local initiatives.

Richardson reported on efforts to enhance information on careers and employment in geography, including a series of AAG Annual Meeting sessions on career opportunities, and the growth of Jobs in Geography events at the AAG meetings and on the AAG's website. AAG is also watching certification efforts. Franklin reported that opportunities are good for geographers and noted that the AAG is applying for a position on the Census Bureau advisory committee, adding that the Census offers great employment possibilities and also supplements education of employees.

AAG continues work on a number of public policy efforts including No Child Left Behind and aftermath of the MAPPS lawsuit. AAG was named a Washington Post Non-Profit of the Year finalist. Richardson regularly writes columns in ArcNews for media outreach. The AAG is taking responsibility for digitizing and making accessible the *Geographers on Film* project, an unrivaled archive. AAG continues to work to advance international collaboration in education and research through many programs, including the recent NSF-funded AAMIGA project.

CONTINUING AND NEW BUSINESS

Annual Meeting

Attendance at the AAG Annual Meeting in Boston is expected to exceed 7,000. Special features will include: a symposium on Indigenous Geographies co-sponsored by the AAG Indigenous Peoples Specialty Group, Charles Mann (AAG's 2008 Honorary Geographer) presenting on his book *1491*, an interview with Noam Chomsky by Doug Richardson, and the opening keynote speech by Jeffrey Sachs. A larger format for the printed program was noted. AAG continues its international reception, and numerous other special events and plenary speakers. Also, Solís noted that the new child care information exchange had been launched and was being used via the online e-community as well as through the on-site bulletin board.

AAG is putting together the local support committee for Las Vegas meeting (2009), and has planned newsletter articles on the venue.

Future meetings will be held in Washington, DC (2010), Seattle (2011 – with a contract being finalized), and Council discussed options for 2012. Council supported exploring facilities and options in Tampa and Miami.

Council also discussed the need to consider various options for dealing with larger meetings: including pod casts (which also may support the AAG Developing Regions Membership Program). Council considered exhibit space costs for small presses: AAG will develop option for small presses to share booth space. Council discussed needs of attendees with disabilities as the conferences exceed the capacity of a single hotel. Attendees with disabilities face challenges moving between venues. Juana Ibanez continues her excellent service as Disability Coordinator. AAG accepts applications for special services and makes an effort to accommodate special needs. Council revisited the issue of overlapping specialty group sessions such as the biogeography, paleoenvironmental change, geomorphology, and mountain geography specialty groups. With limited time slots that are not concurrent with sessions, Council requested that Wright seek the input of SG Chairs on the possibility of early morning specialty group meetings.

Wright and Marston introduced some ideas to make the AAG conference more

environmentally sustainable. Suggestions included recyclable tote bags, requesting recycling bins from hotels, requesting pitchers of water rather than plastic bottles, possibly recycling bouquets and unused food, and podcasting plenary sessions. Richardson noted the AAG already now uses shopping bags that attendees can use at the grocery store after the conference; AAG requested and the hotel supplied recycling bins at this Boston conference; and recycling for name badge sleeves is also available. He also noted other ways in which the AAG reduces environmental impact, including online registration which reduces paper use; and greater emphasis on online publications will have similar benefit. For the future, AAG staff is investigating pod-casting; and is considering making the final program available for downloading with print copies upon request. The AAG is also providing an option for members to receive the AAG journals online only.

Visitors to Council

Mark Weiss of the National Science Foundation's Division of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences visited the AAG Council. He discussed current budget uncertainties. He also noted that NSF panels will look for proposals that offer "transformative" capabilities. NSF remains concerned about bringing under-represented scholars into the funding cycle. Council suggested that NSF consider targeting a portion of funds to comprehensive universities to reach under-represented scholars. Weiss noted that NSF supports collaborative work, so although it cannot directly fund international scholars, it can support international collaborative research.

Election Results

AAG Secretary Colten read the following AAG 2008 election results: The AAG membership elected John Agnew as incoming President and Carol Harden as Vice President. The new National Councillors are: Leslie Duram and William Mosley. Members elected to the Honors Committee are: Paul Knox, Maureen Hays-Mitchell, and Frank Magilligan. The new nominating committee includes: Sheryl Luzzadder-Beach, James Shortridge, and Elizabeth Wentz. Douglas Gamble is the new SEDAG councillor and Lisa Harrington will serve a full term as councillor elected from the Great Plains-Rocky Mountain region.

The secretary moved that the Council accept the slate of new members for AAG standing committees developed by the Committee on Committees. Agnew seconded. *Following discussion the council approved the slate unanimously.*

A Councillor is often named to serve on each committee. With departures from council, a few vacancies remain to be filled. Colten would call for volunteers among Councillors to serve on these committees. Once finalized, the updated committee listing for 2008-2009 will be circulated to Council, and published in the AAG Guide.

Colten made the following motion which was suggested by the International Research and Scholarly Exchange Committee: *Chairs of regional specialty groups or their designees will serve on the International Research and Scholarly Exchange Committee.* Regional specialty groups include: Africa; Asian; Canadian; China; Developing Areas; European; Latin America; Middle East; and Russia, Central Eurasia, and Eastern Europe. *The council approved the motion unanimously.*

Solís reported that the restructured committees are working well with their newly clarified charges. Richardson indicated that he encourages communication from committees and that the AAG has been working well with the new committee structure to move several initiatives forward. The Enhancing Diversity Committee report had not been received by the time of the meeting, and Council requested a copy when it was submitted. Kaplan who serves as Councillor on that committee indicated that the committee was busy at work.

Baerwald reported that the Constitution and Bylaws Committee is in the midst of clarifying the process for submitting and approving resolutions and petitions, examining electronic voting, and reviewing other points in the AAG Constitution. Richardson pointed out that the committee did not need to craft a document for legal purposes since AAG will have its lawyers review the proposals before final approval.

Discussion continued on the need to update the AAG's governing documents, standing rules, ad hoc policies. The staff has compiled a digital newsletter archive of recent Council resolutions and will be reviewing these and earlier hard copies of past resolutions to inform the overall effort.

Agnew nominated Price to fill the position of new Chair of the AAG

Publications Committee, and Harden seconded the nomination. The question was raised whether this presented any potential conflict with Price's position on the AGS council. Colten noted that AGS council had little direct involvement with its journal. Council approved Price unanimously as Chair of the Publications Committee.

Agnew discussed the upcoming AAG Leadership Workshop to be held at UCLA, June 20-22, 2008. The event will follow the basic pattern of its predecessors, but it will also have a panel representing comprehensive and hybrid departments. A field trip is also planned. Attendance is open to those who may be chairs in the future and not just current chairs. Council noted the new name broadens the reach of the series. Council recommended seeking additional discussion topics from attendees.

Honors and Awards

Richardson reviewed AAG Honors for 2008: Alexander Murphy and Barbara Hildebrandt, Gilbert Grosvenor Honors for Geographic Education; Paul Knox, Distinguished Scholarship Award; Richard Wright, Ronald F. Abler Honors for Distinguished Service; Michael Sutcliffe, Gilbert F. White Distinguished Public Service Honors; Lawrence Brown, Lifetime Achievement Honors; Harm De Blij, AAG Media Achievement Award. Others included Charles Mann, AAG Honorary Geographer; David Ward, AAG Presidential Achievement Award; Jacqueline Beyer and Jan Monk, AAG Enhancing Diversity Award; Trudy Suchan, Marc Perry, James Fitzsimmons, Anika Juhn, Alexander Tait and Cynthia Brewer, Globe Book Award; Diana Davis, Meridian Book Award; Eric Olmanson, Jackson Prize; Wendy Bigler, Mel Marcus Award; and others.

Solís mentioned that not all AAG awards are bestowed annually, as in cases where nominations are not received or are not deemed sufficient.

Friend moved and Kobayashi seconded the adoption of two special citations: *Whereas*, Maynard Weston Dow and the late Nancy Freeman Dow have made significant and unique contributions to the history and particularly the oral history of the discipline of geography through the

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Geographers on Film project, a collection of 306 filmed interviews totaling 151 hours with prominent geographers, including hundreds of other thematic film shorts totaling 137 hours that document various aspects of geography.

Whereas, the *Geographers on Film* project provides tremendous insight into the thought, opinions, circumstances, and lives of a very large number of our discipline's leading scholars and has proven to be a resource of inestimable value, functioning as a repository of geographical lore and information, as a tool for classroom instruction, and as a source of basic data for the furtherance of geographical research.

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Association of American Geographers, assembled in Boston, Massachusetts on the occasion of its 104th Annual Meeting, hereby bestows special recognition of gratitude and honor to Wes Dow and his late wife Nancy for their vision, years of dedication, and truly unique contribution to the Association's history and the history of the discipline broadly.

Council approved the resolution unanimously.

.....

Whereas, Geoffrey Martin has served the AAG in the official capacity of Archivist since 1986, and has dedicated decades of exceptional service to documenting and archiving the history of the association, and more broadly of the history of the discipline; and has offered his vision and efforts to the establishment and functioning of both the AAG Association Archives and History Committee as well as the AAG Archives themselves.

Whereas, Geoffrey Martin has edited and produced a serial, articles, publications, and most notably a trilogy that provides deep insight into several historical geographic leaders and the history of the discipline and has provided both detailed and comprehensive treatment of the history of geography and of the AAG, taking him to 123 archival deposits in 19 countries.

Therefore Be It Resolved that The Association of American Geographers, assembled in Boston, Massachusetts on the occasion of its 104th Annual Meeting, hereby bestows special recognition of gratitude and extends warm appreciation to Geoffrey Martin for his long term dedication and

exceptional service in documenting the history of the Association of American Geographers and of the discipline.

Council approved the resolution unanimously.

Editors

Baerwald welcomed AAG Editors to meet with Council. Kobayashi thanked Richardson and the Publications Committee for the new contract and recognized Maier for her excellent performance as Managing Editor. Editors expressed their continued commitment to standard criteria: manuscripts must advance the discipline and reflect original scholarship. She noted being pleased with the topics of the special issues of the *Annals* and of the response to the initial call for submissions. Harden expressed enthusiasm about the special issues stating that they represent the best of everyone's expectations. Kwan echoed her enthusiasm for the fifth issue and praised the excellent work of Maier and of manuscript reviewers. Bagchi-Sen reiterated appreciation for the work of Maier and referees. She noted that the *PG* plays an important role as an outlet for emerging scholars. Baerwald thanked the editors for their care and effort with the journals. Richardson noted that the AAG is conducting a survey of readers to help guide publications in the future. Richardson discussed printing extra copies of special issues, publishing the table of contents in the newsletter, international distribution, and efforts to launch special topical fora within the journals. Richardson noted that his goal is to have the *Annals* become the highest ranked geography journal and for the *PG* to rise into the top five.

Specialty Groups

Wright reported she will continue to explore ways to respond to the suggestions of Specialty Groups, and would convey items of interest from the Council Meeting at the Specialty Group Chairs' meeting in Boston. Specialty group annual reports are made available online for review by AAG Councillors prior to their meetings.

Council considered a petition for the creation of a new Business Geography Specialty Group. Over 100 signatures were submitted, along with creation documents and supplemental responses to the Executive Committee's questions. A motion to

approve the creation of the AAG Business Geography Specialty Group was made by Harrington, seconded by Wright. *Council approved unanimously.*

Richardson reported that the new Stand Alone Geographers Affinity Group meeting was successful. He suggested that the AAG Regional Division should name a Stand Alone Geographer coordinator and that this group could serve as the core for a national level effort. Regional Division Councillors noted the need for regions to compile an inventory of where Stand Alone Geographers were working in their regions.

Future Council and Executive Committee Meetings

Richardson recognized the efforts of the AAG Local Support Committee for the Annual Meeting in Boston. Future meetings: Executive Committee on November 8 in Miami; Council will meet in conjunction with the SEDAAG Regional Meeting in Greensboro on November 22-23. Council will meet March 20-22 in Las Vegas (the weekend before the annual conference).

Resolutions

Council considered the following resolutions:

Whereas, Kavita Pandit, as Vice President, and President of the Association of American Geographers has exercised exceptional leadership in assisting the Association to address the challenges facing the discipline of Geography, has contributed valuable efforts to improve diversity within the association and the discipline, has played an important role in supporting healthy geography departments, and has advanced efforts at internationalization of geography departments and programs, and recognized international members of the association;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Association of American Geographers, assembled in Boston, Massachusetts on the occasion of its 104th Annual Meeting, heartily thanks Kavita for her leadership of the Association during the past three years, and especially for her efforts to enhance diversity within the discipline and the association, and for her role in supporting internationalization.

A motion to approve was made by Marston, and Harden seconded. Council approved the resolution unanimously.

.....

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

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

Therefore Be It Resolved that The Association of American Geographers, assembled in Boston, Massachusetts on the occasion of its 104th Annual Meeting, extends warm appreciation to Past President Kavita Pandit and retiring AAG Councillors Carol

Harden, Mei-Po Kwan, and Tyrel Moore for the energy, time, and talent they have contributed to the Association during their terms on the AAG Council.

Kaplan moved and Friend seconded to pass the resolution, which was unanimously approved by Council.

.....

Whereas, Members of The Association of American 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 Association of American Geographers, assembled in Boston, Massachusetts on the occasion of its 104th 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.

Kwan moved and Moore seconded to approve the resolution, which was passed unanimously by Council.

Marston offered a word thanks from Council to President Baerwald for his guidance and inspiration. Wilkinson moved and Agnew seconded a motion to adjourn which passed unanimously.

With no further business, Council adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig E. Colten
AAG Secretary

AAG Council Meeting Minutes

Greensboro, North Carolina
November 22–23, 2008

Attending: John Agnew, *President*; Carol Harden, *Vice President*; Tom Baerwald, *Past President*; Craig Colten, *Secretary*; Doug Richardson, *Executive Director*; *National Councillors*: Leslie Duram, Audrey Kobayashi, William Moseley, Marie Price, Dawn Wright; *Regional Councillors*: David Kaplan (East Lakes), Lisa Harrington (Great Plains-Rocky Mountains), Molly Brown (Middle Atlantic), Keith Henderson (Middle States); Cathleen McAnneny (New England/St. Lawrence Valley), Nancy Wilkinson (Pacific Coast), Doug Gamble (Southeast); Donald Friend (West Lakes); and AAG Staff: Patricia Solís and Rachel Franklin.

PRELIMINARIES

Agnew called the meeting to order, welcomed the council, and led introductions. Council unanimously approved the minutes of the spring 2008 meeting.

President's Comments

Agnew encouraged initiatives to re-engage physical and human geography around common or synthetic topics, beginning with sessions at regional and national meetings. The prospects for intra-disciplinary collaboration have never been better. In this vein, the Presidential Plenary session at the Las Vegas Annual Meeting has been organized on the "Future of Water in the American West." Agnew will also devote columns in the *AAG Newsletter* to the theme of integrative geography. He expressed support for continuing emphasis on representing geography as a vital subject in helping to develop both the tools for active citizenship and marketable skills in education at all levels, including reinvigorating the teaching of world regional geography with a focus on such themes as climate change, globalization, political change, and social inequality. He noted that the strength of geography as a subject depends very much on the strength of the public universities in which it is most embedded, a linkage he intends to emphasize during his year as president. Finally, he expressed strong support of continuing recent initiatives such those of strengthening department leadership, further internationalizing the AAG, and emphasizing the role of geography in interdisciplinary endeavors.

Vice President's Comments

Harden stressed making geography more visible in public domains. A top-down approach is essential to integrate with current administration change; a bottom-up approach is imperative to rethink our internal culture, to communicate outside the discipline, to make geography the "go-to" discipline. She also supported the idea for the AAG to continue to ensure that the association is inclusive and supportive of all specialties and practitioners in the fold. She encouraged stronger participation of physical geographers to publish in the *Annals*. Also, she remarked that inclusiveness extends to international members, integrating physical and human, and revitalizing interest in human-environmental interaction. She also noted that she is working on the 2009 department leadership workshop.

Past President's Comments

Baerwald reflected on his current and previous years of service on the council, and noted his appreciation of a greater continuity in recent years; presidents showing explicit desire to perpetuate the association's and their predecessors' agendas. Two important areas where there has been recent progress are: (1) strengthening interdisciplinary interaction (to be the subject of his Past Presidential address in Las Vegas, entitled, "Prospects for Geography as an Interdisciplinary Discipline,") and (2) changes to the constitution and bylaws that will enhance the association. Resolutions on this second point will be discussed at this meeting. He also reported on news from the National Science Foundation.

Reports from Regional Councillors

Middle States

Henderson reported that the region now has an online journal. Chairs relayed that they are seeing growth in environment and GIS; economic concerns are prominent; and most thought that interdisciplinary programs were positive, except in cases where they feel competition for majors.

Great Plains-Rocky Mountains

Harrington identified several stand-alone geographers who were interested in participating in SAGE; chairs reported that the economy was a serious issue and will impact Kansas universities and elsewhere, but the impacts will be uneven due to

the variability of local economies (e.g. oil and gas in some areas). There is support for implementing rules of participation at the annual meeting to limit the number of concurrent sessions.

Pacific Coast

Wilkinson reported on the successful regional meeting in Alaska; that there are many new chairs in the region who might benefit from the leadership workshop; that the economy on the west coast is experiencing a serious downturn; that because many Stand Alone Geographers in the region may not already be AAG members, different challenges in engaging with them are notable; and that interdisciplinary programs seem to experience rifts among disciplines during economic hard times.

Agnew mentioned that one theme at the recent AAG Departmental Leadership workshop was to encourage deans to use enrollment in courses and not numbers of majors for evaluating programs, since geography tends to do well in enrollment.

New England/St. Lawrence Valley

McAnneny reported that 80 people attended the regional meeting, and that the region is preparing to launch a journal. All states are suffering in terms of budgets, although majors were up, so departments are being asked to do more with less. She remarked that larger geography programs seldom participate in their regional meetings, but a few Canadian students attend.

Middle Atlantic

Brown reported on the regional meeting at Salisbury University. The region desires to establish a regular meeting date, seeks to get departments in peripheral locations (Salisbury and Frostburg) more involved, and aims to increase attendance. MAD also plans to revise its bylaws. The region is sending an all-star geography bowl team to national meeting; will provide local support for 2010 national meeting. She noted that departments and agencies are expanding and Census Bureau is hiring now in anticipation of the decennial census.

Council discussed opportunities for geographers working in government; with a new administration beginning in January, they

Continued on page 16

expressed hopes for more science hiring. Opportunities in federal government are not limited to the DC area; the expansion of opportunities raises the bar for training our students; and an aging federal work force will likely create more openings in coming years.

Southeast

Gamble reported on a good meeting in Charleston last year with 500 attending. Budgets in Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina present considerable challenges for departments there. Several chair positions in the region are open and he expressed concern that new leadership may be challenged during tight budget times; *Southeastern Geographer* is moving toward online listings. The region is engaging with geographers in the Caribbean. Their next meeting is planned for Knoxville. Officers are looking at bylaws and the possibility of electronic voting.

East Lakes

Kaplan noted that the region revised its bylaws to permit electronic ballots. Their fall regional meeting was an experimental joint meeting with West Lakes and 216 attended. Next year Wright State will host. Higher education has not been hit as hard as might be expected yet in the region, but the economic situation is still a challenge; there is a tendency for universities to focus on areas of strength and geography must make its case. In terms of interdisciplinary activity, some universities have constructed a model that works against participation—a “pay as you go” format tied to departments. Successes include a new Ph.D. program at Toledo and a new department at Saginaw State.

Southwest

Colten reported that departments across the region have been able to refill vacancies and that oil rich states have been protected at this point from economic strains, but with falling gas prices this will probably change. He received an enthusiastic response for SAGE and identified a regional representative. SWAAG requested that the AAG help assemble and distribute available information on how departments have succeeded with recruiting undeclared majors. Chairs identified a primary challenge to effectively define geography to multiple audiences such as administrators and the public, while maintaining quality programs.

West Lakes

Friend reported on a good meeting at Indiana University and announced plans for the next meeting to be held at Macalester. The region supports protecting the AAC's recently developed financial health through creation of an endowment to ensure the long-term future of the AAC. Several Stand Alone geographers have been identified, but no coordinator has yet volunteered.

Council discussed the Stand Alone Geographers (SAGE) efforts. Kaplan pointed out the need to help stand alone geographers find one another; Moseley expressed interest in stand alone geographers in small liberal arts colleges; he has received a grant to do an exchange with other comparable places and to open lines of communication. Brown pointed out that sometimes individuals in government positions do not identify themselves as geographers, and urged thinking of additional ways to provide meaning and value to those geographers; Wilkinson reported that there have been several geography hires at San Francisco State in other (non-geography) departments, so there are stand alone geographers in other disciplines even at universities that have larger geography departments who should be included; Richardson also urged including those geographers in universities but not in departments, and underscored the growing employment success of geographers as a message during economic tough times. Harden stressed that community colleges have many SAGE members, and they also have extremely diverse student bodies. Gamble noted that care should be taken with SAGE to also consider the needs of some members who may not be “alone” but find themselves in very small numbers.

Richardson encouraged regional councillors to submit next year's regional division meeting dates to AAG as soon as possible. He also encouraged the divisions to try to coordinate dates that may not have been set yet, in the interest of avoiding overlap, and also so that AAG officers may be able to attend as many as possible.

National Councillors—Topical Developments

A common theme across geography in recent years has been the impact of global change on life in different places across the planet. In light of both recent pessimistic forecasts about global warming

(and the lack of much systematic effort to do anything about it and fears about resource shortages (witnessed by recent rapid increases in food prices and worries about increased interstate competition for industrial raw materials), what do we as geographers have to say about (a) what precisely is at stake in specific issue areas (e.g. fisheries, agriculture, world trade, urbanization)? And (b) what ameliorative strategies can we begin to envisage that offer plausible responses to these problems?

Wright noted that global change is a classic human/environment topic and suggested strategies to permit geographers to offer solutions. There are geographers on National Academy committees, such as the three serving on America's Climate Choices Committee which will have a chance to make recommendations to Congress and the White House. Also, the National Academy has recently announced the Science and Entertainment Exchange which will seek to produce high-quality media with science content—one theme will be climate change and a geographer is involved. Finally, she encouraged geographers to publish broadly, outside disciplinary journals.

Agnew said that it is important for geographers to bring human/physical elements together; this makes geographers more likely to be invited to participate in interdisciplinary efforts. Price mentioned that one perspective geographers offer is a sensitivity to scale; in part, this view comes from blending our technologies with ground truthing, particularly where global warming has different impacts at different locations and at different scales. She noted that migration/mobility is one example but lamented that almost no Americans are currently participating in the Canadian and European-based Metropolis Project (which seeks to inform public policy on migration and urbanization with basic research). Kobayashi agreed that in other countries there is greater support for immigration studies, particularly for efforts such as the Metropolis Project. She suggested that NSF grants could provide links to Metropolis Project through international involvement by geographers on migration.

Moseley added that Africa presents an obvious example of how geographers can contribute to research on climate change and related human struggles; projections forecast desertification in much of West

Africa, and food supply will become an ever more pressing issue. He noted the role of China in capturing resources and the growing food crisis. Another issue in Africa is environmental security and fear of uprisings over resource struggles. He argued that this is an impoverished discourse that geographers could contribute to. Research in sustainability science; vulnerability; double exposure (climate and globalization) present opportunities for geographers in areas where real connections are highlighted. Moseley encouraged publications that reach general audiences, such as editorial pages. Agnew added that indirect contact with column writers can also prompt inclusion of geography content.

Kobayashi asked where can Americans make contact with large international programs? She noted efforts such as the International Commission on Global Change at the IGU. Geographers are doing workshops in locations around the world on emerging issues on climate change and public health. Commissions are doing cutting-edge work in the areas of education, health, and gender and she encouraged more American geographers to get involved in the IGU. Ron Abler is the newly elected IGU President. The UN is another body with global climate concerns. Other substantive research areas where geographers can participate: global change and human rights, neoliberalism, refugee/labor flows and migration, economic issues facing developing regions, and movements of people in regions facing change (e.g. Pacific Islands). Richardson mentioned numerous ways in which the AAG has initiated and currently participates in international programs. The AAG also directly supports participation in the IGU, including by funding U.S. geographers' attendance (with NSF support), and by hosting geographic education workshops in Tunisia. AAG will also offer travel support for geographers attending the 2010 IGU regional meeting in Tel-Aviv.

Brown suggested a series of newsletter articles on the topics discussed here. Richardson indicated that perhaps we could request brief updates on IGU activities to publish. Agnew also suggested pieces on food supply, citizenship and related topics that refer specifically to what geographers are doing. Price noted geographers are writing for the UN and their work could be showcased. Friend added the work of mountain geographers as a rich source for articles.

STATUS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Executive Director's Comments

Richardson provided an overview of the association's trajectory between 2000 and 2008. At the beginning of the century, the society faced serious financial and other challenges. The AAG responded by seeking to synchronize itself with larger trends, to push for an integrative role and central place for geography, and to establish a financial foundation. The AAG's assets have risen steadily since 2003 and membership has climbed during the same timeframe. Annual Meeting attendance has grown, our publications reflect an effort to reach out to the world, and there has been an emphasis on growing the discipline and not just the association. Investments have been made in improving the association's organizational infrastructure. There have been initiatives to reach out to all sectors, subfields, and perspectives of the discipline, and to create a place for all geographers in the AAG, including geographers in developing regions. The association has stepped up efforts to showcase geography in the media, to strengthen geographers' career and employment opportunities, to monitor and influence public policy, and to play a role in improving geographic education. Overall, recent efforts have been directed toward transforming geography for the 21st century: establishing long-term financial stability; articulating what geography has to offer society; leveraging technologies to work for the association; expanding public understanding of the work geographers do; supporting interdisciplinarity; fostering synergies among previously disparate trends in the discipline (e.g. GIScience and critical theory), increasing interaction among public, private, and university geographers; and preparing to address key issues of the future, such as sustainability, global economy, and public health.

Finances

Richardson welcomed AAG Treasurer Marston via Skype who led a review of association finances. At the end of FYE 2008, total assets stood at \$8,012,188, with fixed assets of \$238,651. In FYE 2008, the AAG had a total income of \$5.6 million and total expenses of \$4.4 million.

Currently (as of October 31, 2008), the majority of the association's investments are conservatively invested in Certificates of Deposit (\$5.8 million) and were not heavily impacted by the market downturn.

The AAG has a total of \$7.9 in cash and investments. Richardson noted that the AAG's bank, SunTrust, received some bailout funds, and that he stays in touch with the bank's financial advisor to try to monitor any risks.

Richardson requested Council's concurrence to continue his current conservative investment policy and requested Council support for the current investment allocation; Harden moved; Friend seconded, motion passed.

Richardson proposed allocating a portion of the association's recently developed funds to create a new endowment focused on long-term financial stability of the AAG. He noted that the resolutions presented to Council to create this endowment have been reviewed and approved by the AAG attorneys.

Richardson noted that the power to create the endowment rests with the council and encouraged the council to think of the new endowment as a means to sustain the long-term financial health of the AAG and support special programs. Richardson is confident that, with other income streams he has now developed, the association can still function on a day to day basis. With this new endowment, the association would be well positioned to navigate through difficult times.

Agnew presented the following resolution:

Whereas,

1) the Association of American Geographers (AAG) has developed substantial new funds in recent years and established a solid financial foundation for the organization; and whereas

2) the AAG wishes to provide for the long-term future and viability of the AAG with a portion the new funds generated during the past several years; and whereas

3) the AAG believes it is in the best interests of the Association and its members to establish a fund to provide income for the staffing, development, operations, and implementation of the educational and other professional goals of the Association; and whereas

4) the AAG wishes to establish and perpetuate a fund for such purposes with certain monies and properties it will deliver to the fund; and whereas,

5) The AAG Council at its Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts on April 13-15, 2008, unanimously adopted a resolution stating that, "The AAG Council resolves that \$5 million in assets of the Association of American Geographers should be placed in an endowment to support the long-term development of the AAG."; and whereas

6) the AAG or other persons may wish, from time to time, to contribute additional irrevocable gifts of money or property to the fund;

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Now, therefore be it resolved, that there is hereby created and established the Douglas Richardson Endowment for Geography's Future, an endowment fund of the Association of American Geographers, to be funded by funds recently developed and available to the AAG, and by future donations, gifts, subscriptions, bequests, or other moneys to be designated therefore; and resolved further:

A) that the AAG Council authorizes the irrevocable transfer of \$5,000,000 in AAG funds developed over the past several years and currently invested in Certificates of Deposit, to the Douglas Richardson Endowment for Geography's Future, (hereinafter referred to below as the "Endowment Fund") and,

B) that the assets of said Endowment Fund shall be held separate and apart from the general fund or other funds of the Association, shall be kept in perpetuity, and shall be invested under the direction of the AAG Council. The accounts of the Endowment Fund shall be audited annually by the same auditor and at the same time as the other accounts of the Association; and

C) that the AAG Council may, at its option, engage the services of professional fund management such as, but not limited to, a bank trust department, in which case the AAG Council may transfer custody of all or certain assets of the Endowment Fund to a manager who shall have the right to register any securities and other property held hereunder in the name of its nominee, with the understanding that the professional fund management shall have no say in the expenditure of the income from the Endowment Fund and that it shall be willing to accept investment guidelines from the AAG Council; and

D) that the income from the Endowment Fund shall be used only as specified by the AAG Council for special (non-recurring) initiatives or expenditures endorsed by the Council that will aid in promoting the discipline of geography and the goals of the AAG, and that are beyond the normal capabilities of the AAG to fund from its regular budget, and for the reasonable administrative costs necessary to maintain the Endowment Fund. Projects on which the Fund's income may be spent include, but are not limited to, education and dissertation support, research grants, and special projects. Any income not so expended may be added to the principal of the Fund, at the discretion of the AAG Council. The AAG Council may at its discretion classify doubtful items as either income or principal; and

E) that the decisions by a majority of the AAG Council regarding administration of the Endowment Fund, including the investment and distribution of assets of the Endowment Fund, shall be conclusive and shall be in writing; and

F) that any amendments to or modifications of this Resolution must be introduced at a meeting of

the AAG Council prior to the meeting at which the amendment or modification is adopted, must be made a part of the minutes of that prior meeting and must be approved by a majority vote of the entire AAG Council; and

G) that the purposes for which the assets of said Fund are to be expended may not be changed unless the Association is to cease to exist, in which case the AAG Council may designate the assets of the Fund to be used for another charitable purpose which is reasonably similar to the original purpose, provided the proposed changes are introduced at the meeting prior to the meeting at which the changes are adopted, are made a part of the minutes of that prior meeting and are approved by a two-thirds vote of the entire AAG Council.

Marston moved to approve the resolution to establish the endowment; Friend seconded; with a friendly amendment to consider its name in closed session; the motion passed unanimously.

A Closed Executive Session was convened to discuss naming the new endowment.

Baerwald moved to name the new endowment fund the Douglas Richardson Endowment for Geography's Future; Friend seconded; Council passed unanimously.

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Agnew presented the following resolution:

The AAG Council hereby authorizes the addition of those AAG assets received and designated for endowment purposes during the period from 2003 to 2008, of approximately \$336,506 (as of August 31, 2008), and identified on the AAG's audited financial statements' Supplemental Schedules of Restricted Net Assets as the Adv Geog Endowment B, to the Douglas Richardson Endowment for Geography's Future.

Baerwald moved to adopt the resolution to merge the Adv Geog Endowment B into the new endowment; Gamble seconded. Council passed unanimously.

In open session, Richardson noted that Harm deBlij has made an initial donation to establish the AAG Globe Award. The general concept is to establish a high profile award that would be presented to highly accomplished and internationally known recipients who have contributed greatly to the world. The Executive Committee has established a committee to define specifics.

Richardson relayed a message from Peter Yawkey at University of New Orleans that post-Katrina emergency funds to distressed universities were used to support student travel and expressed his gratitude to the AAG. The association has established the AAG Disability Fund in memory of Todd

Reynolds, a student at the University of Oklahoma who recently passed away after making his first visit to the Boston meeting. The association has also circulated a fund raising letter requesting members to consider making bequests to the association.

Membership

At the end of 2008, the AAG had over 10,300 members, a slight increase over the previous year. In addition, there are about 100 members as part of the Developing Regions program, with projections of 500 within the next year.

Richardson asked for council's concurrence to remove optional discounted journals on the membership form and to replace them with several Routledge journals. Members will be eligible to receive one of the new journals online at no charge. Selection includes a range of topics to cover the field. Council supported discontinuing discounted journals and their replacement with free online options.

Following up on a request to review the AAG dues structure from past council meetings, Franklin reviewed different progressive rate structure options for membership dues. She calculated estimated revenue from old dues structure and three new possible structures (based on \$25,000 increments as requested by council, with a total of eight brackets. Each of new the new structures is effectively revenue neutral. She pointed out maintaining revenue is less important than offering fair dues to lower-income groups and that student, retired, and other category of dues will be unaffected by any proposed changes. Richardson indicated he would prefer to see more members rather than raising dues to maintain revenue neutrality over a transition. Agnew favored Structure III which included three categories above \$100K, noting also that most other associations have higher dues than the AAG. Friend moved accepting dues structure III effective January 1, 2009; McAnneny seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Richardson recommended that the AAG keep dues low, and waive the annual dues increase that adjusts for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for 2009. Agnew moved that the AAG make no net dues increase for 2009, Harrington seconded motion, motion passed unanimously.

Richardson announced that the AAG will offer a one-time, 5-year membership special online. This responds to recommendations for a longer-term member-

ship category to help members avoid inflationary dues increases. The one-time offer will help gauge interest.

Publications

Price reported that the Publications Committee met in Washington, DC where it discussed the 5th issue of the *Annals*, editor term renewals, the survey of the *Annals*, and the environmental sciences section. She indicated there was some concern that it might be time to change the format for environmental sciences submissions to more closely mirror other environmental science publications. She reported that Kobayashi has shouldered a large load with editing the first 5th issue; borders among the various *Annals* sections are not hard and fast and editors have collaborated; over the past few years, there has been an improvement in the time from submission to decision and electronic submissions has enhanced the journals' effectiveness. Price also noted that the *Professional Geographer* editor received 100-plus manuscripts annually and has an exceptionally heavy work load which contributes to slightly longer turnaround time. Price noted that the Environmental Science editor term ends December 2009. To ensure an editor in place by July 1, the Council recommended the Publications Committee conduct a search immediately with the possibilities of personal interviews at the Las Vegas meeting and a final council decision.

The first *Annals* 5th issue's theme will be Peace and Conflict and is currently in preparation; over 200 abstracts were received; 40 papers submitted from that field. The fifth issue is a two-year process from solicitation to publication. Next three special issues expected are: 2010—climate change, 2011—energy, and 2012—health. Price asked Council to get the word out on special issues; that format and topic will change from issue to issue; and there is a potential role for guest editors in special issues.

Kobayashi provided a Report from the Editors. Editors favored an increase in the size of the PG to that of the old *Annals*. Richardson recommended waiting on proposing any changes in format since we are still in the first year of a new publication contract, which was supported by council. Kobayashi noted the upcoming 100th anniversary of the *Annals*. Editors also raised the question of Institutional Review Board approvals for authors. Richardson recommended obtaining statements from authors that they have met any human subjects required, such as through a checkbox on

the submission form. Kobayashi will draft wording for the AAG lawyer to review.

Kobayashi relayed that editor Aspinall proposed that the *Annals* change its definition for an Environmental Science paper and suggests shorter length for this section (5000–7000 words). Council supported this change.

Baerwald moved to accept the addition of new editorial board members for the Professional Geographer (Dan Arreola, James Dyer, Suchi Gopal, and Bimal Paul); Friend seconded; motion passed unanimously.

In other publication matters, Richardson directed council's attention to the journal survey results and suggested that they review the summary. Turnaround time at journals has improved. The association is collecting information on departments for the AAG *Guide to Programs*. Recent publications now available through the AAG include *Geography and Drug Addiction*, *Aspiring Academics* and *Teaching College Geography*, and the *Teaching Geography CD*.

Agnew opened discussion on the possibility of bringing *African Geographical Review* (AGR) into the set of AAG publications. Moseley provided background that it originated in 1963 as an African-based journal, *East African Geographical Review*. After a brief lapse, the AAG Africa Specialty group resumed publication in the U.S. and currently publishes one issue a year with 300 individual and 30 institutional subscribers. The journal includes work by African scholars and is considering moving towards two issues annually. Richardson pointed out that adopting the AGR would be a major step for the AAG and would require additional investigation and deliberation. Brown asked whether it would lead to similar efforts for other regions. Richardson pointed out that the journal already has an AAG affiliation through the Africa Specialty Group and that only the one journal was under consideration. Kaplan asked if there was need for publication support or distribution. Moseley responded that the journal currently is self-sustaining, but not prepared financially to ramp up to larger distribution and more frequent publication.

Baerwald moved that central office and Publications Committee investigate the possibility of making AGR an AAG publication; and they will explore the full range of options, Friend seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Meridian Place

Richardson reported on improvements that have been made to the infrastructure and the association is renting additional

office space. Staff numbers are growing and their professional expertise increasing. Efforts are underway to continue to green the AAG, including the online option for journals, publishing the AAG *Newsletter* on partially recycled/sustainable forest paper, and underwriting the use of public transit by staff. The web site is under redevelopment.

Research and Outreach

Richardson reported on new AAG projects including the NSF-funded Quantitative Social Science Digital Library project (together with the University of Michigan) and the NEH-funded historical GIS online archive. An AAG disciplinary data project is underway in response to frequent requests for association membership and other data on the discipline. AAG will co-sponsor a symposium with NIH on Geography, Drugs, and HIV/AIDS; is participating in the creation and launch of the Science and Human Rights Coalition in collaboration with the AAAS; and plans to co-sponsor another GIScience conference. The association is collaborating with EIS-Africa; hosted two geographic education workshops in Tunisia, and continues its involvement in the My Community, Our Earth program in Latin America and Southeast Asia. Solís reported that teachers were very pleased with the US State Department funded workshop in Tunisia and it was a good way to use the talent of the membership. Agnew reported on the Department Leadership workshop. He noted that many participants came from small or hybrid departments. Richardson reported that the AAG continues to do work on career and employment development, including the Jobs in Geography Center and special sessions at the annual meeting. The AAG is now supporting and working with the faculty development workshops organized by Ken Foote in an effort to make that program sustainable and continue its good work.

Public Policy

Richardson noted that geography education issues likely will heat up under the new administration and when Congress considers "No Child Left Behind" legislation.

AAG is monitoring federal and state procurement guidelines for GIS and mapping services. Richardson has contributed regular columns for several years to *ArcNews* which has an international circulation of about 600,000. AAG has members on the NRC committee considering strategic directions for geography. The association is working with the Library of Congress on a potential

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agreement to digitize the Geographers on Film collection and eventually make them available to other archives. An advisory committee has been established to provide direction regarding possible continuation of the series. In terms of international outreach, the developing regions membership is assisting geographers from around the globe to join the association. There is an effort to spotlight Africa on the web site and links to African geography departments are listed online. Some specialty groups are offering free memberships to geographers who join the AAG under the Developing Regions Membership program. The AAG is also administering a journal exchange program to place geography materials in African and Latin American libraries.

Education

Franklin reported on behalf of Michael Solem that new resources are now available on the AAG Faculty Development web-site as well as online resources for global geography education. The association has been successful with new grants such as NSF funding that will extend the EDGE program, and new proposals are in preparation for the NSF and NASA. Collaboration with the NCGE continues with hopes to increase cooperative research efforts. Susan Gallagher of the AAG is working with GENIP organizations on the updated version of the national geography standards.

Annual Meetings

Registrations for the Boston meeting were 7,168, another record high. The Presidential Plenary at Las Vegas will showcase water issues in the American West. Other special session tracks will include African research, human rights, GIScience and ethics, and developing regions. Future meetings: Washington, DC in 2010, Seattle in 2011, and three options are under consideration for 2012: New York, Tampa, and Miami. The Association is cautious about finalizing contracts due to current national economic uncertainties.

Solis reported that a survey of users of the AAG's Childcare Reimbursement program show member satisfaction with the AAG's subsidy of member-selected childcare services during meetings. Franklin pointed out that the session attendance survey from Boston provides limited additional insight to what was learned from San Francisco, namely that session attendance is better in

pre-organized sessions, but organizers continue to be overly optimistic about attendance. Panel attendance is frequently not high and it was thought that panel organizers might be encouraged to meet informally and not use formal meeting space at future meetings. Richardson also noted that a new feature on the AAG web site allows session organizers to locate potential participants for sessions and will enhance their ability to fill up organized sessions.

Richardson introduced an essay published by James McCarthy on mandatory limiting of participation at annual meetings to enhance attendee participation and increase attendance at remaining sessions. It suggests limiting participation to two presentations (one paper or poster and one role as panelist). Council discussed the merits of the proposal, which closely resembles AAG's current voluntary policy.

Wright moved and Harrington seconded motion that participants should be limited to a total of two public presentations at the meeting: a maximum of one paper or poster and one role as a panelist, or two roles as panelist if they do not present a paper or poster. Exemptions can be made for individuals in official capacity. Motion passed unanimously.

Richardson relayed a request from Richard Peet for a free exhibit table for a new journal at the Las Vegas Exhibit Hall. Agnew noted that currently there is an option for small presses and non-profits to share a table and that this option should be relayed to Peet. Council concurred.

Committees and Council

Solis reported that GPOW had requested that a member of their Specialty Group be made an *ex officio* member on the Women in the Status of Geography Committee. The item was placed on the agenda of the Committee of Committees.

Council voted on the slate for the 2009 election of AAG Nominating and Honors Committee members. The final ballot will include: Honors A: Sarah Bednarz and Richard Wright; Honors B: Eric Sheppard, Lynn Staeheli, Fahui Wang, and May Yuan. Nominating Committee: J.P. Jones III, Robert Lake, Bimal Paul, Susan Roberts, Dorothy Sack, and Julie Winkler. The AAG Secretary will notify nominees and request biographical statements for publication in the newsletter.

Following deliberations from action items of the council of the past two years, Richardson reported that two resolutions for

members to vote on changes to the AAG's Constitution and Bylaws were ready to be considered by the Council. They have been considered by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee and also have been reviewed by the AAG law firm. Baerwald praised Darrell Napton and the committee for excellent work dealing with the issues of these important proposed changes. Friend praised Baerwald's diligent efforts and council agreed. One resolution allows for the possibility of electronic voting and the other clarifies the procedures for petitions and resolutions. [Note: the full resolutions are published in the AAG Newsletter (Volume 44, Number 1, January 2009), pages 33–34.]

Baerwald moved the adoption of the resolution regarding electronic voting, Price seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Baerwald moved the adoption of the resolution regarding petitions and resolutions, Harden seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Richardson said that the resolutions will also be voted on by the membership as part of the spring 2009 ballot and will be reproduced in their entirety in the AAG Newsletter and on the AAG website.

Honors and Awards

The AAG Honors Committee presented to council: Donald G. Janelle and Lawrence J. C. Ma as nominees for the Ronald F. Abler Honors for Distinguished Service; John R. Jensen and Audrey Kobayashi as nominees for Lifetime Achievement Awards, David F. Ley as nominee for the Distinguished Scholarship Award; and Donald J. Zeigler as nominee for Honors for Geographic Education. *Friend moved accepting the nominees for AAG Honors, Harden seconded, motion passed unanimously.*

The AAG Executive Committee selected Nobel prize-winning economist Paul Krugman as the next Honorary Geographer for his economic geography scholarship that has drawn attention to geography in a positive way.

The AAG Diversity Task Force recommended that Council name Reginald G. Gollidge for the 2008 Enhancing Diversity Award; Baerwald moved the council approve the nomination, Wright seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Baerwald, in consultation with the Executive Committee, recommended that the AAG Presidential Award will be presented to Thomas J. Wilbanks for his contributions to geographic research and excellent service to geography. He has served on several Na-

tional Academies committees and the IPPC panel. Friend moved to approve; Wright seconded; council passed unanimously.

Specialty and Affinity Groups

Wright reviewed the status of AAG Specialty and Affinity Groups, 60 in all. She noted 58 percent of them submit annual reports. Association is keeping an eye on those not reporting in order to identify lapsed groups, but she emphasized that the lack of reports does not mean a group is inactive.

Wright introduced a newly proposed specialty group: the Animal Geography Specialty Group which seeks to enhance research on animal studies. Its proposal included bylaws and signature pages. Durham raised the question of the growing number of groups. Solís emphasized that each

group wishing to submit a proposal receives information about group responsibilities, including reporting policies, as well as a notice that spells out the council's concern that new proposals do not conflict with existing groups or be established unnecessarily. *Harrington moved to approve the creation of the Animal Geography Specialty Group, seconded by Henderson; the motion passed unanimously.*

Richardson reported that AAG Staff is working closely with two affinity groups, Stand Alone Geographers and Public/Private Affinity Group, to help increase membership and activity. Franklin reported that the AAG is organizing federal employee sessions for Las Vegas and that the co-Chairs have a number of ideas for the annual meeting in Washington DC in 2010. AAG encourages all regional divisions to

appoint a SAGE regional coordinator, who will receive an invitation to the breakfast meeting for regional councillors and regional chairs in Las Vegas.

Future Meetings

The AAG Executive Committee will meet in Washington DC on February 20, 2009. The AAG Council Meeting in Las Vegas will commence on March 20th and conclude on the 22nd.

Agnew thanked the AAG staff and councillors and adjourned. ■

Respectfully submitted,

Craig E. Colten
AAG Secretary

AAG Council Meeting Minutes

Las Vegas, Nevada
March 20-22, 2009

Attending: John Agnew, *President*; Carol Harden, *Vice President*; Tom Baerwald, *Past President*; Sallie Marston, *Treasurer* (via Skype); Craig Colten, *Secretary*; Doug Richardson, *Executive Director*; *National Councillors*: Leslie Duram, Audrey Kobayashi, William Moseley, Marie Price, Dawn Wright; *Regional Councillors*: David Kaplan (East Lakes), Lisa Harrington (Great Plains Rocky Mountains), Molly Brown (Middle Atlantic), Keith Henderson (Middle States), Cathleen McAnney (New England-St. Lawrence Valley), Nancy Wilkinson (Pacific Coast), Donald Friend (West Lakes), and AAG Staff: Patricia Solís and Rachel Franklin.

OPENING

Agnew called the meeting to order and welcomed the council.

Marston moved to approve the minutes of the fall meeting, Moseley seconded, approved unanimously. Marston moved to adopt the agenda, Harrington seconded. Council approved the agenda unanimously.

President's Comments

Agnew reiterated his principal goal to encourage interaction between physical and human geography. The president's plenary session on water in the West will explore this intersection by considering the sustainability of cities and agriculture in an arid region. He encouraged the continuation of efforts to develop interdisciplinarity, internationalization, and strengthening geography as a discipline in the academy.

Vice President's Comments

Harden reported that the theme of her tenure will center on the word "engage." She noted that we do interesting work, but that too often we talk to ourselves. She hopes we can continue to do more to provide leadership on crucial issues, particularly as the new federal government administration settles in. We are well positioned to

contribute to critical world problems, and we need to be engaged in developing and leading research efforts, and in shaping the questions asked – particularly in times of tight budgets.

Past President's Comments

Baerwald expressed satisfaction with the efforts by presidents to continue promoting long-term AAG initiatives. He noted that his presidential address will focus on interdisciplinarity, a key interest area over his term on the Executive Committee. He also underscored the importance of the membership having passed the resolutions to amend the constitution and bylaws to allow for electronic voting and to clarify the use of petitions and resolutions. He mentioned that in this meeting the Council would also consider updates to the standing rules. He added that he was pleased to see these advances and to have played a role in both of these tasks that contributed to the operational functioning of the association. He closed by noting that the newly renamed National Science Foundation's Geography and Spatial Science (GSS) program web page had just been posted and that the GSS program had received the largest FY 2009 percentage budget increase among all the programs in the Division of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences.

Reports from Regional and National Councillors

Regional councillors solicited comments from their respective divisions on the issues facing geography as a discipline and geography departments in times of budgetary contractions. Councillors reported that a consistent response from administrators is that they are trying to avoid faculty layoffs. Some better-managed or endowed schools are facing less severe cuts. There are a few major threats to departments, although this differs by region. Some chairs reported faculty were deferring retirement to avoid the loss of positions, while others reported retirements have enabled some departments to save graduate lines.

Many programs are anticipating an increase in Masters, but not PhD students. Funding for advanced graduate students is extremely tight and external funding is often necessary, which may be forthcoming given the federal government re-emphasizing climate change and expected NSF funding increases in the short term. With fewer advanced students, departments are having to realign labs and introductory courses that rely on TAs.

Techniques that departments are using to ward off cuts included entrepreneurship, creating revenue streams from GIS labs, and alliances with other departments. Certificate programs are expected to grow during periods of high unemployment as workers seek to retool and gain new credentials. Council observed that geographers could play an advisory role in budget oversight required by the federal government economic stimulus funding program. Also, geography can emphasize socially relevant topics including climate, economic development, energy, and hazards. Globalization and internationalization are key trends that provide continued and growing need for geography education. Preparing students for a global society underscores the increasing centrality of geography to university and society.

Departments in private universities that depend on tuition are fearful of declining enrollment, as some students opt to attend less expensive public schools. Loss of faculty lines in small departments can be more detrimental than in larger departments.

To weather tough economic times department chairs work with administrators to focus on metrics that demonstrate the contributions of their departments. For example, since geography often plays an important service role and has large sections, chairs may do well to convince administrators to emphasize head count in addition to majors. Concern was expressed over losing a cohort of geographers during a time of widespread hiring freezes, and if unable to find work, they may move away from academia. To mitigate this prospect, Council suggested that departments might encour-

age faculty to consider soliciting funds for post-doctoral positions to provide temporary opportunities for quality graduates until the economy turns around. Most importantly, we need to maintain a strong sense of solidarity and work collaboratively.

Richardson noted that this subject would be the focus of discussion at the departmental chairs' luncheon later in the week. The AAG Departmental Leadership Workshop will deal with these issues as well.

STATUS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Finance

Marston reported that the AAG Finance Committee met in February 2009 and the association's auditor was very complimentary about the condition of its finances, particularly with respect to other non-profits, and also its internal accounting procedures. The FYE 2010 budget is conservative and projects slightly less income and expenditures in the coming year. The Finance Committee reviewed the proposed budget for FYE 2010 and recommended that the council approve it.

Richardson noted that AAG's net assets increased by \$1.17 million during FYE 2008.

Richardson noted that the AAG has been cautious with its investments and, unlike most other organizations, had a substantial positive return on its investments for FYE 2009. He still remains cautious due to national economic uncertainties and anticipates some impact on membership and annual meeting attendance in the coming year. He expects the staff level to generally remain the same, fluctuating depending based on grants received. He noted that the AAG staff has experienced very low turnover during the past seven years.

Marston noted that most of the AAG's investments are held in money markets and CD's, according to a conservative investment strategy initiated by Richardson and approved by the AAG Council and Finance Committee.

Duram moved for the approval of the FYE 2010 budget; Friend seconded; Council approved unanimously.

Richardson requested Council's reconfirmation to continue the AAG's current con-

servative investment strategy and requested authorization to invest up to 10 percent of CD investments into securities, if market conditions improve.

Harrington moved that the Council affirms continuing the AAG's current conservative investment strategy, and that the AAG Executive Director may move up to 10 percent of money market or CD investments into stocks with the concurrence of the AAG Treasurer if in their judgment market conditions warrant. Agnew seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Richardson reported that a fundraising letter focusing on an appeal for support of the next generation of geographers was developed and distributed. He explained that he focused a good deal of time and energy to maintain relationships with donors, an important and pleasurable duty. He will meet with the AAG fundraising committee during the upcoming AAG conference.

Membership

Richardson reported that at the end of calendar year 2008, AAG membership was over 10,000, although he anticipates a possible slight decline in 2009 due to the current national economic context. The current AAG membership form includes the revised fee structure approved by Council at its Fall 2008 meeting, which reflected no net increase in dues. There also will be no dues increase this year (2009).

Council discussed the set of topical and area proficiencies listed on membership forms. Richardson proposed a subcommittee to review and recommend a gentle revision to this taxonomy to update it without losing the ability to track proficiencies over time. This committee will include Brown, Mosley, Harden, Harrington, and Franklin (staff liaison), to report to Council at its Fall meeting.

Richardson noted that the AAG Developing Regions Membership Program had already signed on several hundred members from around the world. He noted that any AAG member can also sponsor developing region geographers, and several have done so already. Harrington asked whether it would be possible to set up a system to help match potential donors with recipients, and Richardson agreed to look into how the idea could be implemented.

Publications

Richardson mentioned that the April issue of the AAG *Newsletter* will be distributed in all AAG Annual meeting registration packets, and that it features a number of events at the conference as well as special articles about Las Vegas and surrounding areas. Several years ago Council discontinued books on conference host cities for logistical and financial reasons, and they were replaced with "Places On Line," an online portal to links selected by geographers about the meeting location, and with a featured series of articles on the host region in the AAG *Newsletter* and on the AAG website. He noted that the AAG *Newsletter* is printed on partly recycled paper. Richardson passed around a copy of the new AAG *Guide to Geography Programs in the Americas*, just released. He noted that this publication may eventually go online due to the expense of printing and shipping, as well as the consumption of paper. AAG is currently exploring a business model to recover production costs if this publication were to be moved online.

Robin Maier reported that the AAG journals are being published on schedule. She noted that the new team at Routledge has been a pleasure to work with, and very responsive.

Kobayashi reported that the Special Fifth Issues of the AAG *Annals* are on schedule for production. The first Fifth issue is now at about 27 articles. She noted that there had not been much time for authors to produce completely new work after the call for papers. Nonetheless submissions tended to be solid and contain substantial original work, and that it will be an exciting issue. The 2010 Fifth issue focused on Climate Change is progressing and will be published in October 2010. The 2011 special issue will focus on energy, and a pre-call for papers has already been issued. The 2012 topic will be on health. Council recommended that the editors provide status updates of special issues on the AAG web site.

Price, Chair of the Publications Committee, added that the first fifth issue has shorter articles. In the future, articles are expected to be longer, but length will hinge

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on topic and the number of submissions. All prior *Annals* issues are now also online and accessible from the AAG website, thanks to a donation from the National Geographic Society of the remaining missing early issues. Richardson noted that the number of color pages that are being published is still well under the allotment available under our contract and that the *Annals* will provide up to six free color maps, photos, or figures per article.

Regarding Editorial Terms, the Council interviewed applicants for the position of *Annals* Environmental Sciences editor and appointed Mark Fonstad of Texas State University. Council expressed its support for extending outreach for environmental science manuscripts, seeking increased flow of submissions, and a strengthening of the Environmental Sciences section.

Council reviewed other editorial terms that will end soon, including the book review editor and *The Professional Geographer* Editor after 2010.

The AAG Publications committee reviewed a proposal for the *African Geographical Review* (AGR), published by the AAG Africa Specialty Group, to potentially become a formal AAG publication or to consider other avenues of support. The council discussed the advantages and disadvantages of these options for AAG publications. The council concluded that the AAG can assist with the AGR publication for the near term, given synergies with current outreach and external projects with federal research funds for Africa, but that AAG not adopt AGR as an official AAG publication.

Council discussed the current policy regarding the publication of obituaries. Agnew reviewed the current obituary policy and suggested adding extended essays in the AAG *Newsletter* as an option. Richardson suggested the creation of a memorial page on the AAG website where all obituaries as well as tributes could be posted. Council supported continuation of its current *Annals* memorial policy that "Memorials will be printed in the *Annals* for AAG Presidents and for exceptionally distinguished geographers as determined by the Council" and that the AAG *Newsletter* may

publish obituary essays. AAG also will prepare a memorial web page for broader access to and distribution of memorials and tributes to deceased members.

Meridian Place

Richardson noted continued improvement in the AAG central office capacity over the past several years. The AAG has expanded its staff and fostered teamwork, streamlined workflow, and implemented new technologies and capabilities. Operational and infrastructure improvements have been significant. Recently the AAG has been working on "greening" practices as well, which have been described in the Meridian Place columns of the AAG *Newsletter*.

Research

Solís and Richardson reviewed the list of AAG active research projects, which comprise external projects involving several staff who work together as a team, with shifting responsibilities from project to project. She noted the ongoing Global Dialogues on Emerging Science and Technology (GDEST) initiative around Geographic Technologies for Sustainable Development in Africa, with support from the US Department of State; and the My Community, Our Earth project (MyCOE), which recently received funding from NASA to implement a biodiversity and GIS program in nine countries in Africa. The AAG is also working in collaboration with the University of Michigan on an NSF-funded project to develop a quantitative social science pathway for the National Science Digital Library, a program that will introduce geographic capabilities to prominent scholars and educators from other fields. The AAG's Historical GIS project, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, will create an online discussion forum and clearinghouse of information about GIS-based historical archives and research projects, an effort that grew from the AAG's Geography & Humanities Symposium, which also spawned two forthcoming books. The AAG will manage an NSF-funded travel support program

to enable geographers to attend the IGU Regional Meeting in Tel Aviv, Israel 2010, with anticipated funding for about 27 geographers. The Decade of Behavior Distinguished Speaker program provided AAG with funds for honoraria and travel for this year's Presidential Plenary. A current project on the History of AAG is receiving funding from the NSF to allow PI Geoffrey Martin, AAG Archivist, to complete association archives. The AAG is a collaborator on an NSF grant underwriting a graduate ethics seminar for future geospatial technology professionals at Oregon State University. (Many other AAG research projects are discussed below in the Education section.)

Richardson reported on the AAG collaboration with EIS-Africa, and noted that Sives Govender, Executive Director, will be a guest at this meeting. AAG and EIS-Africa have been working to build and strengthen a network of geographers and related scientists and professionals across the continent. AAG staff are also at work on many internal projects such as developing an AAG Geography and Human Rights Clearinghouse and a Disciplinary Data Clearinghouse; Richardson noted that the AAG was working closely with the US Library of Congress to preserve, archive, digitize, and make available digital films of the Geographers on Film project. Publications related to Geography and Drug Addiction in collaboration with National Institutes of Health and the *GIScience and Technology Body of Knowledge* publication are now available from UCGIS and AAG.

Proposed projects include additional proposals to the State Department for expanding work in Africa related to sustainability; an InterAmerican Development Bank Knowledge Partnership Korea Fund project to develop a Latin American Center of Excellence on Geographic Technologies for Innovation and Economic Development; a GIS and Biodiversity project to the JRS Biodiversity Foundation; and two proposals to the NSF in the Geosciences and the Geography and Spatial Sciences Program for enhancing diversity in the discipline, among others.

Baerwald reported that a program name change at the NSF to Geography and Spatial Science seeks to capture a broader range of people whose research is intersecting with geography, and to be more inclusive and more interdisciplinary. The change has received positive feedback from inside NSF and from proposal submitters. Richardson praised Baerwald's contribution to geography through his service at NSF. He suggested that departments could make a strong case to university administrators by noting that geography received the largest FY 2009 percentage budget increase of all programs in the Division of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences. Baerwald noted that the increased funding reflected the quality of proposals received by geographers and scholars in related fields who are engaged in geographical research.

Richardson referenced a column published in the *AAG Newsletter* about the federal government stimulus package, and indicated that NSF funding would largely go to proposals already in the pipeline. He also noted that the National Science and Technology Center issued a report on Social, Behavioral and Economic Research in the Federal Context (2009), which summarizes key social science challenges and identifies research areas that can inform policy decisions.

It was noted that the National Geographic Society is experiencing economic challenges related to the way in which the downturn has affected the publishing industry, and that this will likely impact its external funding programs this coming year. The NGS Foundation will still embark on its new Geographic Literacy program.

The Council discussed an item recently brought to the AAG regarding ethics and research practice related to the American Geographical Society's Bowman Expeditions México Indígena Project. Although this is not an AAG project, the Council decided to examine the AAG's own ethics statement in light of the issues raised by the AGS project. *Baerwald moved that the executive committee appoint a task force, to be approved by council, to examine the AAG Ethics Statement and make recommendations for modifications to the AAG Ethics Statement to Council for consideration at its fall 2009 meeting. The motion was seconded by Agnew, and passed unanimously.*

Council recommended that Alexander Murphy, as one of the authors of the current AAG Ethics Statement, serve on the task force. Council members also suggested including members from the Indigenous Geography Specialty Group and the AAG Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Committee. The AAG's current ethics statement is available online at www.aag.org/Info/ethics.htm.

Outreach

Council reviewed outreach efforts, including special conferences such as the AfricaGIS Conference; Department Leadership Workshops; Geography Faculty Development Workshops; My Community, Our Earth Workshops; Race, Place and Ethnicity Conference; and GIS Ethics Workshop; careers in geography activities, such as plans to update the AAG website for careers and employment, Annual Meeting sessions devoted to career opportunities, with one specifically on federal employment options, and other activities.

Ongoing Public Policy activities include continued monitoring of restrictive mapping and GIS procurement efforts, to which the AAG, USRISA, and others have responded in the past. In addition, many private sector organizations have joined AAG's position and stated that they are also opposed to restrictive procurement practices.

John Wertman reported on AAG-conducted educational briefings on geography for House of Representatives staff and on requested discussions with policymakers regarding inclusion of geography in revisions to the No Child Left Behind legislation. He noted that the new federal administration was alert to science and areas of interest to geographers such as climate change, and other topics. AAG is collaborating with the Coalition for National Science Funding to enhance the position of science funding as part of the federal recovery act of 2009. Wertman added that the AAG Annual Meeting to be held in Washington, DC in 2010 will present a rich opportunity for geography to showcase its capabilities and engage with federal government.

Richardson updated the Council on substantial new developments in the AAG's

work with the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition (Richardson serves as Chair of the Coalition's Steering Committee). He also announced that the new AAG Geography and Human Rights Clearinghouse bibliography is now available online. The AAG is playing a major role by promoting collaboration between scientific associations and human rights organizations, and in exploring how science and geography can help address human rights abuses around the world. This coalition is also seeking to defend the human rights of scientists and to underscore the importance of human rights in the conduct of scientific research.

International Activities at the AAG have continued to expand, particularly with developing nations, including initiating programs to emphasize internationalization; making stronger connections with international scientists; working with existing organizations; promoting the AAG Journals Exchange Program and others. This AAG Annual Meeting in Las Vegas includes special visits from sister societies around the world. For example, the AAG will receive a national delegation from the newly formed Professional Association of Romanian Geographers, including a meeting with AAG President John Agnew to explore collaboration opportunities; and the AAG will be signing a memorandum of understanding with the Association of Professional Geographers in India (APGI) following a special session chaired by AAG Past President Kavita Pandit.

Education

Michael Solem and Susan Gallagher provided a report on educational affairs and research at the AAG. The NSF-funded AAG Enhancing Departments and Graduate Education in Geography (EDGE) project has produced two books, *Aspiring Academics*, and *Teaching College Geography*, which are available from the AAG. AAG continues to seek ways to expand and extend the work of the successful EDGE project.

AAG is now supporting the Faculty Development summer workshops, for which

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this year's institutes are now being arranged. AAG also conducts research on employment helping to reveal employable skills to direct training, and a new national level project to study career paths will offer additional insight to opportunities. Graduates at Penn State hosted a NO Boundaries conference building upon the results of AAG Educational research and activities. An educational CD on fostering spatial thinking is now available as well as flyers on spatial thinking as applied to learning frameworks within various other disciplines. Gallagher reported on the update of the National Geography Standards. Solem added that staff have been working with the International Network for Learning and Teaching geography. AAG continues to liaison with NCGE. AAG's Center for Global Geography Education continues its work, and offers online resources and collaboration opportunities. Staff have given presentations to the US Department of Education. Proposals for new activities have been submitted to the NSF Research and Evaluation on Education in Science and Engineering, NASA, the MacArthur Foundation, and other organizations.

Council reviewed and discussed a message from Eugene Scott of the National Center for Science Education. It requested AAG's endorsement of a statement to the Texas State Board of Education opposing efforts to "undermine the teaching of biological evolution and related subjects in earth and space sciences." *Council voted unanimously in favor of endorsing the NCSE letter.*

CONTINUING AND NEW BUSINESS

Annual Meeting

Upcoming meetings are scheduled for Washington, DC (2010), Seattle (2011), and options still under review for 2012 include Tampa, Miami, and New York. The AAG Annual Meeting in Las Vegas is expected to draw more than 6,000 attendees. The Presidential Plenary will focus on a regional theme, Water in the West and will feature Jim Powell, author of *Dead Pool*. The Past President's address will examine interdisciplinarity and include the presentation

of AAG Presidential Achievement Awards, to be followed by the AAG international networking reception in the Exhibit Hall. Program tracks include an Africa Research Track, Geography and Human Rights Track, Historical GIS Track, and HIV and Drug Abuse Track. Some sessions will be filmed and made available on the AAG website.

At its Fall 2008 meeting, the AAG Council passed a resolution for mandatory restrictions on paper and panel session participation for future meetings, which will be implemented with the 2010 conference. The new restrictions will be included in the upcoming call for papers.

Honors and Awards

Council reviewed the list of honors and awards for 2009. AAG Honors Awards: AAG Gilbert Grosvenor Honors for Geographic Education to Donald Zeigler; AAG Distinguished Scholarship Honors to David Ley; AAG Ronald F. Abler Distinguished Service Honors to Donald Janelle and Laurence Ma; AAG Lifetime Achievement Honors to John Jensen and Audrey Kobayashi; 2009 AAG Honorary Geographer Paul Krugman; AAG Presidential Achievement Awards to Thomas Wilbanks and Douglas Richardson; AAG Enhancing Diversity Award to Reginald Colledge; AAG Globe Book Award for Public Understanding of Geography to Owen Dwyer and Derek Alderman; AAG Meridian Book Award for Outstanding Scholarly Work in Geography to Robin Leichenko and Karen O'Brien; J.B. Jackson Prize to Blake Gumprecht; AAG Burrill Award to Sylvio Mannel; and the AAG Mel Marcus Fund for Physical Geography Award to Jack Shroder and Brandon Weihs.

Committees

Colten presented a slate of nominees for AAG standing committees as recommended for approval by the Committee on Committees. *The slate of appointments to AAG committees passed unanimously.*

Colten moved that the Chair of the Geographic Perspectives on Women Specialty Group or its designee will serve as a member of the Committee on Status

of Women in Geography. Harrington seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Council discussed the Committee on the Status of Women in Geography (COSWG) request for funding and other assistance. Committee on Committees acknowledged that the requests are for worthy activities, but current policy is that the association does not normally fund committees directly. The Council concurred that the COSWG work within its current charge in liaison with the AAG staff to discover ways in which its ideas could be integrated with ongoing activities and potentially within future proposals for external support.

Wright reported on the agenda for the annual AAG Specialty and Affinity Group Chairs Meeting to be held at this conference. She added that the AAG Staff will also hold a new technical orientation session later in the week for new specialty group chairs. Solís noted that the draft of the AAG Specialty and Affinity Group Handbook is complete, and will undergo revision after feedback from these meetings, with a final version to be released online this summer.

Richardson reported that the Stand Alone Geographers Affinity Group and the Public and Private Sector Affinity Group are taking shape. Kaplan has been leading SAGE organizational efforts within the regional divisions. SAGE regional representatives will attend a breakfast meeting with the regional councillors and officers during the AAG Annual Meeting. The Public and Private Sector Affinity Group has organized several sessions for the Las Vegas meeting.

Election Results

Colten reported that the 2009 AAG Tellers Committee (Robert Rice, Chair; Mark Butman, Daniel Cole, Ryan Engstrom, Qifeng Lu, Marc Perry, Trudy Suchan, Paul Young, and Edmund Zolnik) convened at the offices of McMaster & Associates, PC., Certified Public Accountants, on March 13, 2009, and reported the results of the AAG 2009 Election, as follows:

President: Carol Harden, University of Tennessee; Vice President: Ken Foote,

University of Colorado; National Councillors: Amy Glasmeier, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and L. Allen James, University of South Carolina; Honors Committee A: Sarah Bednarz, Texas A&M University; Honors Committee B: May Yuan, University of Oklahoma; and Eric Sheppard, University of Minnesota; Nominating Committee: John Paul Jones III, University of Arizona; Susan Roberts, University of Kentucky; and Julie Winkler, Michigan State University. Resolution To Revise the AAG Constitution and Bylaws to Allow for Electronic Voting: Approved by membership vote. Resolution To Revise the AAG Constitution and Bylaws to Facilitate the Use of Petitions and Resolutions: Approved by membership vote.

Election of Councillors and Officers

AAG Regional Councillors elected were: Dagmar Budikova (Illinois State University), West Lakes; Laurie Hummell (West Point), Middle States; other regional elections are still underway.

The Executive Committee nominated Lisa Harrington to serve as AAG Secretary. Council voted unanimously in favor.

The Executive Committee nominated Nancy Wilkinson to serve as AAG Treasurer. Council voted unanimously in favor.

The National Councillors elected Bill Moseley as National Councillor Chair. The Regional Division Councillors elected Cathleen McAnneny as Chair of Regional Division Councillors.

Solís, Richardson, and Baerwald presented a revised document of the AAG Standing Rules. *Baerwald moved adoption of the standing rules. Marston seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.*

Council observed its schedule of future meeting dates: Executive Committee, October 3, 2009 in San Diego, California and Council, October 30 to November 1, 2009, in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Visitors

Daniel Edelson, Executive Director of the National Geographic Society Educa-

tion Foundation, addressed the Council and described the society's plans for its Geographic Literacy program. Its objective is to raise geographic literacy to a threshold level for citizens to operate in the 21st century by 2025. NGS seeks to continue to cooperate and collaborate with the AAG around geographic education.

Sives Govender, Executive Director of EIS-Africa, reported that his organization for twenty years has been dedicated to GIS, planning, environmental management, and sustainable development in Africa; conducts work throughout the continent; is working with the UN on AIDS in Africa; and frequently represents Africa to Global Organizations with interest in geospatial data. He noted his appreciation and the positive feedback among their members for the valuable interaction and collaboration with the AAG, Richardson, and staff.

Resolutions

Whereas, Thomas J. Baerwald, as Vice President, and President of the Association of American Geographers has exercised exceptional leadership in assisting the Association to address the challenges facing the discipline of Geography, particularly as an inclusive and interdisciplinary discipline; has contributed valuable efforts toward greater outreach to university administrators, at national level science agencies, and with leading organizations in related disciplines; has facilitated efficiencies, clarity, and responsiveness within the association's institutional governance and toward increased integration with AAG Regional Divisions, and has supported the AAG's efforts to broaden the awareness of the contribution of geography in public policy, decision making, and society as a whole.

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Association of American Geographers, assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada on the occasion of its 105th Annual Meeting, heartily thanks Tom for his leadership of the Association during the past three years, and especially for his efforts to promote the discipline

and broaden its connections to expand the relevance and reach of geography in a variety of ways.

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

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

Therefore Be It Resolved that The Association of American Geographers, assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada on the occasion of its 105th Annual Meeting, extends warm appreciation to Past President Thomas Baerwald and retiring AAG Treasurer and National Councillor Sallie Marson, AAG Secretary and Southwestern Regional Division Councillor Craig Colten, National Councillor Chair Dawn Wright, Regional Division Councillor Chair and West Lakes Councillor Donald A. Friend, East Lakes Regional Division Councillor David H. Kaplan, and Middle States Regional Division Councillor Keith Henderson for the energy, time, and talent they have contributed to the Association during their terms on the AAG Council.

Whereas, Members of The Association of American 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 Association of American Geographers, assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada on the occasion of its 105th 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.

Agnew thanked Council and AAG staff.

Council adjourned. ■

Submitted respectfully by
Craig E. Colten, AAG Secretary

AAG Council Meeting Minutes

Saint Paul, Minnesota
October 31-November 1, 2009

Attending: Carol Harden, *President*; Kenneth Foote, *Vice President*; John Agnew, *Past President*; Nancy Wilkinson, *Treasurer*; Lisa Harrington, *Secretary*; Douglas Richardson, *Executive Director*; *National Councillors:* William Moseley (*Chair*), Amy Glasmeier, L. Allan James, Audrey Kobayashi, Marie Price; *Regional Councillors:* Cathleen McAnneny (New England-St. Lawrence Valley; *Chair*); Dagmar Budikova (West Lakes), Doug Gamble (Southeast), Alyson Greiner (Southwestern), Lisa Harrington (Great Plains/Rocky Mountains), Laurie Hummel (Middle States), Nancy Wilkinson (Pacific Coast), Antoinette WinklerPrins (East Lakes); *AAG staff member:* Patricia Solís.

OPENING

Harden called the meeting to order and welcomed new Council members. Harden reviewed the agenda. *James moved that the agenda be adopted and McAnneny seconded. The agenda was adopted unanimously. The minutes of the spring Council meeting had been approved via e-mail. Gamble moved that the Council reaffirm approval of minutes. Wilkinson seconded. The spring minutes were reaffirmed unanimously.*

President's Comments

Harden's comments focused on the visibility of geographers to the public and decision-makers. Geographers need to reach out to people and let them know what we do, and the importance of our work. She noted that at all times, but particularly when resources are short, it's important for geographers to be visibly engaged in issues important to the broader society. The AAG staff has made outstanding efforts to advance geography and build relationships between geography and other disciplines. The rest of us also need to put a public face on the important research we do and the interesting issues we discuss. We can do that by disseminating our work more broadly, seeing our work as newsworthy, and reaching out to other constituencies (potentially extending our personal comfort zones).

One issue to which geographers can contribute in many ways is helping the broader population consider how to respond to climate change scenarios. The Presidential Plenary at the 2010 AAG meeting will feature geographers who are helping lead the National Academies' study of *America's Climate Choices*. Harden noted that she is excited about this event, which is to include four geographers who have leadership roles in the Climate Choices initiative; the report will not yet have been released, so the event will, in a sense, be the Washington debut for the study results.

Vice President's Comments

Foote noted that over the last decade he has worked on efforts to support early career academic geographers. He now will be working with Solem and others to extend these efforts to geographers going into non-academic careers—about a third of PhD graduates actually enter non-academic positions. Foote also wants to extend leadership opportunities within Geography: the annual AAG Departmental Leadership Workshop will be in Boulder in conjunction with the early career workshop in 2010, and will extend content regarding departmental status and conditions to the early career group. Foote also expressed a desire to provide much better support to foreign-born faculty, who make up about one-third of the U.S. total. For this group, a number of tensions need to be addressed, in addition to early career issues.

Past President's Comments

Agnew reiterated his emphasis on the interaction between human and physical geography. His politics of water meeting session illustrated how the two sides could engage more often than they normally seem to do. This is important at a time when many departments appear to be undergoing transitions; it is important to keep people engaged and talking to one another—not past one another. He also has continued interest in internationalization of the discipline and of AAG. Related activities will be continuing with connections to Harden and Foote.

Following the Past President's remarks, and in response to comments initiated by Glasmeier, there was discussion of the need for additional opportunities for continuing professional and intellectual development of geographers. Comments focused on keeping up with new ideas, and retaining connections with geographers who go into government work at all levels.

Reports from Regional Councillors

McAnneny led the review of the status of geography programs by region. The Executive Committee had asked that reports focus on strategies and successes in these difficult economic times.

Middle States

Hummel noted that Villanova is doing very well. It has a new Department of Geography and the Environment with 75 majors and approval for a master's program. [N.B. The following information for Middle States was added after Council met: Programs reported that no staff positions had been eliminated as a result of the economic downturn, although departments anticipate attrition losses in

the future, with creation of policies to leave open slots unfilled. In general, departments are focusing on trying to keep the faculty they have, and they are at least for awhile shelving any plans for expansion. Budget problems have affected course offerings in geography; common themes include more courses being taught by adjuncts, a reduction in non-introductory course offerings, and raising the minimum number of students required to offer a course. These factors make it difficult to offer the upper-division courses that geography majors need, and field courses are also at risk. Budget reductions for AY 2010 are quite common; nine schools reported a mean 10.4 percent decrease. Several department leaders felt that AAG can assist navigation through tough economic times by capping annual meeting costs through choosing more modest venues and eliminating activities that don't contribute to basic scholarly exchange. Requests were also made for AAG to continue to widely promote how important geography has become in society.]

Southwest (SWAAG)

Greiner reported that the impact of the recession has been highly variable, both within and among states in the region. In general, the tenor of feedback was cautious, with many departments expressing reservations about budget scenarios without stimulus monies, especially one or two years into the future. Several programs are coping with budget cuts and hiring freezes. Departments reported a mix of stable or strong enrollments, as well as areas for program growth. Factors and strategies cited as contributing to program success include successful internship programs, sustained demand for graduates with geotechniques skills, state-of-the-art facilities, aggressive web presence, and wise use of lab fees.

West Lakes

Budikova reported that budget cuts are more common than not. Indiana and Iowa have seen cuts of about 10 percent, partly due to inflationary losses. At least one department had to return excess funds to the university. There are concerns about what conditions will be like, post-stimulus spending. There has been some hiring, although freezes on raises and hiring are common. There are challenges related to retention of support staff and covering teaching needs. Strategies include promoting the discipline and finding ways to increase its visibility and relevance on campus and in the community, increasing fund-raising efforts, and increasing student recruitment efforts.

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Southeast (SEDAAG)

Gamble had distributed a written survey to programs. He received about 22 responses, from which he concluded that the states worst off are Florida, North Carolina, and Tennessee (in that order). There are comparative advantages for programs that are seen as "good and cheap." This can be surprisingly positive, with Geography doing well compared to more expensive disciplines in some locations.

There was discussion of economic conditions, the status of geography programs/geographers, and AAG activities. This included coping mechanisms, activities at the annual meeting, and effects on the annual meeting. Richardson noted that, despite difficult economic times, the number of 2010 meeting registrations received by the initial abstract deadline were the highest ever (more than 5,000) and he expects that by the April event, registration may reach an all-time high of around 8,000.

East Lakes

WinklerPrins reported that although East Lakes is one of the most economically depressed parts of the country, she was surprised at how well geography is doing. Based on input from her region, the discipline seems to be faring very well, in spite of cuts. She mentioned that having active, dedicated, engaged faculty pays off, and that work is being done with curricular offerings, including work addressing how to strategically use environmental science or environmental studies to increase geography majors. Strengths and strategic positioning also come through community engagement and attention to green, sustainability, and tourism studies. Grand Valley State University is getting a new major. Enrollments across the region are not declining—they are stable or up. At Michigan State University the Geography department may grow as related departments are eliminated. If hiring is frozen, departments in the region seem to have already hired enough personnel to weather this. One program asked about standard part-time pay rates; there was discussion of part-time positions, pay rates, and the need for living wages.

Pacific Coast

Wilkinson noted that economic conditions and the status of programs was a major topic of discussion at the regional meeting's department chairs session. Oregon seems to be benefitting from growth related to California's economic conditions. Success in the Pacific Coast region has come from finding new kinds of money and using indirect costs differently; offering more summer sessions, GIS certificate programs, and distance education (in two ways: offering it directly, and using distance education offered

by other programs to help students get the coursework not currently available in their own program); and departments charging for services that used to be free. Other strategies are to "go hide, or get bold and propose a new program"—with no queue of new proposals based on current conditions, it is actually a fairly good time to be considered, although it would have to be possible without new resources. Very small programs are in danger, particularly because they can look vulnerable from non-replacements.

Great Plains/Rocky Mountain

Harrington reported that a number of departments are, as expected, experiencing problems, including budget cuts, an inability to run searches for needed faculty positions, very low travel funds, insufficient assistantships, and lack of raises, in spite of having successful programs. Strategies appear to have seen mixed 'success': some have been helpful, some are simply the necessities of getting by, and some exist, but without clear indications of success. On the 'getting by' side are consolidating classes into much larger sections in order to reduce the number of sections that must be covered, reducing course offerings, hiring into lectureships rather than tenure lines, and hiring work-study students rather than staff. Defending against encroachment by other disciplines, particular related to teaching 'earth system science,' GIS, and remote sensing, and maintaining the status of other courses as general education credits have been necessary. Proactive strategies include a number of actions as mentioned for other regions.

New England-St. Lawrence Valley (NESTVAL)

McAnneny reported that across the region, geography seems to be stable. Severe cuts have been made and rescissions have been required, but there also have been some bright spots. Some position replacements have been possible, enrollments have been increasing, and the number of Geography majors is up. Programs have been following a variety of strategies to maintain health.

The regional reports were followed by a discussion of concerns regarding the status of the 'Geography Graduate Group' at the University of California at Davis. There was Council consensus for President Harden to write a letter of support if requested by the group.

Reports from National Councillors

As Chair of the National Councillors, Moseley led the discussion based on their input. He explained that President Harden had asked the National Councillors to consider the visibility of geography, with three questions posed to the councillors: 1) Is visibility an issue, or are we doing all right? 2) What opportunities are there

for increasing visibility in short to long term in the U.S.? and 3) What are major national issues today in which geographers can play an important role?

Each national councillor expressed the opinion that, despite recent progress, visibility remains an issue for the discipline. A variety of ideas regarding opportunities for increasing visibility and key national issues were expressed.

James expressed the opinion that we have come into our own regarding the relevance of what we do. We need to let other disciplines know that we've been doing many of these things for a long time—other disciplines have been trying to reinvent the wheel. Universities are restructuring: we need to position ourselves in the growth cycle, and to be alert and well-represented. Restructuring coincides with renewed environmental awareness, which probably will come about as whole new cycle of growth. Other opportunities exist in local government, planning and management organizations, and higher levels of government. As far as a key theme, James focused on interdisciplinary work and the integrative nature of geography, listing a number of societal needs and areas where the discipline can contribute, including globalization, social justice, global change, climate change, sustainability, human impacts on the physical environment, landscape sensitivity, biodiversity, water and energy linkages, geographic technologies, and multi-scale analysis.

Kobayashi agreed and added that visibility very definitely is an issue, although Geography is more visible than it used to be. She noted that many PhD students come from other fields; there are both potentials and problems associated with this. This can be seen as expansion of the discipline. Geography needs to be expansive, for example, show that it's not just about doing specific research on climate change, but that there are opportunities to link climate change to other issues (social, economic justice, etc.). Visibility and relevance are linked to the synoptic quality of the discipline. At this particular moment, it's important to forestall or limit and respond to disinformation, which has increased spectacularly in the media. With respect to marketing ourselves, Kobayashi noted that if it is simply being able to contribute in order to get funded, we are taking an extremely dangerous route: this can damage academic freedom and the ability to be critical.

Price noted that one of the visibility concerns is the issue of students going to universities not knowing that geography exists as a potential discipline (or parents recognizing this, either). We can do things in our own universities, such as linking teaching and outreach through service learning. There is nothing better than creating

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visibility to the point that outsiders come to you. As we send undergraduates out into jobs, we can improve how we present them in a professional light through tools like a senior portfolio. Price agreed with other national councillor comments, focusing on sustainability, urban issues, and a perspective that links human-environmental dynamics. We do need to make sure geography is at the table, and to reach out beyond our comfort zone: we need to talk to people in other disciplines.

Glasmeier noted that all of the preceding comments are relevant at different scales. Geography *is* visible, and the relevance of geography is understood. The question is whether geographers are the source of the message being conveyed. Geographers are now more present at policy-level discussions than in past, but still not large enough in number. There is a need for geographers who can communicate across boundaries. The issue is how we have better communication; different levels of analysis are important. Non-geographers can mimic a lot of what we do; for visibility, we need geographers in the *New York Times*. In terms of reaching the K-12 level, maybe we need computer games and applications identified as geography. Geographers can contribute where there is a need for connections between policy and science. Glasmeier suggested that a databank making policy-relevant studies available would be useful, and would illustrate some of the relevance of geographers' activities.

Moseley began by agreeing that the issue is not just about capturing resources. As Alec Murphy has noted, we want geography to be a part of debate because we have something to contribute. Geography has gone through several decades of wrestling with an inferiority complex and identity (1970s-early 90s); Moseley thinks we're beyond that now, but we can't stop minding the store. We're likely to see population of students in U.S. starting to decline, and competition for students will grow fiercer. Geographers need to be active in developing a K-12 "farm system." Changes are occurring: there is a new national administration, the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation is being considered again, and progress with AP geography has been huge. Geography continues to suffer from paucity of public intellectuals, however; AAG could do more to send signals that being a public intellectual is important and valued. We should provide people with training and skills to deal with the media. Geography is strongest at public universities and weak in the nation's private schools. One key pathway into these is through interdisciplinary programs. Geographers should continually build bridges to other disciplines, getting published in interdisciplinary journals and going to interdisciplinary meetings. Lastly,

we need to undertake research on big, socially-relevant questions, including the global food crisis, global environmental change, urbanization, neo-geography, and conflict and development.

Moseley also noted that Leslie Duram could not attend due to her sabbatical overseas. However, she had communicated to him that she sees one of the major issues in the U.S. as being the absence of geography from the regular K-12 school curriculum, unlike other parts of the world where geography is better understood and has a higher level of recognition.

Discussion suggested that Geography has far greater visibility and is held in higher regard by the public than 15 years ago, and focused on how we might expand on this. Geography is now more central place in society, and more central in university settings based on interdisciplinary connections and a shift in understanding of what geography has to offer other programs. In order to strengthen external ties, James made a motion to authorize the Executive Director, at his discretion, to select up to 30 individuals for courtesy associate (non-voting) memberships. Kobayashi seconded; the motion passed. Councillors were encouraged to provide names of recommended individuals to Richardson.

STATUS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Executive Director's Comments

Richardson provided an overview of the association's trajectory between 2000 and 2008. At the beginning of the century, the society faced serious financial and other challenges. The AAG responded by seeking to synchronize itself with larger trends, to push for an integrative role and central place for geography, and to establish a financial foundation. The AAG's assets have risen steadily since 2003 and membership has climbed during the same timeframe. Annual Meeting attendance has grown, our publications reflect an effort to reach out to the world, and there has been an emphasis on growth of the discipline. Investments have been made in improving the association's organizational infrastructure. There have been initiatives to reach out to all sectors, subfields, and perspectives of the discipline, and to create a place for all geographers in the AAG, including geographers in developing regions. The association has stepped up efforts to showcase geography in the media, to strengthen geographers' career and employment opportunities, to monitor and influence public policy, and to play a role in improving geographic education. Recent efforts have been directed toward transforming geography for the 21st Century: establishing long-term financial stability; articulating what geography has to offer society; leveraging technologies to work for the discipline; expanding public understanding

of the work geographers do; supporting interdisciplinarity; fostering synergies among previously disparate trends in the discipline (e.g., GIScience and critical theory); increasing interaction among public, private, and university geographers; and preparing to address key issues of the future, such as sustainability, the global economy, and public health.

Finances

Wilkinson and Richardson provided an overview of the organization's financial status. The auditor's report for fiscal year ending August 31, 2008 (FYE 2008) was good and indicates that the organization is on firm footing. Total assets are at \$7.8 million and liabilities are substantially less than assets. For FYE 2008, change in net assets was a positive \$1.17 million. AAG accounting is conservative regarding what is considered as revenue and expected revenue, and conservative on depreciation and discounted cash flow. The FYE 2009 draft balance sheet was reviewed. Richardson noted that final accruals are not yet completed for FYE 2009, but the current estimated net income is over \$500,000. Total investment returns have been substantially positive.

Richardson provided an overview of the FYE 2010 Budget. The FYE 2010 Budget had been reviewed in detail and had been recommended by the AAG Finance Committee and approved by the AAG Council at its Spring 2009 meeting.

Richardson requested Council's reconfirmation to continue the AAG's current conservative investment policy, which emphasizes no-risk or low-risk investments (such as CDs) for the majority of AAG's investments, and a conservative bond to stock ratio for the smaller amount of AAG's assets which are invested in securities. Council concurred.

Membership

Richardson reported that membership numbers are still strong. At over 10,300, membership currently is slightly higher than in 2008. He expects membership numbers to remain flat for a couple of years, then go up more. There was discussion of member sources (academia; public and private sector; developing regions), whether there is an upper limit to membership, and dues structure. Richardson noted that students have been a growing proportion of membership, with the pace of growth of student memberships being slightly higher than regular memberships.

At the last Council meeting, a committee chaired by Moseley (with members Harden, Brown, and Harrington) was asked to review topical and area specialties listed on the AAG

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Membership Form. Moseley presented initial recommendations and asked for feedback. The specializations ("proficiencies") check-offs are mainly used for queries at AAG, and to identify people with particular interests. Suggestions were to be provided to Moseley; the committee will work on this further and give recommendations to Council at the next meeting.

Richardson noted that special sessions are being organized by the membership to recognize some recently-deceased members at the 2010 meeting.

Publications

Regarding journal operations, Richardson observed that AAG publications come out on time, and that the first 5th (and special thematic) issue of the *Annals* is coming out this year, under Kobayashi's editorship. There will be a centenary issue in 2010. It was noted that the PG citation rate has gone up significantly over last few years.

There was discussion about an *Annals* memorial for Reg Golledge. Price moved that Bob Stimson be invited to write the memorial for Reginald Golledge. Wilkinson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Richardson described an AAG memorials website under development, which will include all existing *Annals* memorials and necrology entries from the AAG Newsletter. It will be searchable, with entries alphabetical by last name, and will include links to additional memorials. If there is no published memorial for an individual, members can write memorials for posting.

In 2008, Council approved a policy that editorial board members not overlap between the *Annals* and the PG, grandfathering those already on both. Mei-Po Kwan and Mark Fonstad have submitted editorial board requests for their *Annals* sections, but overlap exists with the current PG board. There was discussion, and an observation that there is an ongoing search for a new PG editor, who will choose a new board for Council approval once appointed. Price moved to approve the editorial boards that have been submitted by Mei-Po Kwan and Mark Fonstad, and those three individuals who already are on the PG Board will begin their terms on the *Annals* editorial board on completion of their current terms. Agnew seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

There have been a number of requests over the past few years that the AAG *Guide to Geography Programs in the Americas* be published online. Richardson noted that there are many arguments for this; the real reluctance has been that for many members this has been an important reference, with an advantage to having it in hardcopy. He suggested that AAG publish one more year in hardcopy and start developing a business plan for publishing online, including consideration of offering a print-on-demand version. The Execu-

tive Committee has reviewed this suggestion and recommended its adoption. There was discussion of the importance of the AAG *Guide*, and how an online version might be handled. WinklerPrins moved to approve transition of the AAG *Guide to Geography Programs* to an online publication beginning with the 2010-11 version, and that the Executive Director be authorized to begin plans for this. James seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Kobayashi suggested that the business plan include a provision for maintaining historical data from year-to-year in some kind of archive due to the importance of those past records.

Price asked councillors to encourage applications for PG editor and PG book review editor. The deadline for both is January 1. Richardson noted that PG citations have gone up under Sharmistha Bagchi-Sen's editorship, for which Councillors expressed appreciation. Richardson noted that Miranda Lecea is working on publications during Robin Maier's maternity leave; she may continue to work with publications as part of her staff responsibilities after Maier returns.

Meridian Place

Richardson reviewed the status of personnel, benefits, and infrastructure. Of particular importance, the AAG website is being completely redesigned. The upgraded website and content management system is due and should be operational in early 2010.

Research and Outreach

The association has a large number of currently funded and ongoing projects, including:

- A follow-on from the Global Dialogues on Emerging Science and Technology (GDEST) Program: Geospatial Science for Sustainable Development, with funding from the US Department of State and including extensive interactions with EIS-Africa, African universities, and NGOs active in Africa;
- My Community, Our Earth (MyCOE) Using Geographic Technologies for Biodiversity in Africa program conducted by AAG with USAID, NASA-SERVIR, and the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) for geographers and scholars in 12 countries in Africa, including a November 2009 workshop in Nairobi; AAG also received an NSF Office of International Science and Engineering award to support integration of US students in the AAG's Africa-based programs;
- Quantitative Social Science Digital Library (QSSDL) Pathway for the National Science Digital Library (funded by NSF), in collaboration with the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research at the University of Michigan, to assist with the NSDL pathway in spatial social science, provide outreach to

the discipline, and support integration of quantitative geographic data; and

- Geography and Human Rights Clearinghouse launched by AAG with funding from and in collaboration with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). The AAG also has played a leading role in the development of the AAAS Science & Human Rights Coalition, and Richardson currently chairs the Steering Committee of the coalition.

Richardson also noted that a number of other groups have been participating in the AAG's NEH-funded Historical GIS Clearinghouse and Online Research Forum. The purpose of the project is to create an online clearinghouse of information about GIS-based historical archives and to provide an interactive research discussion forum. The Geography and Mental Health initiative also has received very strong interest.

Solis described the ALIGNED (Departments and Underrepresented Students ALIGNED: Addressing Locally-tailored Information Infrastructure & Geoscience Needs for Enhancing Diversity) program, which was funded for three years by the NSF's Opportunities for Enhancing Diversity in the Geosciences program. The basic idea is to provide support mechanisms to departments related to student recruitment and retention to enhance diversity. A toolkit for support is being developed and pilot study will be done with seven hybrid (geography-geoscience) departments. There will be a track of sessions on enhancing diversity and broadening participation at the next annual meeting.

In addition to the above funded projects, AAG continues with a number of internal activities that Richardson and Solis described, including:

- AAG's Disciplinary Data Initiative – an online clearinghouse of data related to geographers and geography from a variety of sources, including the AAG membership database, information gathered from individual geography departments, data collected through AAG supplemental surveys, and data collected by third party surveys and research;
- Geography and Climate Change Clearinghouse – development of an interactive online resource available to climate researchers, students, educators, and geographers worldwide to cross-link new and ongoing research in the field with classics, legacy materials, and current research by geographers; and
- Geographers on Film – sustaining the contributions of Maynard Weston Dow and Nancy Freeman Dow, primary creators of the GOF series. AAG is working on a plan for digitization and active distribution of the collection in several formats, including online, and is

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negotiating with the US Library of Congress to archive, digitize, and distribute GOF in collaboration with AAG.

Updates on various other AAG initiatives were provided, including Geography and Epidemiology, the Geographic Information Science and Technology Body of Knowledge Publication, Geography and Drug Addiction activities, the Geography and the Humanities symposium and related publications, USGS symposia and conferences.

Richardson and Solís updated Council regarding AAG outreach and policy activities. These include ongoing monitoring of activities which could restrict participation by geographers and other knowledgeable GIS and mapping specialists in governmental GIS and mapping projects. Richardson provided an update around current attempts to impose licensure as an eligibility criterion for contractors to the government on mapping-related activities. *Council expressed their consensus that the AAG oppose licensure or other restrictions on access to government mapping-related projects.* Richardson and Matt Koeppel currently serve as the AAG's representatives to COGO, the Coalition of Geospatial Organizations, founded in 2008 by eleven member organizations, including the AAG. Richardson requested that Council confirm its wishes that they continue as the association's delegates and representatives to COGO and to GISCI, the GIS Certification Institute. *The Council expressed consensus for Richardson to serve as AAG's Representative to COGO and to GISCI.*

Richardson and Solís provided other updates about special conferences and events, Careers in Geography activities, public policy, media relations and international outreach activities. Notably, the AAG has submitted a request for institutional membership on the 2010 Census Advisory Committee. The AAG/Harvard/State Department Geospatial Science for Sustainable Development in Africa conference proved to be very interesting and productive, and Richardson remarked how the AAG is building a strong network across Africa. AAG also is maintaining engagement with relevant UN activities and programs (e.g., the UN Environment Programme, the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change). AAG continues strong international outreach through its various programs and relationships with organizations and members from around the world.

Education

Regarding educational affairs, Richardson and Michael Solem met with the new Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. They talked about geographic education, research, and other topics, including online education. Richardson talked to

him about speaking at the annual meeting; Secretary Duncan seemed quite interested and a formal invitation has been extended to him.

A variety of educational projects are new or continuing. One of the important initiatives is the EDGE (Enhancing Departments and Graduate Education in Geography) project, led by Michael Solem. It is in its fourth year, and will be expanded in a Phase 2 through a new three year NSF REESE grant to focus on how geography graduate programs prepare students for careers in business, government, and non-profit organizations. In addition, AAG received funding from NASA for Teaching about Global Climate Change, led by Susan Gallagher, to partner with Denver Public Schools to develop online professional development for geography teachers who are now teaching climate change units. The AAG Center for Global Geography Education continues with its grant from the NSF for online, open access curriculum modules on geographic issues from an international perspective. AAG staff members are also involved in Graduate Ethics Seminars for Future Geospatial Technology Professionals, working under a grant from NSF to Oregon State University with AAG providing evaluation and dissemination.

Richardson noted that an important part of AAG activities is to work with GENIP (the Geography Education National Implementation Project). AAG, NCGE, NGS, and AGS are all involved and provide funding. GENIP provides a forum for coordinating geographic education efforts among the groups. Susan Gallagher, AAG's staff representative, is leading the development of new national geography standards. Roger Downs has served well as an AAG representative on GENIP, and is willing to serve a one year extension. *Hummel moved that Council concur with the reappointment of Roger Downs for another year. McAneney seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.* Duane Nellis also has been serving as an AAG representative to GENIP.

Geography Faculty Development Alliance (GFDA) workshops, led by Ken Foote, will be continuing next summer in Boulder, Colorado, with the addition of the AAG Departmental Leadership Workshop as an overlapping activity. The early career portion of the 2010 workshops will start June 13th and the AAG Departmental Leadership Workshop will begin June 17th.

Ken Foote also described the AAG Geography Education Materials Development Fund (GEMDF) and the roles of the AAG Council, the AAG Educational Affairs Director (Michael Solem), and the coordinator of the GEMDF in planning and coordinating work under the program. Foote has discussed the GEMDF program with Solem. He and Solem recommended that Sarah Bednarz be appointed to serve as the Coordinator of the

GEMDF, to help develop plans for the fund. *Foote moved that Council approve the recommendation that Sarah Bednarz be appointed as coordinator of the Geography Education Materials Development Fund. James seconded and the motion passed unanimously.*

Council also was updated regarding other activities, including the status of NCGE and AAG's continued support via free rent to the organization.

CONTINUING AND NEW BUSINESS

Annual Meetings

Upcoming AAG meetings will be in Washington, DC, April 14-18, 2010; Seattle, Washington, April 12-16, 2011; and New York City, 2012. Council will meet April 12-14, 2010. Richardson described some of the events being planned for the 2010 meeting. One overarching focus of the meeting will be on climate change. The Opening/Presidential session will feature the forthcoming NAS/NRC report, *America's Climate Choices*, with panelists from leadership positions on the four *Climate Choices* study panels, including Tom Wilbanks, Bill Turner, Diana Liverman, and Marilyn Brown. Many other climate change sessions also are planned.

Council's creation of a new policy to limit the number of appearances of meeting participants as paper presenters and panelists has garnered both praise and some opposition. Councillors expressed interest in encouraging more posters and illustrated papers as alternative formats to paper or panel sessions.

The AAG Socialist and Critical Geography Specialty Group has proposed that the AAG Council consider an income-based sliding scale registration fee for annual meetings. This was discussed at some length at the October meeting of the Executive Committee. AAG already has a number of progressive policies and cost-containment measures. They include an existing income-based sliding scale for membership fees, reduced fees for students and retired members, student volunteer assistant positions which subsidize meeting fees, and several grant programs which offer financial assistance to AAG meeting attendees. Many Specialty Groups also offer support. Richardson noted that administering more complex sliding-scale meeting registration fee structures would be more difficult and expensive, would involve substantial computer programming costs, and would make the process of registering more time consuming for meeting attendees. Implementing such a system would require some lead time for programming and testing, and since registration is already underway, it would not be possible to implement such a change in time for the 2010

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meeting. The Council concurred that a simpler approach to address the need that the SCGSG raised for helping unemployed geographers might be better. AAG already has a student volunteer program to help students defray costs by assisting at the conference. This existing program might be extended to include unemployed geographers as an opportunity to reduce their costs for this upcoming meeting. *Following discussion, James moved that AAG create volunteer assistant positions available to unemployed geographers (who are AAG members) to help reduce their registration fees at the 2010 annual meeting. Moseley seconded and the motion passed unanimously.* It also was agreed that Council will discuss the issue of meeting registration rate scaling at the next meeting.

Richardson described various options for 2013-2015 AAG Annual Meetings. Among the topics of discussion were locational constraints and issues related to the economy. Potential sites include San Francisco, Los Angeles, locations in Florida, Chicago, and other cities in the middle of the country.

Honors and Awards

Council reviewed the list of Honorees received from the AAG Honors Committee for 2010. *Price moved for approval of the Honors Committee's recommendations for 2010 AAG Honors. Hummel seconded. The slate of honorees was approved unanimously.*

Richardson noted that two awardees are selected by the Executive Committee. Carol Harden announced that the 2010 Honorary Geographer will be Nora Volkow, Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse. John Agnew announced that the 2010 Presidential Achievement Awardee will be Peter Meusburger of the Department of Geography at the University of Heidelberg.

Council reviewed the recommendations for the AAG Enhancing Diversity Awardee(s) received from the AAG Enhancing Diversity Committee. Solís noted that this will be the fifth year of the award, which was established to "honor those geographers who have pioneered efforts toward or actively participated in efforts toward encouraging a more diverse discipline over the course of several years." *The committee recommended that Council consider naming two recipients this year, John Frazier and Glen Elder (posthumous). Wilkinson moved that both nominations be accepted. Greiner seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.*

Richardson presented the inaugural AAG Atlas Award recipient, Jane Goodall, who was selected by the appointed committee, and asked that the full Council endorse the selection. *Gamble moved that Council endorse the selection of Jane Goodall as the first recipient of the AAG's Atlas Award. James seconded, the motion passed unanimously.* Council will consider committee

composition and other issues relevant to the Atlas Award at the spring 2010 meeting.

Council & Committees

Agnew led a discussion of the work and recommendations of the AAG Ethics Committee. Following consideration and a decision at the Spring AAG Council meeting, the Executive Committee appointed a task force co-chaired by Alexander Murphy and Michael Goodchild and representing a diversity of interests. Over the summer, the task force reworked the AAG ethics statement; Murphy met with the Executive Committee at its fall meeting to discuss the draft. Murphy was asked to work with the task force to address some concerns identified during this discussion. The Council considered the resulting revised draft. Agnew noted that ethics statements should be regarded as in a process of perpetual re-creation, not as a final creed or list of commandments. The AAG ethics statement is a statement about how we expect people to engage in their various professional activities, given current knowledge and norms. Agnew pointed out three additions to the AAG's current ethics statement to summarize the recommendations from the committee: consideration of 1) relationships with people places and things, which brings in the question of IRBs; 2) research involving indigenous people, ethnic minorities, and other potentially vulnerable groups; and 3) research involving geospatial technology.

James said that he was in favor of the new statement, but recommended added wording that reflects an ethos for the environment. He suggested addition of a fourth, environmentally-oriented, principle. There was further discussion, with additional wording amendments. Kobayashi moved to accept the ethics statement as provided by the ethics committee and amended by the Council in discussion. Foote seconded. *The Council approved the revisions to the AAG Ethics Statement as submitted by the AAG Ethics Committee, and as modified by the AAG Council. The motion passed unanimously.* The updated AAG ethics statement will be available online.

Harrington presented the nominees for the AAG Officers, including President, Vice-President, and National Councillors, as determined by the 2009 AAG Nominating Committee. Harrington presented the nominees for the 2010 Nominating Committee and Honors Committee ballot, as made by the membership at-large and the AAG Committee on Committees. Council voted to determine the slate for the 2010 election of AAG Nominating and Honors Committee members. The final ballot nominees selected by Council vote for the Honors Committee (A and B) are: John Jensen (University of South Carolina), Alexander Murphy (University of Oregon), Joni

Seager (City University of New York), Paul Robbins (University of Arizona), Lydia Savage (University of Southern Maine), and Karl Zimmerer (Pennsylvania State University). Nominees selected by Council vote for the Nominating Committee are: Stuart Aitken (San Diego State University), Kate Berry (University of Nevada – Reno), Jody Emel (Clark University), Susan Hardwick (University of Oregon), Glen MacDonald (UCLA), and Karl Raitz (University of Kentucky). Harrington will notify nominees of their selection and that they will need to provide biographical statements for publication in the newsletter. *Gamble moved that AAG accept the slate of candidates for the member ballot. Moseley seconded, the motion passed unanimously.*

Solís presented a list of AAG Committee members that was updated since the AAG Council had approved the appointments at its Spring 2009 meeting. Council expressed consensus in accepting the final version of Committee appointments for the 2009-2010 term.

Richardson updated Council on the Healthy Departments Committee. The annual AAG Departmental Leadership Workshop will be held in conjunction with GFDA workshops in Boulder for the next several years. Foote volunteered to coordinate the organization of both workshops in 2010.

Specialty and Affinity Groups

Moseley reported on the status of specialty and affinity groups. Most are in compliance with reporting requirements, though some are not. There is a three-year rule: if no report is submitted over the course of three years, the AAG Council may determine whether the group is active or not, and if not, may begin steps toward decommissioning. Moseley will remind Specialty and Affinity Group Chairs of the need for reporting to AAG Council.

AAG has received a petition for the formation of a new AAG Landscape Specialty Group. The paperwork was previewed at the October Executive Committee meeting, and the proposers were asked to clarify a portion of their application, which they have done. *Greiner moved that Council approve the formation of the AAG Landscape Specialty Group. Foote seconded. Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously.*

Richardson updated the Council on the Stand Alone Geographers (SAGE) Affinity Group. Most regional divisions have now designated a SAGE coordinator. Some activity has begun to take place at level of regional meetings. More activity is needed, however. Council has voted to subsidize the designated regional SAGE coordinators to attend and meet at the national meeting, and the central office will help to get

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a website running (Jim Ketchum on AAG Staff will work with SAGE). Past AAG Councillor David Kaplan is interested in continuing to liaise with SAGE, for which Council expressed consensus. Richardson recommended creation of an online newsletter by the group. It also is important that stand-alone (or nearly alone) geographers be identified by each region; it is not necessary that they be AAG members to be identified for the SAGE list.

Future Meetings

The schedule of future Council and Executive Committee meetings was reviewed. There are two meetings of each unit both fall and spring. The AAG Executive Committee will meet February 20 21, 2010, in San Diego, California. The AAG Spring Council Meeting will be held April 12-14, 2010, in Washington, DC, just before the Annual Meeting.

Final Business

There being no other business for open session, Council went into closed session. Following closed session, Council was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa MB Harrington
AAG Secretary

AAG Council Meeting Minutes

Washington, DC
April 12-14, 2010

Attending: Carol Harden, *President*; Kenneth Foote, *Vice President*; John Agnew, *Past President*; Nancy Wilkinson, *Treasurer*; Lisa Harrington, *Secretary*; Douglas Richardson, *Executive Director*; *National Councillors*: William Moseley (*Chair*), Amy Glasmeier, L. Allan James, Audrey Kobayashi, Marie Price, *Regional Councillors*: Cathleen McAnneny (New England-St. Lawrence Valley; *Chair*); Dagmar Budikova (West Lakes), Doug Gamble (Southeast), Alyson Greiner (Southwestern), Lisa Harrington (Great Plains/Rocky Mountains), Laurie Hummel (Middle States), Nancy Wilkinson (Pacific Coast), Antoinette WinklerPrins (East Lakes), Molly Brown (Middle Atlantic); *AAG staff members*: Candida Mannozi, Patricia Solís.

Opening

Harden called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda. The agenda was adopted. The minutes of the fall Council meeting had been approved via e-mail. Greiner moved that the Council reaffirm approval of the fall minutes. McAnneny seconded. The spring minutes were unanimously reaffirmed.

President's Comments

Having charged the national councillors with thinking about challenges and opportunities facing the nation, Harden's comments focused on budgets, funding, and relationships between Geography and other disciplines. She said that her sense is that we're in a holding pattern; conditions are uncertain for a year from now, when stimulus funding dries up. This is a concern, but it also provides an opportune time for enhancing visibility. She also expressed mixed feelings about other disciplines 'creeping into our space' in human-environment subject matter. On one hand this is very affirming, but it is also unsettling: we need to be a little on our guard to avoid being eclipsed.

Vice President's Comments

Foote stressed two points: the need for continued effort to promote good professional experiences of early career geographers as they move into both academic and nonacademic careers, and the need to be very aware of what's happening in geography education.

Past President's Comments

Agnew touched on budget concerns, noting that they may not be as bad as they might be, but the direction of the next two to three years is quite unclear. His second point was that there are a lot of ways the different parts of geography can be related to one another. Many of us ought to be thinking about connections. Third, he expressed continued interest in the internationalization of geography: enhancement of the discipline is very much an international phenomenon.

Reports from Regional Councillors

McAnneny led the review of the status of geography programs by region. Each regional councillor presented an update based on regional events and experiences. Common themes included continued operational (budgetary and staffing) challenges, program reorganizations, and growth of enrollments. A few departments are seeing hiring opportunities and development of new programs and other opportunities. Regional Councillors also expressed concerns and questions on behalf of their constituents. Additionally, it was noted that the *Southeastern Geographer* is having its 50th anniversary.

Reports from National Councillors

As Chair of the National Councillors, Moseley introduced President Harden's focal questions for discussion. These questions addressed the role of geography and of the AAG in advancing geography and geographic knowledge, given the spread of geographic concepts and approaches across disciplines (see *Understanding the Changing Planet: Strategic Directions for the Geographical Sciences*, 2010, p. 18 [NRC]), and whether this situation poses a challenge or an opportunity related to our identity.

Ideas brought forward include the importance of several specific technologies and concepts to our identity, particularly with respect to other disciplines. Geospatial technologies and GIScience are of great importance, and can be particularly beneficial to the discipline when geography departments are seen as the 'go-to' places for this type of work. It is beneficial that more people are finding the usefulness of geospatial techniques. Setting geospatial analysis standards and doing spatial research in new topical areas, creating more connections with and learning from other disciplines, would be helpful. When we pay attention to social significance *and* rigor of core concepts, we can best reach out for interdisciplinary connections. In connection with the NRC report, it was noted that "geography wins when we're more outward-looking and inclusive." "Sustainability" and human-environment connections are areas where the discipline has a level of depth; we need to make sure we are taking part in these areas where there has been growth in interest among multiple disciplines. One Councillor observed that geographers have a disadvantage with teaching loads (vs. the 'hard' sciences), even in same institutions. It also was noted that it is important to get students involved in government at all levels, and that AAG should do a new labor market study.

STATUS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Executive Director's Comments

Richardson provided an overview of the status of the Association, and commented on the program for the upcoming annual meeting. At the time of the Council meeting, the projected registration was more than 8000 people, with 7800 already registered. He also noted the attendance of numerous non-members and interdisciplinary participation at the annual meeting. In addition, he discussed expenses associated with meetings, comparative costs relative to other organizations, and AAG's efforts to contain annual meeting costs and membership fees.

Richardson reviewed the overall Council meeting schedule, and noted special events at the AAG annual meeting.

Finances

Richardson and Wilkinson reviewed the financial status of AAG. Wilkinson summarized the March finance committee meeting and discussed AAG's investment strategy: conservative investments have worked out very well. AAG is audited annually. Auditors reported that books look good, and commended Richardson's management and the work of Teri Martin, AAG accounting manager. Richardson went through the organization's finances, noting a change in net assets of +\$552,684 for FYE 2009 (fiscal year ending August 31, 2009), a period when very few organizations saw positive change. Richardson also noted that accounting requirements are extremely complex, and the AAC's investment and accounting policies are very conservative. There are new federal auditing requirements, and AAG will need to develop a few new policies during the next year to address these.

In terms of total cash and investments as of January 31, AAG has 9.9 million dollars. Stocks and bonds make up only about 20 percent of investments; this has turned out to be a good choice for the recent period, but may change in the future depending on market status. James made a motion to recommend that we continue a conservative investment policy with continued concentration on fixed income or CD investments, and that the Executive Director is authorized to continue to monitor the market and to increase stock and securities investments by up to 10% if, in his judgment and that of the treasurer, market conditions warrant. Glasmeier seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Wilkinson reviewed the 2011 budget. The Finance Committee had discussed the FYE 2011 budget (effective Sep 1, 2010) in detail, and recommended Council approval. Richardson pointed out that the chart of accounts have been simplified, and that the only significant change in the budget categories over the past several years are those dealing with publications (due to changes in royalty arrangements with the new publisher). Richardson noted several donations, and answered budget-related questions. He

also expressed some caution about potential attendance at the 2011 meeting in Seattle, based on a small drive-shed and the national economy, and about the higher costs involved in meeting in New York City. In addition, the New York meeting is scheduled for earlier in the year, so there will be less time for preparation. Wilkinson moved acceptance of the FYE 2011 budget, Kobayashi seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Councillors commended Richardson on professional management of the organization and organizational funds. Price suggested that a column be written by the President about financial management. Glasmeier and McAnneny also commented on the importance of the professionalization of the organization and its activities.

Membership

Richardson reviewed membership status, which remains above 10,000, with regular members making up about 54 percent of the membership, students 38 percent, developing regions members 2 percent, and other categories (corporate, associate, partner, and administrative assistant) the remainder. Growth of student memberships has been higher than other categories. There was discussion about tracking and retention of student members into regular memberships and whether international membership is increasing (it has). Richardson noted that AAG has an extremely progressive membership dues rate structure - more so than most other organizations.

As chair of the committee working to update topical and area specialties, Moseley led discussion of recommended changes. A number of suggestions beyond the work discussed at the fall Council meeting were discussed. Kobayashi noted that from the standpoint of editors who use listings to help identify reviewers, the more categories, the better. WinklerPrins moved that Council accept the suggested changes, with the revisions made during discussion. McAnneny seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Councillors also made some suggestions for a few courtesy memberships.

Meridian Place Operations

Richardson discussed new employees and AAG personnel status. New AAG Senior Researcher Jean McKendry will be involved

in three to four ongoing projects (REESE, education projects, climate change, and eventually some of the GIScience and policy projects); there are two new interns, and Marcela Zeballos has become full-time employee. John Wertman was part-time for about three years; he is now back to a full-time position as Senior Program Manager for Government Relations. This is a critical time for a variety of activities, including actions related to geography education legislation, mapping procurement issues, and a new AAG-NIH initiative. Robin Maier is back from maternity leave and working almost full time; Miranda Lecea was promoted to editorial associate; Richardson complimented her on her work on publications during Maier's absence. Lecea will now take the lead on the *PG*; Maier continues to lead on the *Annals*. A new part-time employee, Marsha Goldberg, is working on urban sustainability projects. Richardson noted and commended the work of several other employees. In addition to the key personnel, Richardson also mentioned that lawyers for the AAG are used sparingly, but for some activities they make sure agreements and procedures are legally correct.

AAG has relocated its satellite office space (related to aiding NCGE), moving to smaller space on Q Street, with good savings and payment to AAG of \$10,000 to vacate the old space for another tenant. The new website is finally coming to fruition and is expected to be launched in late spring or early summer.

Research and Education

Solís reported on the My Community, Our Earth program (MyCOE). The AAG has long served as Secretariat of this public-private partnership. Currently, NASA and USAID are providing support to the AAG to organize 15 teams of African researchers working on GIS and Biodiversity in 12 African countries. NSF has also provided funding to AAG to support the engagement of three U.S.-based fellows in AAG's work in Africa, including with the Regional Centre for Mapping and Regional Development (RCMRD) in Nairobi, EIS Africa in South Africa, and the Wildlife Conservation Society in Rwanda.

Richardson noted that the AAC's NSF-funded quantitative social science digital library (QSSDL) project, in collaboration

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with the University of Michigan, is coming along well. He also noted AAG's continuing work on geography and human rights, including a workshop which will be held at the upcoming annual meeting in Washington, DC. AAG received funding from the AAAS and the MacArthur Foundation of about \$15,000 for related research. A bibliography on geography and human rights developed by the AAG has been posted on the AAG's website. Richardson continues to be very involved in the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition, and chairs the Coalition's steering committee.

AAG also has established a Historical GIS clearinghouse, with National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) funding. Historians and others in the humanities more broadly are active participants with the AAG in this endeavor.

Activities continue to build from the recent AAG-Harvard Conference on Geospatial Science and Sustainable Development. The AAG, the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and the Department of State were the co-organizers. There is a lot of foundation interest in this topic.

Solís reported on the ALIGNED (Addressing Locally-tailored Information Infrastructure and Geoscience Needs for Enhancing Diversity) project, a three-year effort supported by the NSF Opportunities for Enhancing Diversity in the Geosciences Program (OEDG). Ten pilot departments were selected for testing and developing the department toolkit. Also, Diversity Ambassadors have been organized at the AAG Annual Meeting again this year. Richardson announced that Solís has been appointed as the Geography Commission Representative of the US National Section of PAIGH (Pan-American Institute for Geography and History). Richardson also noted the climate change webpage (<https://sites.google.com/a/aag.org/c2heke/>) developed through an NSF-funded Pan American Studies Institute program focused on integrating research and education on climate change and hazards in the Americas under the leadership of Solís, and invited input.

Richardson reported good progress on negotiations with the Library of Congress to archive, digitize, and co-distribute the *Geographers on Film* collection. He is working on the

assignment documents with the AAG lawyers. The GOF materials are currently physically located at the AAG office, and will soon be transferred to the Library of Congress. Once digitized, the collection will be made available online via both the Library of Congress and the AAG. AAG also will receive high quality digital master copies from which very good duplicates can be made. Richardson noted that he would like to have the GOF collection widely distributed at no charge through libraries, and made broadly available for educational and research purposes.

Richardson described a new AAG Initiative for an NIH-wide GIS Infrastructure. The idea is compelling, and so far everyone with whom he has discussed the project has expressed support. A steering committee for the Initiative has been established, and includes Mike Goodchild, Mei-Po Kwan, Jonathan Mayer, Sara McLafferty, and Doug Richardson. An advisory committee will also be developed. The project is moving forward rapidly. McAnneny moved and Gamble seconded a motion expressing Council support for the AAG Initiative for an NIH-wide GIS Infrastructure. The motion to endorse the project passed unanimously.

Education

Michael Solem and Susan Gallagher presented an update on educational initiatives. Solem is taking the lead on higher education and Gallagher on K-12; both are supported by other AAG staff members. Solem noted that the AAG is now to the point that there is an infrastructure of resource materials to support younger faculty, developed by projects like GFDA and EDGE. The focus of EDGE is shifting from early career faculty development to the preparation of geography students for careers outside of academia. The hope is to create similar professional development resources for BGN (business-government-nonprofit) preparation. There will be a book similar to the *Aspiring Academics* volume. Jean McKendry will be helping lead enhancements to the AAG Careers in Geography website. There was discussion of these and other activities.

Gallagher reviewed a project funded by NASA's global climate change education program. She is working on professional

development curricular materials, including identifying and addressing misconceptions (especially for those without an earth science background). Materials are being piloted in the Denver area at the middle and high school levels. Resources will be available online; teacher needs will be addressed and materials will be broadly available in the Fall. Regarding the GENIP standards project, the standards are now in final draft form. They should provide a comprehensive view of grades 4, 8, and 12. Process has been very long, but funding and support for this round has been much lower than for the 1992-94 effort. It is being sent out for one more review, and hopefully will be ready to release by the next NCGE meeting. There were questions and discussion of these and other educational issues. Richardson spoke highly of the creative, cutting-edge geography education programs and research staff at AAG, who work well together as a team.

Publications

Robin Maier and Miranda Lecea reported on the status of AAG publications. In 2009 the fifth *Annals* issue came out on time in December. It has resulted in a lot of positive feedback. The fifth issue for 2010 is ahead of schedule, the one for 2011 is progressing, and abstracts are due soon for the planned 2012 fifth issue. Starting in 2013, the special issue will come out in January each year. Kobayashi noted that papers in the issue she edited for December went to a maximum of 5000 words, less than half the usual length, basically sacrificing literature reviews. Robin noted that submissions for the environmental sciences section are up, perhaps partly due to new section editor Mark Fonstad soliciting submissions. *PG* submissions have been down a little. Turnaround times have been good for both journals. Currently there is a backlog of accepted articles; there may be a desire to increase pages (which could impact the budget) in order to take care of some of the backlog. There was discussion of the journals and submission rates. Price suggested that it might be good to let membership know about new issues of the AAG journals when they come out, and provide the link to the online version. Maier noted that members can sign up for new issue notification from Taylor & Francis.

Richardson said that AAG might send out a note to membership about the availability of this service. There were expressions of appreciation of Maier and Lecea from Council, and from Kobayashi as an editor.

Price, chair of the Publications Committee, described the status of *Annals* editors, and suggested that it may be good to consider doing interviews at the fall Council meeting to have a new editor in place for January. She noted that a new book review editor for the *Annals* is needed. There was discussion of publications. Price reviewed applications for PG editor and PG book review editor, including procedures for determining interviewees. Terms will begin January 1, 2011.

Richardson noted that Megan Overbey did excellent work on the AAG *Guide to Geography Programs*. Next year will be a transition in moving to online publication of the *Guide*.

Richardson described a proposal from Wiley to publish an Encyclopedia of Geography. The Executive Committee was in favor of looking at this in more detail. Richardson presented an overview of the publisher's concept for a 15 volume encyclopedia. Harden commented on behalf of the Executive Committee, expressing its support. There was extensive discussion, with consideration of the potential place of the publication, benefits, and challenges. Richardson recommended formation of a subgroup of Council to work with him on the possible development of an agreement with Wiley on this encyclopedia. There was consensus to continue pursuit of the project. The committee to work with Richardson on this includes John Agnew, Allan James, Marie Price, Antoinette WinklerPrins, Molly Brown, and Ken Foote.

Council

Harrington announced election results as they appeared in the newsletter. Foote noted that the departmental leadership workshop planning is on track.

Harden reported that the Executive Committee recommended the nomination of Amy Glasmeier as new Treasurer. Harrington seconded. Glasmeier was elected unanimously. Doug Gamble was elected Chair of the Regional Councillors.

Harden noted that we need a new publications chair. Agnew nominated WinklerPrins. Kobayashi moved that nominations

close. WinklerPrins was unanimously elected as Chair of the Publications Committee. Richardson complimented Price on exemplary service as Publications Chair. Council expressed appreciation.

Outreach

Richardson reviewed AAG-sponsored special conferences, including several meetings in the U.S. and elsewhere. Richardson also has been working with AAAS on a number of activities, including participation in a proposed upcoming AAAS symposium, entitled *Borderless Science and Human Rights*.

A written report by John Wertman, AAG Senior Program Manager for Government Relations, helped to summarize policy outreach activities, with further comments by Richardson. The AAG is creating a blueprint for geographic education, to supplement President Obama's blueprint for education and revisions to ESEA (the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, also known as 'No Child Left Behind' [NCLB]). Wertman continues to contribute to the AAG *Newsletter* through the 'Washington Monitor' column, and both Richardson and Wertman meet with public officials about issues important to AAG. Members of Congress will participate in the AAG annual meeting, including Representatives Van Hollen and Walz.

Richardson described AAG's activities related to GIS certification and the GIS Certification Institute (GISCI). Richardson serves on the boards of both the Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO) and GISCI. Richardson asked for suggestions of people that could potentially be approached for memberships in these groups. Council approved by consensus the appointment of John Wertman as an AAG alternate delegate for COGO representation, as a backup for Richardson. Council also approved a short list of seven names for the Executive Director to approach as the AAG's second GISCI board member.

A group of six AAG and Council members will be visiting Romanian geography programs in May, in response to their invitation. They would like to create more contacts in the U.S. in support of building the discipline (particularly the human geography side) in Romania. Kobayashi, Harrington, Lydia

Pulsipher, Mark Rosenberg, George White, and Conrad (Mac) Goodwin make up the group.

Harden reported on a geography program that had been in trouble but was now making progress. She also noted that early interventions have best chance of success, and asked that Councillors pass information along if they hear of programs facing difficulties. On a positive note, Richardson shared news that a new program was approved in Anthropology-Geography at Cal-Poly.

CONTINUING AND NEW BUSINESS

Honors and Awards

AAG Honors for 2010 were noted. These include Ronald J. Johnston, AAG Lifetime Achievement Award; James S. Duncan and Daniel A. Griffith, AAG Distinguished Scholarship Honors; David A. Lanegran, Gilbert Grosvenor Honors for Geographic Education; Victor H. Winston and Bellwether Publishing, AAG Publication Award; and Joshua Muldavin, AAG Award for Media Achievement. Additionally, the 2010 AAG Atlas Award recipient will be Jane Goodall; the Honorary Geographer is Nora Volkow; and Peter Meusburger will receive the 2010 AAG Presidential Achievement Award. Glen Elder (posthumously) and John Frazier will receive Enhancing Diversity Awards. The 2012 Atlas Award and committee will be discussed in the Fall Council meeting.

Committees

Harrington presented information on recommended standing committee nominees, and recommendations of the Committee on Committees regarding reduction of some committee sizes. McAnneny moved and Gamble seconded approval of those nominees who have agreed to serve. The motion passed unanimously. Provisional nominees will be considered later (via e-mail). There was consensus agreement that several committees should be reduced in size over the next three years, with phased reductions to maintain committee membership rotations.

Wilkinson moved that the treasurer no longer be an ex-officio member of the publications committee. James seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The Commit-

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tee on Committees presented several minor clarifications to the website descriptions of the Marcus, Burrill, and Miller Awards, as recommended by their respective committees, which were accepted by the Council.

A letter of thanks from the AAG Executive Director and President to Bill Carstensen for many years of service as coordinator of World Geography Bowl was approved by consensus. Letters of appreciation for editorial service also will be sent to retiring editors.

Member Request

Harden presented a letter from the editor of the publication *Historical Geography* requesting AAG financial support. This was discussed, with the conclusion that this would not be an appropriate activity for AAG at this time: many journals are in this situation. (A past decision to provide bridge support for a special publication was linked to other AAG projects and grants.) Council did support provision of advisory aid for the journal or its possible transition to a commercial publisher, if desired.

Visitors

Guests from NSF were welcomed by Harden and introduced. Guests were: Myron Gutmann, NSF Assistant Director, Directorate of Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE); Mark Weiss, Director, Division of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences (BCS); and Tom Baerwald, Senior Science Advisor, SBE, and Program Officer, Geography and Spatial Sciences (GSS). Council members and AAG staff introduced themselves. Gutmann noted that GSS is at the core of the directorate, particularly with broad scientific interests and interdisciplinary moves that are occurring at the present time. Geography is at the lead-

ing edge, largely through its environmentally-oriented aspects, and also because of recognition of the importance of spatial components across the sciences. The inclusion of SEES (Science, Engineering, and Education for Sustainability) in the President's budget has mobilized NSF leadership to think about new interdisciplinary ways to work together. SEES represents a very substantial commitment to support for research that links to environment, energy, climate change over five years and beyond. Gutmann invited communication of new interdisciplinary & disciplinary directions that NSF/SBE should be thinking about. Weiss spoke based on the division level, and reiterated several points, including the importance of environmental issues in the Administration's and NSF's priorities. He announced that Antoinette WinklerPrins will be added in August (Scott Freundsuh's slot), and David McGinnis will begin in January 2011, as a fourth BCS geographer. Baerwald noted that Ezekial Kalipeni will remain another year, and that the GSS strategic plan will be revisited. The five current and future officers will meet on this over the summer; thoughts on the strategic plan were invited. A variety of topics were addressed through questions, answers, and discussion.

Interviews

Interviews of two *Professional Geographer* editor applicants and two *PG* book review editors were held. Price presided and led the questioning, as Chair of the Publications Committee. Other Councillors also questioned the applicants. Following questions and answers, Council members discussed the applicants, their qualifications, and their ideas. James moved that Barney Warf be appointed *PG* editor, Greiner seconded. The motion passed,

with one abstention based on conflict of interest. Moseley moved that Bimal Kanti Paul be offered the position of book review editor. With a second by James, the offer and contingent case were passed with one conflict of interest abstention. [N.b. Both Warf and Paul accepted the offered positions.]

Future Meetings

The next AAG Council meeting will be held in conjunction with the fall meeting of NESTVAL, in Storrs, Connecticut, on October 28-30.

Future AAG Annual Meetings will be in Seattle (2011), New York (2012), California (2013), Tampa (2014), and Chicago (2015). The AAG meets at union hotels whenever possible, and this continues to be an important consideration in the selection of AAG conference hotel venues.

Final Business

Harden read resolutions for consideration by Council. The resolutions recognized and thanked Past President John Agnew; retiring Pacific Coast Councillor and Treasurer Nancy Wilkinson; retiring National Councillor Audrey Kobayashi; retiring National Councillor and Publications Committee Chair Marie Price; retiring Middle Atlantic Councillor Molly Brown, and retiring NESTVAL Councillor and Regional Councillor Chair Cathleen McAnneny; and outgoing chairs and members of AAG committees. Greiner moved and McAnneny seconded passage of the resolutions; they were passed unanimously.

Council was adjourned at 12:45, April 14, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Butler Harrington, AAG Secretary

AAG Council Meeting Minutes

Fall 2010

October 29-30, Storrs, Connecticut

Attending

Executive Committee: Kenneth Foote, *President*; Audrey Kobayashi, *Vice President*; Carol Harden, *Past President*; Amy Glasmeier, *Treasurer*; Lisa Harrington, *Secretary*; Douglas Richardson, *Executive Director*.

National Councillors: William Moseley (*Chair*), Leslie Duram, Amy Glasmeier, L. Allan James, Karen Till.

Regional Councillors: Doug Gamble (*Southeast, Chair*), Cathleen McAnneny (*New England-St. Lawrence Valley, proxy for Bryon Middlekauff*), Dagmar Budikova (*West Lakes*), Alyson Greiner (*Southwestern*), Lisa Harrington (*Great Plains/Rocky Mountains*), Laurie Hummel (*Middle States*), Antoinette WinklerPrins (*East Lakes*), Michael Scott (*Middle Atlantic*).

AAG staff members: Candida Mannozi, Patricia Solís.

Opening

Foote called the meeting to order at 8:30 am and asked attendees to introduce themselves. The agenda was presented; WinklerPrins moved approval and Duram seconded. The agenda was adopted unanimously.

The minutes of the spring Council meeting had been approved via e-mail. Kobayashi moved that the Council reaffirm approval of the minutes. McAnneny seconded. The spring minutes were affirmed.

Status of the Association

Richardson led an overview of the status of the AAG, including current activities. He began with a summary of his goals for the association at the time of his assuming the Executive Director position and the progress that has been made. These include new management systems, appropriate technology; use of a team approach in AAG operations; development of new initiatives; increased membership and provision of services; greater interaction with society; strategic grants and contracts; fundraising; a dynamic annual meeting with growth in attendance; and supporting broad growth of the discipline. Member numbers at the end of 2009 had reached 10,765. The impact and reach of AAG journals have been expanded,

with the new publishing contract providing many new benefits for our journals and the association. Richardson also reviewed challenges and opportunities for the future.

President's Comments

Foote mentioned enjoyable visits to regional meetings in the fall. He noted their intimacy and meaningfulness to students and early career faculty. Foote described his continuing efforts regarding early career development, and hopes to keep this going for some time to come. James (JW) Harrington, Jr., also has been working on early career development, and WinklerPrins will be spending time on the coming summer workshop. The AAG and President Foote also are looking ahead to non-academic development, as well as working on leadership in the field through the Healthy Departments Workshops initiative. In 2010, the AAG Departmental Leadership Workshop overlapped with the early career GFDA Workshop. There will also be a chair's symposium at the 2011 annual meeting, to extend interactions beyond the annual chairs lunch. More attention to international faculty and graduate students also is being pursued: there are now many international faculty in the discipline in the U.S. Till mentioned that mid-career attention also is needed, particularly for women who have been 'stuck at' the Associate Professor level due to administrative responsibilities and family/lifestyle choices.

The 2011 Presidential Plenary will focus on geography and the changing world of higher education. There are challenges, but it is also a very exciting time. Three confirmed participants at this time include Duane Nellis, President of the University of Idaho; Maresi Nerad, Center for Innovation and Research in Graduate Education (CIRGE) at the University of Washington; and Orlando Taylor, President of the Chicago Professional School of Psychology, Washington, DC campus.

Vice President's Comments

Kobayashi commented on some of her interests and potential topics to be ad-

dressed through AAG. Skills development is one possibility. She is very deeply committed to addressing racialized minorities, both in the discipline and in society as a whole. Internationalization is another important issue; as AAG becomes more and more international, it is important to think about international issues in terms of wider exchange and interaction among geographers.

Past President's Comments

Harden noted that rather than start a brand new initiative during her presidency, she wanted to pick up on themes and continue momentum. Going to regional meetings and interacting with people, including really good students, has been a great opportunity for her. She noted that we need to empower people to look outward and interact with others, and to raise consciousness about the need to communicate about Geography. We also need to promote the idea that the times we're in now have many accelerating changes: we could be doing a lot more regarding people and the environment.

Reports from Regional Councillors

Foote introduced the questions that had been asked of Councillors. They are meant to address the status and changes in the discipline: we need to look very carefully at ways we might strengthen programs and how to approach things strategically. He wanted us to look at some of the things that we can do strategically as an organization to focus on moving our discipline forward. We also need to support programs that might need help.

Gamble led the review of the status of geography programs by region; each of the regional councillors reported on status and trends in their regions based on questions posed by President Foote, in the context of both fiscal difficulties and other global and national trends. Each councillor described, in both general and specific terms, how departments are responding to challenges and opportunities, whether programs have gained from any of the changes, and whether

departments or programs are challenged or are under threat based on current conditions and trends. Recurring themes from the regions included loss of some positions, but also some ability to connect with other programs or needs, or using enrollment-based arguments, to gain new lines. GIS/GISci has been particularly important to a number of programs, but there are concerns that other specializations within the discipline may be under threat. A common action is an increase in online course offerings. These help to maintain or increase enrollments, while making it possible for faculty members to concentrate on teaching of more upper-level courses in the classroom. In some cases, adjunct faculty lines have been cut, with graduate students being given more teaching responsibilities. Additional changes to address current societal concerns and to appeal to students are being made, including course additions and revisions to address topical interests (e.g., sustainability, social justice, and environmental health), additional fieldwork and study abroad opportunities, and certification programs.

Foote noted that the consistent message he's heard at regional meetings has been the need for web support. There was some discussion of AAG and regional memberships and voting privileges. WinklerPrins also noted some confusion about how chairs are updated on the AAG chairs listserv.

There was discussion of possible departmental closures and 'reorganizations', including the role of AAG when suggestions of departmental closures are known. It was also noted that enrollments are up in many programs, but this does not necessarily mean positions—there can be a "squeeze" based on workloads. Other discussion focused on communication needs with departments that house geographers, although they may be in other fields.

Regional councillors met during lunch to discuss issues.

Reports from National Councillors

As Chair of the National Councillors, Moseley introduced President Foote's focal questions, asking that National Councillors identify key opportunities, crucial challenges, and how to address challenges. Discussion of these issues was wide-ranging, as was the regional councillors' discussion.

Several themes again arose, with various comments related to the status of the discipline, concerns, and opportunities. Several councillors noted that the discipline has traditional strengths that represent opportunities at this time, including interdisciplinarity. Connections to several important societal areas of interest can be a key opportunity for strengthening Geography programs, including environmental issues, globalization, international studies, urban studies, area studies, and spatial technologies. The importance of building bridges or creating interdisciplinary alliances (and linking to the increasing importance of certification) was stressed. Linkages also need to include communication with the general public about the importance of Geography, and outreach to publics like parents to convince them that Geography and geographic employment are viable possibilities for college students, and to business and industry to help them see how geographers can contribute to their enterprises. It also will be important to recognize—and convince graduate students—that careers outside academia are viable and can be rewarding. The current and growing emphasis on enrollments is leading to more competition for students, so stressing the strengths and opportunities offered by Geography is likely to continue to be important.

Foote thanked the councillors for their reports, and noted that we will focus on same questions again in spring, as follow-ups. It was also noted that regional councillors should provide their more detailed reports back to their regions.

STATUS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Finances

Glasmeier reported on the meeting of the AAG Finance Committee, which reviewed in detail the financial status of the organization. AAG is in good fiscal health, in contrast with many organizations, and has a consistent record of increasing net assets over a number of years. AAG is predominantly funded from membership dues, annual conference income, research grants, publications, and donations. The contract with the new publisher (Routledge) has been important. AAG generates a significant amount of income from the national conference, but also spends a significant amount on the meeting. In response to

a question, Richardson noted that AAG budgets are based on estimated conference attendance: the organization makes money only if attendance is over the estimate, and loses if attendance is under the estimate. He also noted that if all AAG staff time spent on annual meetings were included with other meeting-related costs, the association would generally not make money at all on meetings. As part of Glasmeier's report, it also was noted that a large portion of AAG's expenditures is in support of its staff; excellent employees keep the association healthy.

Glasmeier commented that Richardson has a good developmental approach to organizational management. Investments have been managed conservatively and effectively—they are highly diversified and designed to provide financial integrity. Following discussion of assets and financial management, Foote moved that \$1 million of assets be added to the Richardson Endowment for Geography's Future. Gamble seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Foote moved that Council reaffirm Richardson's ongoing financial management policy, and also approve the written AAG Investment Policy of October 29, 2010, distributed to Council. James seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Richardson presented the FYE 2011 budget as a matter of information. It had been previously approved.

Membership

Richardson noted that membership has remained steady during the economic downturn, and highlighted the very progressive AAG membership dues structure based on income-level, and which also includes very low membership fees for students and retirees. There was extensive discussion of dues, dues structure, and help to those in financial difficulty.

Publications

Richardson presented informational material regarding publications. He pointed out that the second *Annals* special issue has been published. The idea to have an annual special issue has worked out well. The AAG will now publish six *Annals* issues each year (up from four issues previously), at no additional cost to the members or to the AAG.

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Several editorial terms will be expiring in the near future. Kobayashi's *Annals* term ends on July 1, when she becomes AAG President. The search will continue until 20 January; there are currently six applicants. The *Annals* Book Review editorship also is open for applicants until 20 January, but the current editor's position does not end until December 2011. The *Annals'* Nature and Society editor's term also ends December 2011. Council will be interviewing for these three editorial positions in Seattle. The Publications Committee will review applicants first, then the Executive Committee will determine interviewees. Richardson asked Foote to review the Council meeting agenda for Seattle to determine an earlier Council meeting start time, to allow for the additional interview time requirements.

A new editorial board has been submitted by Barney Warf for the *Professional Geographer*. Richardson noted that it has been checked for potential duplication with the *Annals* (serving on both boards at the same time is not allowed). Harden moved and James seconded a motion that Council accept the editorial board proposed by Warf, with the recommendation that two to three additional persons be submitted, representing pragmatic approaches to environmental and resource management issues. The motion passed unanimously. It was asked that Warf be commended for his inclusion of international editorial board members.

Richardson presented proposed language for guidance of authors of AAG journals articles, to assure that research submitted for AAG publication has complied with all legal requirements regarding human subjects and the conduct of research.

Richardson described negotiations with Wiley regarding development of an International Encyclopedia of Geography; there still are six items to be addressed. Richardson expects to hear back soon, and then will bring the contract back to the Executive Committee or Council for approval. There were a number of comments by councillors, and extensive discussion of the project. It would be a four-year project. Foote noted that the agreement seems to be getting close, and hopefully work toward the Encyclopedia could begin before the Seattle meeting.

Richardson noted that AAG has provided three years of help for the *African Geographical Review*, a publication of the AAG African

Specialty Group (ASG). It fills a unique niche. There is now possible interest from Routledge to publish this journal. As Specialty Groups do not have a separate legal identity from AAG, it would be logical that AAG would contract for the journal's publication. The AAG could have it labeled as a publication of the ASG. If AAG is involved in any way, net income would be allocated to support the publication. Moseley described the mission of the journal, which particularly publishes Africa-based geographers. AAG has supported AGR as a part of its Africa outreach grants. The current editor is asking for one more year of support, until a publishing contract can be obtained. Richardson asked whether the AAG should enter into the publication agreement, and whether it should extend publishing support one more year. There was discussion; Kobayashi noted that there is a unique and particular rationale for this publication, and this should not be viewed as a general policy. Foote moved that AAG provide an additional \$2000 to support the publication of the *African Geographical Review* through 2011, while a publication contract is being negotiated. Hummel seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Operations

Richardson described AAG personnel and their contributions. He noted the work done by interns and efforts to involve them. Auditing services were put out for competitive bid; the AAG kept the same auditors, but costs were reduced.

The new AAG website was discussed, and Richardson described the Geographers on Film agreement with the Library of Congress. As films (by Wes Dow) are converted to a high quality digital format, they will be made available online through both LOC and AAG. They will also be archived at LOC, with a master-identical set at AAG. There was discussion, and Councillors expressed a desire to consider means of continuing film development.

Research, Education, and Public Policy

The AAG has a large number of ongoing research and outreach projects. AAG research, education, and outreach projects often have synergistic components. The largest education-related project is the NSF REESE project, an extension of the earlier

EDGE program. Foote noted that the REESE project is now in its second year. It includes a good deal of research, as well as preparation of a book on business, government, and non-profit careers (*Practicing Geography*). GFDA-like workshops may be developed for future summer offerings. Foote feels that the project is making good progress. Richardson noted a second undertaking, an NSF-funded project on global climate change education. This project involves development of materials that can be used in public schools. The AAG Center for Global Geography Education has hosted a large number of workshops. AAG is still providing free office space to NCGE, although they are operating more on their own now. A good working relationship continues. AAG works with a number of other organizations (e.g., AAAS, GENIP, IGU-CGE, INLT).

Other projects include the Institute for the Integration of Research on Climate Change and Hazards in the Americas, a workshop funded by the NSF PanAmerican Advanced Studies Institute (PASI) program; Departments and Underrepresented Students ALIGNED: Addressing Locally-tailored Information Infrastructure and Geoscience Needs for Enhancing Diversity (funded by NSF); the AAG Initiative for an NIH-Wide GIS Infrastructure; work with NSF and the University of Michigan to develop a Quantitative Social Science Digital Library, and others.

AAG has been working to provide educational materials to Congress regarding geography. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), commonly known as No Child Left Behind, did not fund K-12 geography education. An AAG Blueprint for Geography Education has been developed and Richardson invited comment. The ESEA education legislation probably will be taken up in the next Congress.

The AAG Resolution supporting K-12 Geography Education has been endorsed by many high-profile signatory organizations, representing hundreds of thousands of people. The resolution recommends inclusion of Geography in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) projects, and urges funding consistent with other core disciplines supported in K-12 education. The AAG will be seeking additional high-profile signatures, and members can seek additional signers (e.g., university presidents, NGOs,

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and business leaders). Council members discussed framing of the discipline.

Outreach

AAG outreach was described by Richardson. The AAG has organized and co-organized a number of specialty conferences over the past several years, including *Mapping the News*, for journalists/the media. Another is *Race, Ethnicity and Place*, which has become an important event. Specialty conferences and collaborations with other organizations and institutions, such as PAIGH and Harvard University have strengthened, and AAG is actively participating in several associations of associations (e.g., COSSA, ACLS).

AAG pursues many activities related to geography careers, career development, and employment. AAG's Departmental Leadership Workshops seem to be working very well in conjunction with GFDA. In 2009, there were an exceptionally low number of jobs in the newsletter, but 2010 is showing a marked uptick. Richardson projects the higher number of position advertisements will continue for the next two to three months. There was discussion of geography employment issues; ideas included the need for academic departments to consider how to deal with shifts in employment, integration of GIS into other aspects of student training, and interdisciplinary collaborations. The AAG Newsletter jobs listings are almost exclusively academic, but a broader online job bank is being developed. The REESE project is working on analysis of the types of jobs available, which should be of great interest to both departments and students. There also was discussion of labor data and its geographic analysis, as well as ongoing threats to mapping and geographic information systems-related careers.

AAG continues to be involved in outreach related to Haiti and rebuilding Geography there [see the October 2010 AAG Newsletter]. AAG staff members have been working with AAAS to issue a report on rebuilding programs and scientific capacity in Haiti. Richardson also noted that AAG continues to receive expressions of appreciation for its activities following Hurricane Katrina. Richardson also described AAG's role in the creation and ongoing leadership of the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition, and provided a Coalition report. AAG has a very strong relationship with AAAS.

Two Congressmen spoke at the 2010 AAG meeting. AAG is quite involved in issues

related to the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) and the issue of inclusion of social sciences as STEM disciplines. The AAG Newsletter's Washington Monitor section reports describe the kinds of issues that AAG follows.

Among the AAG's many international activities, Richardson noted that the most significant is probably the developing regions membership program. A number of international outreach activities are being pursued, though, including overseas workshops and conferences. UNEP and UN Habitat have expressed interest in funding a meeting being planned for Nairobi. Kobayashi requested further information on developing regions memberships, specifically the locations that are eligible.

Annual Meetings

Highlights for the 2011 Seattle meeting were described, including special events (opening plenary, presidential address, space-time integration, geography and the humanities, and others). The Executive Committee and Council will meet beginning Sunday prior to the opening of the annual meeting. There was discussion of annual meeting size and our ability to limit size, as well as the benefits of very large meetings.

There was discussion of options for helping those in economic need (based on unemployment or underemployment, given national economic conditions) to attend national meetings. Richardson suggested that we modify the existing AAG unemployed conference assistance program to also include those who are underemployed or are experiencing financial hardship; assistance from this program will be extended to those who make \$15,000 or less. James so moved and Scott seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Grants and Awards

AAG Honors recommendations are made by the Honors Committee. Gamble moved and James seconded approval of the Honors Committee's recommendations for AAG Honors awards. There was unanimous approval. Solís described the nominee for the Enhancing Diversity Award. The Honors Committee is supportive of the proposed awardee. McAnney moved and Till seconded approval of the Enhancing Diversity awardee; the decision was unanimous.

Richardson mentioned that the Atlas Award will need to be discussed in the

future. Potential awardees were discussed, as well as the significance of the award to AAG. The next Atlas Award will likely be conferred at the New York meeting in 2012. There is a committee to work on this, and Kobayashi will be added to the committee. Richardson asked for additional potential awardee suggestions.

Committees

An updated list of committees and committee members, including new Council members for committees that needed new Council representation, was shared with Council by Harrington (Chair of the Committee on Committees) and Solís. Foote moved and Greiner seconded approval of the committees. The committee memberships were approved. The Committee also presented the slate of individuals for consideration for the Nominating Committee and Honors Committee (A and B). Councillors were asked to submit votes for those to appear on the ballot to Harrington on or before November 1. [N.b. Harrington tallied votes and reported on those selected for the ballot.]

The Nominating Committee's selections of nominees for Vice President and for National Councillors were announced to Council, as an information item.

Final Business

There was discussion of departments under stress or threat and actions to be considered.

Moseley presented a report on Specialty Group activities and their annual reports. Reports were down this year, possibly due to the transition to the new website. Moseley passed along specific concern items from specialty groups. Several were related to electronic communications and information management. Richardson noted that AAG is seeking a new association/member management system and provider. This would be a major undertaking. Kobayashi noted that there are some issues with *Manuscript Central* that also should be addressed as part of this process.

Council went into closed session.

Council was adjourned, 11:50 am on October 30.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa MB Harrington, AAG Secretary

AAG Council Meeting Minutes

Spring 2011
April 10-12, Seattle

Attending: *Executive Committee:* Kenneth Foote, *President*; Audrey Kobayashi, *Vice President*; Carol Harden, *Past President*; Amy Glasmeier, *Treasurer*; Lisa Harrington, *Secretary*; Douglas Richardson, *Executive Director*. *National Councillors:* William Moseley (*Chair*), Leslie Duram, Amy Glasmeier, L. Allan James, Marilyn Raphael, Karen Till. *Regional Councillors:* Doug Gamble (*Southeast, Chair*), Bryon Middlekauff (*New England-St. Lawrence Valley*); Dagmar Budikova (*West Lakes*), Alyson Greiner (*Southwestern*), Lisa Harrington (*Great Plains/Rocky Mountains*), Laurie Hummel (*Middle States*), Antoinette WinklerPrins (*East Lakes*), Michael Scott (*Middle Atlantic*), Jenny Zorn (*Pacific Coast*). *AAG staff members:* Candida Mannoizzi, Patricia Solís.

Opening

President Foote welcomed Councillors to the spring meeting. Foote described the agenda, which had a few recommended additions based on an earlier Executive Committee meeting, and asked for any additional items. Foote moved and Harden seconded approval of the agenda as amended; the motion passed unanimously.

The minutes of the spring Council meeting had received preliminary approval via e-mail. Foote moved and Duram seconded reaffirmation of approval of the minutes. The minutes were approved. Given several decisions reached by the Executive Council during its March 2011 meeting, Foote also noted inclusion of the Executive Committee meeting minutes in Council information packets.

Presidential Reports

Foote commented that he has been pleased with progress on areas he had focused on as a candidate for VP/President, particularly professional development. He has been trying to look very broadly at professional development and improving the culture of leadership. He referred to several events scheduled for the annual meeting, successful career and leadership workshops, and some of his presidential columns. Prog-

ress towards publication of *Practicing Geography* is also proceeding smoothly.

Kobayashi described her plans to address different issues from Foote's, but also to maintain links to current projects during her AAG presidency. Two things are on her agenda. First, at the level of the Association, she'd like to focus on equity and social justice issues, with clear links to Foote's activities. Kobayashi is planning for next year's AAG meeting in New York and expects to make social justice a major theme for the plenary sessions. It is likely that the Atlas awardee will have strong links to the social justice theme. Kobayashi's second focus is strengthening international relations (connected with the social justice theme). At the last Council meeting there was some discussion of the creation of an International Geography Day. In May, Kobayashi, Richardson, and others will be discussing the development of this at the National University of Ireland Maynooth. It is anticipated that this activity will also help support international collaborations among geographers.

Harden noted that she has greatly enjoyed her service as Vice President, President, and Past President (as well as her prior three years as a councillor). Her activities focused particularly on the idea that if other disciplines had a better idea of what geographers do, we would be more likely to make a difference. To Harden this has meant focusing on better communication of what we do to colleagues outside our discipline, empowering geographers to be more visible, and making the AAG membership more aware of what is happening at the national level. She complimented the AAG's outreach and educational activities as an organization, and has tried to foster more communication from a wider number of geographers at the grassroots level. She has received a lot of positive response related to her focus.

Councillors' Reports

Councillors had been asked to provide updates and comments relevant to geographers and the changing landscape of higher education, a follow-up to the discussion at the Fall 2010 Council meeting.

Regional Councillors

Gamble, Chair of the Regional Councillors, led the discussion, starting with the SEDAAG report. He noted a SEDAAG proposal to add a Caribbean representative to the region.

Each regional councillor reported on conditions in his or her region, including past and upcoming fall meetings. A number of common themes appeared, including continued economic stress, but feelings of more stability due to a better understanding of state situations. Geography programs seem to be doing relatively well: the discipline has benefited by being entrepreneurial, good at credit hour production, and multi-disciplinary in nature. Numerous programs are seeing shifts in curricular offerings to more online courses and 'hybrid' courses, as well as reframing of courses to capture more current/popular topics. Concerns include: being able to support professional development of younger faculty without travel funding; aging of faculty members in some departments and the lack of replacements; growing reliance on part-time and temporary ('contingent') faculty and graduate students; recruiting contingent faculty; continued budgetary uncertainty; threats to collective bargaining rights in some states; and potentially disproportionate effects on human geography. Public universities in some states (e.g., California) are under particular duress. With a particularly large number of federally-employed geographers in the Middle Atlantic Division, Scott noted that federal budget issues and the political situation in Washington are creating a "very sketchy" picture. A broad trend of anti-intellectualism and mistrust of science in the current Congress was discussed as a concern.

National Councillors

As Chair of the National Councillors, Moseley led the discussion with contributions from the National Councillors; they reflected more broadly on the discipline and its place in the rapidly changing economic-political-academic environment. Key ideas discussed at the fall meeting were reiterated and elaborated upon. National Councillors focused on strengths

and aspects of geography that appeal to other disciplines, students, and employers, and also mentioned areas of weakness and needs for improvement.

Geography benefits by its interdisciplinarity, its integrative and holistic approaches, and by geographers' educational traditions. Areas of opportunity include sustainability, environmental impacts, and the human-environment part of traditional curricula, although moves of other disciplines into these areas may constitute a threat. However, we should be connecting to energy issues—especially social science aspects of energy—much more strongly. Water issues were also mentioned, although geographers are in a better position with water resources. Geography's technical and applied aspects are attractive to students; geographers have been good at translating theory into practice, and it is important to acknowledge connections between the two (or to reject false dualisms separating them) and incorporate this into graduate student training. There were suggestions of a need to continue to build entrepreneurial activities, as well as connections with other disciplines. Changes that may represent opportunities include a generational shift occurring in the discipline, as well as globalization and internationalization.

A variety of challenges were identified: a lack of racial and ethnic diversity in the discipline, which makes it more difficult to reach out to all students; greater scrutiny of academic units at various levels, with more reporting requirements; increased focus on completion ratios, with challenges to retain and recruit undergraduate students—the tendency for undergraduate students to find geography late in their studies can make recruitment and retention more difficult; reducing the cost of education; a need for humanities and social sciences to legitimate themselves with a growing focus on jobs and disciplinary applications; a need for adaptations in how we teach because students and learning styles have changed; and the changing nature of careers (with a reduced role for tenure in academic positions, and an increase in privatization in general).

Councillors suggested a number of strategies: diversifying more into private universities or government could help address the difficulties of so many geographers employed in public universities that

feel tremendous pressure during economic downturns; using many new—often geographic—technologies in undergraduate teaching; encouraging students to continue thinking of government as potential career; connecting the theoretical and the technical/entrepreneurial/practical areas of the discipline; sharing of means or metrics to assess student learning outcomes, transferable skills, and various metrics; changing the perception of a lack of jobs for students graduating with degrees in geography, so that there is a realization that geographers are qualified for many positions not labeled as geography; participating in university administration processes and looking for links to other units on campus, including cross-listing courses, to make the discipline more visible; seeking funding for increased diversity; developing technology platforms to help with visualization of the things geographers are involved with and that fit in with widening opportunities for web-based education; and having important points and narratives ready when seeking support. Till suggested creation of a classics in geography library for e-readers, with AAG commissioning short introductory essays for entries.

Richardson suggested that each national councillor write an op-ed for the *AAG Newsletter*, with perhaps two at a time being published. Foote asked that comments be shared via webmail, and that councillors think about ideas and ways to collaborate relevant to helping the discipline adapt.

STATUS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Richardson reminded Council that he will be taking a six-month sabbatical, with Council approval, beginning a few weeks after the annual meeting. He has been working to make sure that the more complex parts of organizational operations are taken care of before early May. Interim goals and milestones for each employee have been developed for each project for the period of time he will be on sabbatical. Richardson and AAG staff members have been working on assignments of duties commensurate with backgrounds and talents. During his sabbatical, Richardson may be developing a number of new relationships with other geography organizations and associations. He will spend two months in China and hopes to set up a formal collaborative

process with the Geographical Society of China. Richardson noted that he is very grateful for the sabbatical. Michael Solem has been asked to serve as head of office during Richardson's absence. Candida Mannozi, Jean McKendry, and Patricia Solís will assist in this; Teri Martin will be heading up financial monitoring.

Finances

The financial status of the association has continued to be healthy. Changes in revenue over the last decade have come about by streamlining operations and adding revenue sources. The Finance Committee met in early March, and met with the association's auditors. Glasmeier summarized the Finance Committee meeting. The committee discussed banking and a proposed new budget for the next fiscal year (Sep 1, 2011-Aug 31, 2012). AAG has had another good year, with a continued net gain on investments over the past several difficult years (unlike most associations). The AAG has nearly \$7 million in endowments, with the majority of those funds held in CDs. The Finance Committee members and the AAG auditing firm were very impressed with the financial management of the Association by Richardson and AAG accounting staff. According to the lead auditor, Bill Astrab, the AAG is very well run, transparent, and effective. The AAG also has diversified its organizational revenues, developing multiple income sources, so that now neither the conference nor the dues represent a majority of organizational revenues. Glasmeier also noted "epochal change" in the AAG's finances, including the diversification of revenues and the negotiation of the ten-year contract with Routledge. She said that some of the major Finance Committee discussion issues were about actions that will help AAG operate more efficiently. One of these is the AAG's plans to upgrade the software used for conference and membership management. Richardson reported that the AAG will implement major changes to its existing association management system, adding new modules and a new social networking system. The new social networking software will be state-of-the-art and will also be integrated with the AAG's current membership

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management system. The user interface of this social networking system will be much more intuitive and is expected to provide many new functions and benefits to the AAG's Specialty Groups. Implementation of these changes and improvements is expected to take approximately six months.

The 2012 proposed budget was also discussed. Richardson noted that both the Finance Committee and the Executive Committee had reviewed the budget and recommended that it be accepted. James moved and Till seconded approval of the proposed budget for FYE 2012. The motion passed unanimously.

Richardson circulated the current investment policy, and recommended that the AAG maintain the investment strategy as outlined in the document. He asked that Council consider this and confirm support for continuation of the conservative policy which he has undertaken to date. There was consensus approval. Richardson noted that, time permitting, he would like to undertake a new focused fundraising campaign in support of important AAG programs, most likely in 2012 or 2013.

Membership

Membership status was reviewed by Richardson. Membership is holding steady at this time; the AAG had achieved rapid increases from about 2002-7, then membership started to plateau. Membership reached 10,794 at the end of 2010. Generally there have been increases across all categories, but the most rapid growth has been in the graduate student category. Richardson also noted the AAG's progressive membership dues structure, and the fact that dues have not increased for several years despite inflation. AAG members also receive a free online subscription to one of a selected set of Routledge journals, and reciprocal memberships are available with IBG and CAG at reduced rates. Kobayashi noted that the AAG may have more Canadian members than does the CAG; she wondered if regional divisions could play a role in trying to get a message across that associate membership in the CAG could be a good thing. There was discussion of regions, memberships, and international relations.

A current issue in academia has been 'Freedom of Information Act' (FOIA) re-

quests from the Republican Party of Wisconsin, and others, to obtain a potentially large set of email correspondence to and from William Cronon, Professor of History, Geography, and Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This is an apparent response to an editorial by Cronon. Some of Cronon's colleagues had contacted AAG to request assistance, and the AAG's Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility drafted a resolution. The draft was distributed and discussed by the Executive Committee and by an *ad hoc* Council subcommittee made up of Kobayashi, Foote, Duram, Till and Richardson. Recommended final resolution wording was distributed. Foote said that the statement would be posted on the AAG website, sent to Cronon's department, and circulated to other organizations that had circulated similar resolutions. Richardson stated it should be recognized that the issue is much larger than the specific FOIA demand for Cronon's correspondence. Council voted unanimously in support of the "AAG Resolution in Support of William Cronon." Moseley suggested that it would be appropriate to share the document with local U.S. Representatives.

Operations

Kailey Paul and Sarah Siegel have both joined AAG staff, as Administrative Specialist and Research Assistant, respectively. Richardson noted that he is trying to solidify several international collaborations for AAG, including working with the Geographical Society of China and the Chinese Academy of Sciences. During his sabbatical he will attend a meeting of the Geographical Society of China. A new geography news service for AAG members—AAG SmartBrief—has recently begun. Richardson said that he has had good feedback so far, but that content will need continuous refinement over time. He thinks that the Jobs and Careers section is one of the weakest parts of the AAG website; work on it will continue over the summer.

Publications

WinklerPrins distributed the report of the Publications Committee, and highlighted that the journals are doing very well, impact factors are high, and hardcopy

subscriptions are declining but online subscriptions are increasing and exceeding AAG expectations. Efforts continue for reduction of manuscript turnaround times; significant variability in section turnaround and in submissions to sections remains. Barney Warf became PG editor and Bimal Kanti Paul PG book review editor on Jan 1, 2011, with three-year terms. A key task for this Council Meeting was to select two new editors for the *Annals*, for the People, Place and Region and the Nature-Society sections. A total of six applications were reviewed and ranked by the Publications Committee; the Executive Committee selected four candidates for interviews. WinklerPrins developed a set of questions for *Annals* editorial candidate interviews, to serve as a guide for Council interviews with candidates.

The search for the *Annals* Book Review editor has been extended, with interviews expected in the fall. There was discussion of editors' needs, including monetary and operational support. There has been a growing issue of recognition and valuing of major editorial services at educational institutions. The key question is how to continue to recruit more good editors and suggestions were made for Councillors to reach out to individuals and encourage them to apply. Richardson proposed a motion that all eight editor stipends be raised to \$10,000 beginning in 2012. WinklerPrins seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Richardson said that the two books developed from the AAG Geography and the Humanities initiative — *Envisioning Landscapes, Making Worlds: Geography and the Humanities*, and *Geography and the Humanities: Art, History, Text at the Edge of Place* — have had good advance reviews. He described the complementary nature of the two volumes.

The 2010-2011 AAG *Guide to Programs* is the last paper edition. Harrington asked about print on demand, which had been discussed in the past. Richardson said that print on demand may be available. The membership directory is already available online to AAG members. This and related online-access issues will be explored by AAG staff in preparation for the 2011-2012 edition.

There has been a good deal of discussion of the Wiley-Blackwell *International Encyclopedia of Geography* in Council over the last year and a half. A good agreement with Wiley was developed and signed. Richardson will serve as the Editor-in-Chief, with five to six general editors, each with six to eight section editors. General editors will include Michael Goodchild (GIScience and technology), Audrey Kobayashi (human geography), Richard Marston (physical geography), and Weidong Liu (geography and regional development). Liu and Richardson will also be coordinating further support and contributions to the *Encyclopedia* in China. Each of the section editors will coordinate about 30-50 entries. Richardson emphasized that this is an international, 15-volume encyclopedia, and is expected to be available online and in hard copy. It is envisioned as the definitive reference work on geography. The next eight months or so will be devoted to developing the encyclopedia's structure/taxonomy. After that process, key section editors will be identified. Overall, this is expected to be a four year project, with the bulk of the writing process occurring in the third year.

With respect to the *African Geographical Review*, the AAG will be working on a publishing agreement with Routledge to help sustain the journal and encourage it to grow. AAG will serve as contracting agent, but the AGR will be published as a journal of the AAG's Africa Specialty Group. Richardson hopes it will grow and become a major contribution to scholarship in and on Africa. The AAG has supported the AGR with modest funding over last few years; Routledge will now cover this and royalties will be reinvested back into the journal. Moseley and Richardson noted that past AAG support was possible due to special AAG grants to support geography in Africa.

Research and Outreach

Richardson described his satisfaction with the excellent progress being made on the AAG NIH-wide GIS infrastructure initiative. AAG and NIH held a joint workshop in February that included the AAG's NIH initiative steering committee members (Sarah McLafferty, Mei-Po Kwan, Jonathan Mayer, Michael Goodchild, and Doug Richardson), as well as key biomed-

ical and other GIScience researchers. The workshop was very successful and led to better understanding of shared needs. A draft report will be circulated soon. In addition to the workshop and report, the AAG also has developed a proposal to NIH to support research agenda workshops to develop more GIS capacity at NIH and to deal with key challenges to creating a major national GIS infrastructure for medical research, including data privacy issues.

There was discussion of diversity and broadening participation in the discipline; Richardson noted that attention to diversity is integrated across all of AAG activities. The EDGE project, the ALIGNED project, and the 2010 AAG survey of geography departments are examples where enhancing diversity within the discipline have been key. Solís reported that the results from comparing the 2005 and the 2010 departmental surveys indicate modest gains overall in the numbers of graduate students identifying in non-white, non-Hispanic racial and ethnic categories, but not at the undergraduate level. Women in geography have also increased in number, including at tenured faculty ranks, although the overall percentage of female participation is still lower than the national average for higher education. More details have been reported in the April 2011 issue of the *AAG Newsletter*, and data with analysis will be posted online. Another new initiative for research on geographies of broadening participation has been proposed by the AAG to NSF.

Richardson said that some AAG research and outreach has been groundbreaking, such as the AAG's work with NIH, the Geography and the Humanities initiatives, and the efforts on GIS and technology cyberinfrastructure and capacity-building in Latin America for environmental protection and economic development. Solís added that the innovation with these Latin America efforts has been getting public, private, and academic sectors together to develop collaborations. In further discussion of connections with other countries, Richardson said that AAG can help bring university programs together.

Richardson talked about AAG's numerous specialty conferences, and noted participation in a wide range of additional conferences. Staff members are constantly

meeting with representatives of organizations (e.g., federal agencies) with which AAG has strong connections. Public policy concerns often are addressed as more formal outreach, with efforts to connect geography to STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) initiatives, for example. There was also mention of ongoing campaigns to deny public mapping contract work to geographers and academic institutions. These efforts have more recently shifted to the state level. Richardson noted that the AAG Executive Committee discussed the potential of creation of a new organization to support open and non-exclusionary GIS and mapping approaches for geographers, and the academic and private sector communities. He said that there may be a need to have an organization separate from COGO, but he doesn't want the AAG to bear the majority of the costs and labor of its creation. Richardson mentioned that there are others who support this concept.

Richardson and John Wertman obtained wide support for the AAG Resolution Supporting K-12 Geography Education, and said that it is their sense that this might be one thing that legislators decide they can cooperate on. Richardson pointed out some of the signatories, which now include the Governors of Maine and Florida. Richardson noted it would be very helpful if Council members could assist with the recruitment of high profile signatories.

Two additional important areas of outreach are AAG's collaboration with EIS-Africa (Environmental Information Systems-Africa) and with OES (Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs) in the Department of State. AAG has leveraged supplemental funding from other agencies (e.g., NSF, NASA) for this collaborative project. Richardson has also initiated and Solís has taken the lead with MyCOE, which may become a showcase example of a "sustainable development" project for the new Rio+20 effort planned by the UN for 2012. AAG also has ongoing NSF funding to provide travel support for members to attend IGU meetings.

A proposal from Will Graf for the AAG to join the American Geological Institute

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was distributed to Councillors. There was discussion, and Richardson suggested that the AAG ask AGI to support geography by signing on to the AAG's Resolution in Support of K-12 Education. If they are supportive of geography, the AAG would consider becoming an AGI member.

National Councillors and Regional Councillors met separately over lunch to select new Council chairs and discuss issues. Alyson Greiner will serve as the new Chair of Regional Councillors and Karen Till will serve as the next Chair of the National Councillors.

Annual Meetings

Richardson noted continued strong annual meeting attendance. Last year's meeting in Washington, DC, was a record with 8,342 attendees; Seattle attendance is expected to be somewhat lower, but still strong. Key themes this year include geographers and geographic collaborations in Asia and the Pacific Rim Region; Space-Time Integration in Geography and GIScience; and Geography in the Changing Worlds of Higher Education.

New York City will be the venue for the 2012 meeting. Richardson described the NYC Local Arrangements Committee, which was recently formed, and also noted that New York is rich in potential speakers and attendees. Meetings scheduled into the future include Los Angeles (2013), Tampa (2014), and Chicago (2015). Richardson suggested San Francisco and Boston for possible consideration for 2016 and 2017, with Portland, Vancouver and Baltimore as alternates. Council concurred with the suggested locations.

Richardson reviewed the AAG Atlas Award, which is awarded every two years, and shared the list of potential Atlas Award-ees for 2012, as ranked by the Atlas Award Committee.

Committees

Gamble reported on the AAG committee reports, and noted that the reduction in the size of some committees last year seems to be working out well. Harrington described the slate of potential new committee appointees, and gradual trimming down of large committees. The list of

recommended new committee members was distributed. Foote noted that the committee nominations list came to Council as a motion from the Committee on Committees. Council voted unanimously in favor of the recommendations for new committee memberships.

WinklerPrins asked about increasing the amounts for AAG research and dissertation awards. There was discussion, with the suggestion that these awards and their amounts be taken under consideration, pending a review of available funds for each award.

Education

Foote introduced Michael Solem and Susan Gallagher Heffron. He noted that Solem will be serving as Deputy Director during Richardson's sabbatical. Solem thanked and congratulated Richardson on his sabbatical and talked about the AAG's tremendous group of staff, having been part of the organization for the last eight years.

Solem updated Council on the EDGE project (Enhancing Departments and Graduate Education), which has received two grants from NSF since 2005. It has many components; Solem mentioned that he, Ken Foote, and Jan Monk will be working on a study of masters-level programs, which appear to be less-well studied than other degree programs. EDGE also focuses on outreach and engagement. Solem works with Patricia Solís on outreach among AAG groups and committees and with the ALIGNED project on diversity. Solem and colleagues are also working on publication of a book, *Practicing Geography*, to disseminate EDGE research in a way that helps undergraduate and graduate students think about their career pathways; related web resources are being developed for both the "Healthy Departments" and "Careers" parts of the AAG website. Another project is the Center for Global Geography Education, which is nearing the end of its second phase of NSF funding. Materials have been developed collaboratively by geographers across several different regions. A part of this effort has been work toward organizing workshops and new collaborations. There have been good outcomes, and several proposals related to this project are

pending review/approval. The AAG is also developing a companion website to make available educational materials related to the recently published NRC study, *Understanding the Changing Planet: Strategic Directions for the Geographical Sciences*. Foote mentioned the tenth anniversary of the Geography Faculty Development Alliance (GFDA) institutes in Boulder; he noted that it has seen 400-500 early career faculty participate during its 10 years of operation.

Susan Gallagher Heffron reported on some additional educational projects, including the NASA Global Climate Change Education project targeted at providing climate and earth systems science curricular material for teachers who are required to teach this subject area but don't have it in their background. This is geared toward K-12 teachers, and the materials are now available online. Work is also being done in collaboration with NCGE (National Council for Geographic Education) to host a national webinar on April 28, with a follow-up event at the 2011 NCGE meeting.

AAG was recently granted a subaward from NGS (the National Geographic Society; funded by NSF) for the "Establishing a Roadmap for Large-Scale Improvement of K-12 Education in the Geographical Sciences" project. The AAG will identify and develop research topics that have important geographic components that can be used to build up basic geographic literacy; the AAG has reached out to a diverse group of colleagues, including cognitive scientists as well as geographers. Gallagher Heffron has also been updating the GENIP (Geography Education National Implementation Project) "geography for life" standards. These standards are expected to be available in May, when it will be decided whether the standards can proceed into publication, or whether another review is needed. A related issue is the common-core standards adopted as part of the federal "Race to the Top" program. Development of the geography component of these standards may be very significant. Gallagher Heffron will be coordinating with representatives of NCGE (Joe Stoltman) and NGS (Danny

Edelson) about this in May. Additional education-related AAG proposals have been developed in recent months.

Foote and Richardson thanked Solem and Gallagher Heffron for their significant contributions.

Regional Division Discussion

There was discussion with Adam Thocher and Gayathri Kher to address questions about association management systems, social networking software and related improvements. At the last Council meeting, additional support from the AAG to the Regional Divisions had been discussed. Gamble reviewed the requests that came up during the regional councillors' meeting, including help with regional meeting registration management, regional website hosting, and a potential increase of AAG annual direct financial support (from the current \$1000 per region). Many Regional Divisions have struggled with overhead and other issues of university conference management. Richardson noted that while AAG's meeting management system may work for Regional Division meeting registrations, it would entail significant customization for each regional meeting, substantial programming costs, and additional staff time.

Richardson suggested the possibility that the AAG-hosted 'microsites' might help fill some Regional Division website needs, and that the soon to be implemented social networking software could help address many of the other requests. Till suggested revisiting Regional Division requests in the fall, once the capacities of the new software are better known. Richardson noted that regions may need to evolve in the face of global dynamics and stresses. Moseley said that it might make sense to have some conversations about potential consolidations or mergers. There was discussion, with some agreement that it may be a good time to consider a possible reconfiguration of regions.

Foote proposed increasing the annual amount of AAG support to each Regional Division to \$1500 for future years. There was discussion. Scott moved and Moseley seconded an increase to \$1500 per year

for each region. The motion passed unanimously.

Council

Foote reviewed election results: President, Audrey Kobayashi (Queen's University); Vice President, Eric Sheppard (University of Minnesota); National Councillors, James Tyner (Kent State University) and Richard A. Wright (Dartmouth College); Honors Committee A, Susan Hardwick (University of Oregon); Honors Committee B, Sarah Halvorson (University of Montana) and Joseph Poracsky (Portland State University); and Nominating Committee, Katie Algeo (Western Kentucky University), James W. Harrington, Jr. (University of Washington), and Susanne Moser (Stanford University and Susanne Moser Research and Consulting). Richardson noted that electronic voting should be considered, and that this may increase participation. Gamble said that he can get information together about options for electronic voting for the regions.

The next Council meeting will take place in conjunction with the SEDAAAG meeting, the weekend before Thanksgiving (November 19-21), in Savannah, Georgia.

Foote said that John Harrington had written suggesting creation of a strategic planning committee; this suggestion was distributed by email. Foote noted that this can be quite valuable. We also already have a long range plan (distributed). Glasmeier suggested this could be done temporally or spatially; we may want to look at some of the things going on around us. She said she thinks that we are at a time of discontinuity: things have been changing rapidly. Richardson supports the idea of strategic planning, but noted also the great time and expense associated with such processes; he believes that it should only be done strategically and in a limited way (not open-ended). Till suggested that Council take the time to think about it. It will take some time to consider this carefully. Kobayashi may distribute related topics for fall discussion. Scott remarked that such an activity may help energize the membership.

Foote noted that Harrington is finishing her term on council, and a new secretary for 2011-13 needed to be elected. Foote

moved and Greiner seconded election of Jenny Zorn to the position of Secretary. Her election was unanimous.

Interviews

Interviews for the *Nature-Society* and *People, Place, and Region* (PPR) sections of the *Annals* were held. The candidates for editorial positions were interviewed individually, and then discussed. Balloting resulted in the selection of Richard Wright as PPR editor and Bruce Braun as *Nature-Society* editor. Kobayashi recommended that the new editors be asked to attend the afternoon editorial meeting.

New Issue

An important issue arose during the AAG Council meeting: the detention and deportation of geography doctoral student (University of Nebraska-Lincoln) and AAG member Angela Pochanasomburana. A resolution supporting Ms. Pochanasomburana was drafted by Richardson and AAG staff. Harrington moved for approval of the resolution, subject to further fact-checking. Gamble seconded; there was unanimous approval.

Closing

As final business, Foote presented resolutions of thanks and appreciation for the service of Carol Harden as Vice President, President, and Past President; of Lisa Harrington as Secretary and Great Plains/Rocky Mountain Councillor; of National Councillor Leslie Duram; of National Councillor and National Councillor Chair William Moseley; of Southeastern Regional Division Councillor and Regional Councillor Chair Douglas Gamble; and of outgoing AAG committee chairs and members. The resolutions were unanimously approved. Foote presented certificates of appreciation for contributions to Council to Past President Harden and to outgoing councillors Duram, Moseley, Gamble, and Harrington. Kobayashi presented gifts of appreciation to Harden and Foote.

Council was adjourned, 12:50 pm, May 12.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa MB Harrington, AAG Secretary

AAG Council Meeting Minutes

November 20-21, 2011, Savannah, Georgia

AAG Council members present: Audrey Kobayashi, Eric Sheppard, Amy Glasmeier, L. Allan James, Antoinette WinklerPrins, Laurel J. Hummel, Kenneth F. Foote, Michael Scott, Dagmar Budikova, Bryon Middlekauff, Jim Tyner, Derek Alderman, Brad Rundquist, Richard Wright, Alyson Greiner, Jenny Zorn, and Doug Richardson. Karen Till from Ireland and Marilyn Raphael from Los Angeles joined via skype. AAG Staff: Candida Mannozi, Patricia Solís, and Michael Solem.

Opening

Kobayashi moved to adopt the agenda. It was seconded by James and unanimously approved. She moved to reaffirm Council Meeting minutes from the Spring 2011 meeting held in Seattle that had been approved by email. Middlekauff seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Kobayashi also welcomed new Council members and the AAG Council welcomed back Executive Director Richardson from his sabbatical.

Challenges and Opportunities for the Association

Richardson provided a detailed overview of the progress at the AAG during the past decade, and discussed its current status and potential future trajectories. He elaborated on the challenges and opportunities facing the AAG since the beginning of the 21st Century, and the organizational development and structures he has put in place to address these. Multiple new initiatives were discussed, and the strong growth in AAG's membership, annual meeting attendance, international activities, research programs, and financial situation were documented. Continued new projects and programs were also described. Richardson thanked the AAG staff for their strong efforts in implementing these ongoing initiatives, programs and projects.

President Kobayashi discussed how international initiatives have expanded and her wish to advance this through a

particular mechanism or activity, perhaps by inviting and linking with other international geography associations around the AAG's current MyCOE activities leading up towards Rio+20 and beyond. She also listed several other international activities undertaken at the AAG such as the International Encyclopedia of Geography, outreach and collaborations with China, and other research and education activities that are underway or were recently launched. The IGU in Chile saw increased U.S. participation thanks to grants from the NSF to AAG, which supported 35 American geographers to attend this year's regional conference.

President Kobayashi discussed political issues related to some of our international ventures and suggested that while it might not be appropriate for the AAG to take a formal position on potential human rights or similar disputes, we should continue to be supportive of geographers in other countries. Within the discipline, we are far from representative of the population with respect to gender, race, ethnicity, disabilities, indigenous and sexual orientation, though we have done a great deal to address so-called issues of diversity. She urged all to continue to address these areas where achieving equity can be difficult, to continue working to overcome barriers to full participation. She added that it is important to continue the recently improved communication begun by previous presidents Carol Harden and Ken Foote. She anticipates the new AAG Knowledge Communities having an important impact on communication. The question of opening access to the Knowledge Communities to non-AAG members had been raised to and discussed among the Executive Committee, who recommended that this be a service available only to AAG members.

Vice President Sheppard expressed that he feels privileged to serve the AAG membership. He has attended some regional meetings already. He is committed

to equity and global learning from others through our international initiatives. Sheppard is impressed with the amount of work of the AAG and the variety of AAG initiatives. He seeks to find ways to bring geographic research to those affected by the issues we study, to engage the public, and to encourage geography departments to take a lead in internationalizing the scholarship at US universities.

Past President Foote commented that the Geography Faculty Development Alliance (GFDA) and Department Leadership Workshops continue, with recruiting to begin after the first of the year. Focus in summer of 2012 will be on how to promote strategies of inclusion and diversity in geography departments, leveraging some of the results from the AAG's ALIGNED and EDGE projects. There have been productive panel discussions at Annual Meetings and a special Chairs' Symposium, both of which continue to engage these issues. These difficult budgetary times raise concerns about the merging of geography programs with others, so a session is being organized at the New York City Annual meeting on blended Geography in Departments in Social Science and Earth Science programs. A new GFDA workshop on writing for publication is under development.

Review of Topical Developments – National Councillors

Kobayashi asked the National Councillors to consider how there are many signs across the US and in other parts of the world that the relationship between civil society and the state is undergoing respatialization in a number of significant ways. Examples might include the Occupy movement and other antiglobalization protests, the restructuring of the housing market, the impact of international agreements on the lives of ordinary people, the neoliberalization of the third sector, and so on. She asked for brief comments on the nature of such respatial-

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izations, with some suggestions of how the AAG might facilitate discussion of the most timely scholarly interventions.

Till began by remarking how the Occupy movements have attracted interest and attention around the world. She noted that it is more than just taking over public space and more than merely the unknown of the economic situations. She suggested geographers could focus on efforts to get interdisciplinary teams together to address new theories and models to rethink what is happening. Raphael agreed that thinking how space has been important in these times seems to be relevant. She asked, what is the meaning of the spaces of where these Occupy movements have been? She suggested that perhaps the AAG could host a blog or point to existing online conversations or Social Media that could culminate in a panel discussion at the New York City meeting.

Glasmeier said that she has seen many presentations and events related to the Occupy movements using data and spatial presentations without consideration for the ethical implications in presenting this information, e.g., scale, patterns, subjects. She pondered to what extent there is a role here for the AAG to act as a steward, a facilitator for others using data and its representation, particularly where there is an unintentional vulnerability of the people who are impacted by the representation of the data. How do we gain teachable moments from these events? Why does the geography of these activities matter? Geographers can demonstrate that these events are happening in places, not in the abstract. For example, the Occupy gathering in Boston is different from the one in Berkeley, Washington DC or New York. They occur in different environments, which impact their movement. Wright also agreed that AAG could act as a central clearinghouse, connecting web sites, databases, analyses – helping to connect the wider public or media with the work of intellectuals who are mapping social and physical issues of our times.

Tyner reflected that geographers have often neglected some of the most pressing

issues of our times. There are individuals, people in life and death situations and not enough work is being done, e.g., intimate partner violence, school violence, street violence, abortion, capital punishment, gun control, arms trade, and border issues. It is our obligation to engage in this research and public discourse.

James commented on how geographers could examine respatialization involving a variety of government agencies and stakeholders, such as contributing to promoting the watershed management approach to parceling out space and its interrelations. Geographers are optimally positioned to promote the need for intergovernmental coordination and interdisciplinary approaches in dealing with social, physical, and political issues.

Review of Geography Programs – Regional Councillors

The Southwest Regional Division met in Austin this year with next year's meeting planned for New Mexico State University. To better reflect its expanded mission, the department of geography at the University of Oklahoma changed its name to Geography and Environmental Sustainability earlier this year. There's a new stand-alone geographer at the University of Arkansas Fort Smith. Discussions in the Southwest Division revealed a sense they have a distinct regional identity.

The Pacific Coast Regional Division (APCG) meetings were hosted by San Francisco State University and next year will meet at Evergreen State College in Washington. Geography at UC Davis is reviving and they will host the 2012 California Geographic Society meetings. Regional meetings are popular because of field trips, networking opportunities, student research awards, better mentoring of junior faculty and students, fewer concurrent sessions, and opportunities for leadership.

This year East Lakes met in Youngstown and next year they will meet in northern Illinois at DeKalb, in a joint meeting with West Lakes. A resurgence of geographers at the University of Michigan is evident. They have had preliminary informal discus-

sions of whether the membership would want to consider merging with West Lakes.

The Middle States Regional Division meeting was held at Keene State in New Jersey. The lack of participation from Research I institutions continues to frustrate the leadership of the Middle State Division. The participation is largely from bachelor-only institutions and so they miss the energy of graduate students at the meetings.

The 2011 Middle Atlantic Division meeting was held at the University of Maryland College Park and next year they will meet with the Pennsylvania Geographical Society in Salisbury, MD. Holding joint meetings helps get a critical mass. The division is different from other divisions as it is constituted by a great number of professional geographers. Coppin State, a Historically Black College (HBCU), just got approval to start a geography major and HBCU Morgan State has now been approved to hire a geographer. George Washington University has incorporated environmental studies into their department and doubled their major base without additional resources.

Glasmeier suggested sending a message of support to our colleagues at Penn State University. Hummel volunteered to draft a letter with her, which Council later approved.

The West Lakes region has engaged in preliminary informal discussions on potential future directions for the Region and ways to increase the import and significance of the annual regional meeting by focusing on conference themes, a regional focus, and increasing the diversity of participating institutions. The 2011 regional meeting was held at DePaul University in Chicago. With almost 250 people registered, it was one of the best attended West Lakes meetings in recent years. The West Lakes Division's poster competition was inaugurated at this event. Key presentations and overarching themes at the meeting made this an engaging and thought-provoking event. In the fall of 2011, Northern Michigan University renamed their Department of Geography

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the Department of Earth, Environmental and Geographical Sciences and now offers four new majors: Earth Science, Environmental Studies and Sustainability, Environmental Science, and Geomatics. They have over 300 undergraduate majors and eight tenure-track faculty in addition to Dr. Michael Broadway, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

This year's New England/St. Lawrence Valley meeting was in Montreal and next year's meeting will be hosted by the University of Maine, Farmington. A session at the AAG NYC meeting on reinvigorating regional divisions was organized. Rhode Island College will double the size of its department from one to two faculty. They also hire adjuncts. Concordia has 500 geography majors with 15 faculty members.

The Southeast Regional Division met in Savannah, Georgia and hosted the National Council meeting. It appears that regional boundaries do not reflect regional identities. Southeast is adding a Caribbean representative on the Steering Committee. The perception of inferiority of the regional organizations is a constant challenge. Perhaps a focused theme at conferences would invigorate the regional meetings, e.g., Immigration for the Southwest Division or Pacific Rim for the Pacific Coast Division. They were pleased with the results of online voting, having used it successfully now.

The Great Plains/Rocky Mountains Division's Annual meeting was held in Denver and next year they will meet in Provo, Utah at Brigham Young University. They recently launched a new website. Some requests were made for the AAG to publicize more non-GIS careers on its web pages.

It was suggested that the questions put to the Regional Councillors regarding the nature of regional divisions could benefit from some more context, which Audrey Kobayashi agreed to provide. The same questions will be extended for the Spring 2012 Council Meeting in New York, to allow for additional responses and more detailed discussions.

STATUS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Finances and Accounting

Glasmeier and Richardson provided an update on the AAG finances. The financial status of the association continues to be healthy. Strong growth and positive changes in net assets over the last decade have come about by streamlining operations and adding revenue sources. The AAG also has continued to diversify its organizational revenues, developing multiple and balanced income sources. Revenues vary significantly from year to year, but generally come primarily from these multiple sources: approximately 20% membership dues and external donors, 40% events, 20% research, and 20% publications.

The Finance Committee met with the association's auditors in March. Glasmeier summarized the Finance Committee meeting, stating that the auditors praised AAG's accounting and financial results as among the best that they have seen among similar organizations. According to the lead auditor, Bill Astrab, the AAG is very well run, transparent, and effective. The Finance Committee members were also very impressed with the financial management of the association by Richardson and AAG accounting staff. AAG has had another good year in its investments, with a continued net gain on investments over the past several difficult years (unlike most of its peer associations).

AAG is in the process of upgrading the software used for conference and membership management. Richardson reported that the AAG also recently completed an expensive and time-consuming implementation of major changes to its existing association social networking system. The new social networking software is state-of-the-art and is also integrated with the AAG's upgraded membership management system. The user interface of this social networking system is much more intuitive and is expected to provide many new functions and benefits to the AAG's Specialty Groups. Richardson noted that, time permitting, he would like to undertake a new focused fundraising campaign in support of important AAG programs, most likely in 2013.

Membership

Executive Director Richardson reported that membership continues to grow steadily and referred to the report by AAG Membership Director Adam Thocher. The AAG offers many new support services to individual members as well within the AAG sub-groups. Improvements to the website have enhanced membership support. In particular the new AAG Knowledge Communities that were launched this year have created new spaces for interaction and communication within the AAG. They have already been used extensively by Specialty Groups, some of the committees, and members generally for many purposes, including news postings, organization of sessions and special events for the annual meeting, and many other announcements.

The AAG has worked to increase collaboration and engagement with developing regions through many activities and programs and continues the AAG Developing Regions Membership Program.

Publications

The AAG received a request from Geoffrey Martin, to publish a memorial for Wes Dow in the *Annals*. Discussion resulted in a motion by Richardson to grant an exception to publish a memorial for a non-AAG President in the *Annals*. James seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mark Fonstad's and Mei-Po Kwan's terms are coming up for renewal in December 2013. Tom Hodler's term as Cartography Editor is also up for renewal in December, 2013. Upon recommendation from the Publications Committee, WinklerPrins moved for Council to renew all three editors' terms for Jan 2014-Dec 2018. James seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

AAG received several applications for Book Review Editor for the *Annals*. The Publications Committee identified the strongest candidates. The AAG Executive Committee discussed the Publication Committee's input at its Fall meeting and recommended that Council interview three candidates at the Annual Meeting in New York. A motion was made by Winkler-

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Prins to conduct these three interviews, seconded by Greiner. It was approved unanimously. Council also discussed the possibility of having two Book Review Editors for the *Annals*.

WinklerPrins moved to approve the proposed People, Place, and Region (PPR) board of the AAG *Annals*, seconded by Scott. It was approved unanimously with one abstention. WinklerPrins moved to approve the Nature Society editorial board of the *Annals*, seconded by Scott. It was approved unanimously with one abstention.

The *Annals* are experiencing backlogs in two Sections: Methods, Models and GIS, and People, Place, and Region with Dec 2013 as the publication date for articles accepted now. Several strategies were identified by the Publications Committee and discussed and elaborated by the AAG Council. Richardson offered to discuss to with Routledge a number of the options and suggestions regarding the strategies identified.

The PG Editor had proposed an online discussion forum in order to encourage greater interactive engagement with published articles. The PG Editor would monitor the forum, to maintain discussion momentum and moderate the tone of the exchanges. Richardson moved to approve a one-year trial of an online discussion forum for the PG, to be revisited in a year. Scott seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Richardson commended the work of AAG Staff Robin Maier and Miranda Lecea on the operations of the journals.

Council discussed the format, digital and hard copy, of the AAG *Newsletter*. Richardson also noted that, pursuant to a previous Council Resolution, the 2011-2012 edition of the AAG *Guide* is currently in production as an online publication, with many thanks to AAG Staff Megan Overbey for her editorial work. This year, it will be published both online and by print-on-demand, and is on schedule to be made available by the Annual Meeting in New York.

The AAG International Encyclopedia of Geography is currently under development with the core editorial team to hold

two conference-call meetings at the end of November, and to convene in person at the AAG Annual Meeting in New York City.

Meridian Place Operations

Executive Director Richardson identified recently hired staff and interns and gave a brief overview of the management of the office. He thanked Michael Solem and Candida Mannozi for their efforts during his sabbatical and in ensuring that the office ran smoothly. He also commended Teri Martin, Director of Finance as well as Jean McKendry and Patricia Solís and other staff for their support during this period.

Research

Solís and Richardson reported on a variety of new AAG strategic initiatives that had been funded and approved since the last Council meeting. They noted that these engage many of the AAG's talented staff around important disciplinary themes for which AAG has a unique contribution to make. Since the Spring 2011 Council Meeting, the AAG was awarded funding for seven new research related initiatives or support for expanding current efforts, totaling \$1,008,385. These are the Geospatial Frontiers in Health and Social Environments program funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for a two-year implementation of a series of three workshops assembling experts in GIScience, social sciences, public health sciences, and biomedical sciences; Catalyzing Research on Geographies of Broadening Participation from NSF's Geography and Spatial Sciences (GSS) Program with support from the NSF-wide Science of Broadening Participation Program, focused on the contributions of geography and the spatial sciences to catalyze research on broadening participation in higher education; RAPID Outreach and Scaling-up Activities for the ALIGNED Diversity Project from the NSF to incorporate additional data from 50 departments into the beta version of the toolkit and production of new multimedia outreach materials; The My Community, Our Earth (MyCOE) Global Connections

and Exchange Program, funded by the US Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Office of Citizen Exchanges, Youth Programs will develop virtual learning collaborations and classroom sustainable development projects on climate change, food security, and green economy with US Geographic Alliances and exchange sites around the world; The My Community, Our Earth: Geographic Learning for Sustainable Development activities towards the Rio+20 United Nations conference in 2012 has engaged many partners in federal government and the private sector, with funding support from USDA to showcase the past decade of MyCOE activities; Development of Fundamental Geospatial Datasets in Africa, additional funding from the US Department of State for expanding reach of geospatial datasets and capacity-building in the Lake Victoria region with UNEP, UN Habitat, RCMRD, and in partnership with EIS-Africa; and another five years of funding from the NSF Geography and Spatial Sciences Program to continue the long-term AAG program providing travel support for US participation in International Geographical Union Events, from 2012 to 2016.

Richardson provided further updates on other numerous ongoing AAG initiatives, including: NIH-Wide GIS Infrastructure, Geography and Human Rights, Historical GIS Clearinghouse and Online Research Forum, ALIGNED, Quantitative Social Science Digital Library, Developing GIS&T Infrastructure for Innovation and Economic Development, and NSF Travel Grants.

Educational Affairs

Solem reported on updates in various significant ongoing Educational Affairs initiatives. He noted the progress made with new Careers-related publications and research, with thanks to AAG Staff Joy Adams, Mark Revell, Jean McKendry and others. The AAG will soon launch completely revised and updated Jobs & Careers web pages and has developed a wide range of careers-related activities and sessions for the NY Annual Meeting.

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The AAG's "Enhancing Departments and Graduate Education in Geography" (EDGE) project, currently in its second phase of funding by NSF's Research and Evaluation on Education in Science and Engineering (REESE) program, features three research components: Analysis of Business, Government, and Nonprofit Professionals; Analysis of Business, Government, and Non-Profit Organizations; and Analysis of Graduate Geography Programs. The AAG has received a grant for NASA's Global Climate Change Education solicitation to Improve Teacher Competency for Global Climate Change Education. Also, NSF has awarded the AAG a grant to fund a CGGE workshop in Bangalore, India, in March 2012 to foster new educational collaborations with geography educators in India and other South Asian nations. Additional support for the workshop will be provided by the *Journal of Geography in Higher Education*, Taylor & Francis, and the College Board.

The National Geographic Society was awarded funding from the NSF for "Establishing a Roadmap for Large-Scale Improvement of K-12 Education in the Geographical Sciences." The AAG has a sub-award contract to conduct research agenda work. Susan Gallagher Heffron and Niem Huynh are leading the AAG's efforts on this two-year project.

The AAG's Susan Gallagher Heffron is coordinating the GENIP project to revise the National Geography Standards. The draft text is currently undergoing copyediting. The project, with additional funding support from AAG and NGS, will produce an Executive Summary and a PDF version of the Standards document. The timeline for release of this 2nd Edition of the National Geography Standards publication is scheduled for early 2012.

An AAG Resolution Supporting K-12 Geography Education is an initiative to support federal funding for Geography Education in the next "No Child Left Behind" authorization, and in other ways. Thanks to the work of many, including Richardson and also AAG Staff John Wertman, the resolution has recently gained the support of numerous high-profile signatories, in-

cluding former Secretaries of State George Schultz, James Baker, Madeleine Albright, and many other high profile individuals and national organizations.

Outreach

AAG staff participate in or attend hundreds of meetings and conferences every year, including, among many, the Esri User Conference, IGU, AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition, UCGIS, R.E.P., NIH, COSSA, RGS-IGB and many others.

AAG also undertakes many activities for Careers & Employment in Geography, including recently the AAG Careers in Geography website overhaul; new Jobs in Geography (JIG) activities for Seattle 2011 and for New York City 2012; Departmental Data Survey Results; AAG presence on social media and networking sites (e.g. Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.); and new education and outreach materials development supported by activities of various external grants.

AAG continues many activities related to public policy, press and media relations, external relationships with other organizations, including other associations in geography and other disciplines. Many of these are international activities.

Annual Meetings

Richardson commended the work of AAG Conference Director Oscar Larson regarding the organization of the upcoming Annual Meeting. He noted that the AAG Annual Meetings scheduled for the next few years are as follows: New York, NY 2012, Los Angeles 2013, Tampa 2014, Chicago 2015.

With respect to AAG Annual Meeting registration rates, a proposal for reduced Annual Meeting fees for unemployed and under-employed geographers was discussed by the AAG Council. Vice President Sheppard moved that, starting with the 2013 Annual Meeting, the AAG add a registration option for unemployed and under-employed geographers (earning less than \$25,000 a year), allowing them to register at the same rate as students/retirees. It was suggested this provision be revised annu-

ally. Wright seconded, the motion was approved unanimously. Past President Foote agreed to draft an announcement regarding the Resolution for circulation to Specialty Group Chairs in which he will also correct the misleading information made by one Specialty Group regarding the Council's previous actions on this matter.

Honors and Awards

Kobayashi read the recommendations presented by the AAG Honors Committee. Greiner moved to approve the list of 2012 AAG Honors. Wright seconded. It was approved unanimously. Council continued discussion of the AAG Honors with respect to identifying ways to increase recognition of women scholars and geographers from underrepresented and minority groups among the AAG honors and awards. Kobayashi asked for Council volunteers for a small committee to work with AAG staff on the issue of nominations' diversity, and to formulate a process. Scott and James volunteered to work with Kobayashi and Solis on compiling ideas to discuss at the next council meeting.

Richardson noted that Mary Robinson, the former President of Ireland and a leading figure in human rights, will receive the AAG Atlas Award for 2012. Foote announced that the 2012 Presidential Achievement Award would recognize Laura Pulido and Dawn Wright.

The recommendation was given from the AAG Enhancing Diversity Committee for the 2011 AAG Enhancing Diversity Award to recognize Rickie Sanders of Temple University. Sheppard moved to approve the nominee, seconded by Alderman. The motion passed unanimously.

The AAG Executive Committee selected Saskia Sassen of Columbia University to receive the 2012 Honorary Geographer Award.

Committees and Council

The Council elected the nominees for the 2012 member election ballot from among the nomination slates for Honors and Nominating Committees. Zorn pre-

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sented the results of the nominations provided by the AAG Nominating Committee for the 2012 ballot. Council discussed the lack of gender parity on the ballot and will further examine issues of inclusion in AAG governance at its next meeting.

Zorn made a motion to approve the current list of AAG committee members, with the addition of two new appointments that filled vacancies for AAG Councillors on Standing Committees: Jim Tyner for the International Research and Scholarly Exchange Committee and Derek Alderman for the Committee on College Geography and Careers. WinklerPrins seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

Specialty and Affinity Groups

Till presented an update on the status of activity by Specialty and Affinity Groups. Solís added information from the reports submitted to AAG Council. While there are a few groups that are less active than others, overall the groups were functioning in accordance with established levels of activity. Many are very active

around organizing for the AAG Annual Meeting in New York. Till suggested that the length of the Specialty Group Chairs meeting during the Annual Meeting be extended to enhance communication with and among the Specialty Groups. In particular, the extended session could enable some active participants with the Knowledge Communities to share experiences, as well as other topics. The AAG will again offer an orientation and technical assistance session towards the end of the Annual Meeting week, to allow newly elected chairs to understand how to use the many new AAG services and features for Specialty Groups.

Council considered a request for the creation of a Geographies of Food and Agriculture Specialty Group. Council expressed some concern about overlap with other specialty groups and cautioned against establishing Specialty Groups based on a current topical trend. Till moved to approve the formation of the group, seconded by James. The motion was approved unanimously with one abstention.

Council and Executive Committee Meetings

The Spring 2012 Executive Committee will be held January 16-17 in St. Petersburg, Florida. The AAG Finance Committee Meeting for Spring 2012 will be determined at a later date. Council expressed thanks to Laurel Hummel who is attending her last Council meeting. They also expressed thanks to Doug and staff for hosting this meeting.

Council met in closed session.

Meeting was adjourned. ■

Submitted Respectfully,
Jenny Zorn, AAG Secretary

MyCOE Invites Student Participation for Rio+20 Showcase

The AAG's My Community, Our Earth: Geographic Learning for Sustainable Development (MyCOE) Partnership is accepting submissions of student-led projects that address sustainable development challenges using geography, mapping, or GIS. Entries will be made available for public viewing and will be displayed during the Rio+20 United Nations Conference for Sustainable Development in order to raise awareness of the importance of geography and geographic learning for sustainable development. Select projects submitted by June 1 will also receive special recognition and prizes. The Rio+20 Conference will be held June 20-22, 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (www.uncsd2012.org/rio20).

Any new or existing project that uses geographic methods or analysis and maps to address sustainable development issues is

appropriate for a MyCOE Project. Projects should be conducted by or with youth (including university students) whether as individuals or in groups. A simple online submission form requests contact information, a project title, at least one map with a description, at least one photograph with a caption, and a brief project summary. Additional optional materials such as webpage links, full reports, or videos can also be uploaded.

Full project guidelines are available at www.aag.org/mycoesubmit. A special set of resources to assist with developing projects along themes of Climate Change, Food Security, Green Economy, and more are available online at www.mycOE.org. In April, a digital gallery will be launched and will enable interaction, comments, and sharing favorite projects on social media such as Facebook and Twitter.

In 1992, representatives from nations around the world gathered at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to consider how to promote sustainable development. In 2012, world leaders will again gather at Rio+20 to discuss progress, evaluate needs, and identify new priorities for how to ensure a future world that is environmentally, socially and economically sustainable. MyCOE will showcase the results of a decade of encouraging youth-led sustainable development projects from more than 100 countries around the world.

MyCOE partners include the AAG, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Agriculture, USAID, Esri, United Nations Environment Program, USGS, NASA, National Geographic Society, and others. AAG serves as Secretariat. ■

AAG Council Meeting Minutes

February 22-24, 2012
New York City

Present: Audrey Kobayashi, *President*; Eric Sheppard, *Vice President*; Ken Foote, *Past President*; Amy Glasmeier, *Treasurer*; Douglas Richardson, *Executive Director*; Derek Alderman, Dagmar Budikova, Alyson Greiner, Allan James, Bryon Middlekauff, Marilyn Raphael, Bradley Rundquist, Grant Saff, James Tyner, Karen Till, Antoinette WinklerPrins, Richard Wright.

Absent on first day: Michael Scott; Jenny Zorn, *Secretary*

AAG Staff: Candida Mannozi, Michael Solem, Patricia Solís

Opening of the Spring 2012 AAG Council Meeting

President Audrey Kobayashi called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

Kobayashi welcomed everyone. She requested adoption of the Meeting Agenda. Alderman moved to adopt the Agenda, Sheppard seconded, and the Agenda was adopted unanimously.

In Secretary Zorn's absence, Mannozi and Solís were asked to take notes of the Meeting.

Kobayashi welcomed new Middle States Council member Grant Saff, whose term begins July 1, 2012, attending on an informational basis for Laurie Hummel.

Doug Richardson introduced Teri Martin and Michelle Ledoux of the AAG Accounting office, and thanked them for their important work. The AAG Finance Committee met just prior to the start of the Council meeting. Richardson reported that the auditors praised the AAG's organizational accomplishments and also the accounting work of Teri and Michelle. Teri Martin noted that she enjoyed working for the AAG. She was hired nine years ago and has observed the financial foundation of the Association improve greatly in the course of her time with the AAG. Michelle started working for the AAG two and a half years ago and stated it was a pleasure to come to work and be able to do her job with the right support and procedures in place.

Kobayashi had also attended the Finance Committee meeting and added her thanks on behalf of the Council and the AAG membership.

Kobayashi requested a motion to approve the 2011 Fall Council Minutes. James moved to approve the Fall 2011 Minutes, Bradley Rundquist seconded. The Minutes were approved unanimously.

Greiner moved to amend the approved Fall Minutes with a minor clarification regarding the SWAAG regional division. Glasmeier seconded the motion, the amendment to the Fall Minutes was unanimously approved.

Executive Director's Comments

Richardson provided a brief overview of the major items on the Council Meeting agenda and discussed progress and updates in work at the AAG since the previous Council Meeting in the Fall of 2011. Richardson noted that new information and action items had been flagged for easier overview in the Council packet.

President's Comments

Kobayashi noted that she feels excited by the health of the discipline and the organization, and also expressed her thanks to Doug and all the AAG staff for their work. She mentioned receiving strong reactions to her recent AAG *Newsletter* column on AAG regional divisions. While she acknowledged that there continue to be questions about region size and representation, she stressed that the AAG is not planning to restructure the regions, but remains available for help, when asked for input or assistance. She also noted the AAG has greatly increased its financial and administrative support for regional divisions over the past decade.

Kobayashi then referenced a list of AAG manuals and guidelines included in the Council packet. She hopes to provide periodic updates to these and to the Standing Rules, which were recently revised under President Tom Baerwald. She invited Councillors to provide input or to suggest updates or clarifications.

Vice President's Comments

Eric Sheppard said he was honored to have been elected as AAG President. He identified a few areas he's been exploring in his role as Vice President, which he hopes to further pursue in his next term: diversity, engaged pluralism, finding ways to incorporate perspectives from the Global South in AAG activities, and communication across the association.

Sheppard indicated that he hopes to continue to find ways to increase diversification domestically by growing African-American and Hispanic participation at all levels and connect these domestic diversity issues to international diversity challenges. He plans to continue President Kobayashi's focus on racism and bring out the existing domestic and international work of AAG in this area, especially with regard to African-American and Latino communities. Sheppard stated he would support an award to recognize this.

He wishes to try to find ways to communicate across self-imposed divisions in the discipline and to instead create spaces for constructive engagement.

By further incorporating perspectives from developing country students and scholars, but also leveraging the AAG's existing Developing Regions programs and the fact that geographers from around the world gather at the AAG to strengthen these connections, Sheppard hopes to create a platform where different views get more equal airing; as well as supporting participatory action-oriented research, community research, etc. Sheppard mentioned that he may address these themes in his Presidential Plenary in Los Angeles.

Sheppard stated he had been unaware of the scope and range of the AAG's work and new programs in so many important areas. He expressed his desire to help dispel any misperceptions among the membership as to the AAG's work and service; to move nominating processes and national elections online to improve participation; perhaps to create a President's blog to interact with members on a more

direct and regular basis, again all with a view to giving membership easier access.

The President's Column in the AAG *Newsletter* was indicated as a possible precursor and example of such a President's blog.

Past President's Comments

Ken Foote stated that he has enjoyed his service on the Executive Committee over the past three years. His focus has been on professional development, including the 2012 AAG Annual Meeting. For New York, he co-organized a Department Chairs Symposium with over 45 registered participants, and two panels on blended departments.

Department Leadership and GFDA workshops are scheduled for June of 2012, and registration is already underway. The organizers are also working with the AAG ALIGNED project, to bring a stronger focus on diversity into the workshops.

Foote expressed his pleasure at the approval of the Routledge nomination for the 2012 AAG Publications Honors. He also supports increasing the number of AAG Honors awarded each year.

Foote also distributed copies of the newly published NSF/AAG funded *Practicing Geography*, which is expected to have an important impact on the discipline. Both Kobayashi and Richardson underscored the long term significance of Ken Foote's initiatives for the discipline, and thanked him for his many contributions during his presidency of the AAG.

Regional Councillor Reports

Southwest (SWAAG)

Alyson Greiner reported that the SWAAG regional meeting will be held at New Mexico State University this fall. Across the region, a number of departments report that they have hired or been given the go-ahead to hold searches for faculty lines at the assistant, associate, and full professor levels.

In November 2011, the State of New Mexico Board of Governors approved a proposal for an interdisciplinary Ph.D. and M.S. in Water Science and Management, which will begin in fall of 2012. NMSU is also active with career service initiatives.

The Department of Geography at the University of New Mexico reports that it is hiring another tenure-track GIScientist to start in Fall 2012. In addition, the name of the department is changing to "Geography and Environmental Studies."

In Oklahoma, the East Central University (ECU) Department of Cartography and Geography continues to experience growth in its number of majors. A record 70 were enrolled during the Fall 2011 semester, a three and one-half fold increase since Fall 2006. ECU faculty have been instrumental in authoring the cover and inside-cover of the *Journal of Geography* since mid-2010.

There was some reaction in the region to President Kobayashi's column on the question of "what is regional about our regions." Misperceptions as to the intent of the column have been addressed by Kobayashi and Greiner.

Great Plains, Rocky Mountains (GPRM)

Bradley Rundquist noted there is much enthusiasm among departments in this region for hosting GPRM meetings: 2012 is scheduled Oct. 11-13 in Provo, UT, with Dr. Ryan Jensen of Brigham Young University serving as Regional Chair and conference organizer. The 2013 meeting will be in Omaha, NE, with Dr. Karen Falconer Al-Hindi of the University of Nebraska-Omaha planning the event. Although not official, potential meeting sites have also been identified for 2014 and 2015.

Budgets remain a top concern for most departments in the region. Some schools reported some salary increases, and some lifting of hiring freezes. Overall, majors are on the rise or holding steady, and demand for graduate education is strong with good candidates.

Middle States

Grant Saff reported that the 2011 Annual Meeting was hosted by the School of General Studies on the Kean University campus in Union, New Jersey on November 12-13. The keynote address, *Geography and Social Justice: Some Challenges and New Directions*, was given by AAG President Audrey Kobayashi. The SUNY Geneseo team

won the Geography Bowl. Attendance at the conference was, however, well below that of the previous five years. The 2012 Middle States meeting will be held on November 2-3 at Shippensburg University in Shippensburg, PA, and it is expected that attendance will exceed that of 2011.

All parts of the region reported issues tied to tightening budgets or cuts in State funding. In New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York there is concern over Governors' plans to merge or cancel some programs and cut budgets.

There is a strong feeling among regional members that the regional meetings are a useful and economical venue for students to exchange information and experience an academic conference. The Region is working to improve its effectiveness in serving its members (i.e. actively working on increasing participation in regional activities).

East Lakes

Antoinette WinklerPrins stated that the East and West Lakes divisions will be meeting jointly in DeKalb, Illinois Oct. 25-27, 2012. Professor Jie Song, from the Department of Geography at Northern Illinois University is the contact person for the event. In 2013, the joint meeting will be hosted by the University of Toledo (possibly with CAG-ONT) on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the department at U. of Toledo. In 2014 it will be held at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, then at Kent State University in 2015, and in 2016 a joint East/West Lakes meeting may take place in Marquette, MI, hosted by Northern Michigan University.

Overall the region's geography departments and programs continue to do well despite continued economic challenges. A number of departments are hiring (e.g., University of Cincinnati, Grand Valley State University, Central Michigan University, Western Michigan University), especially for geographers with GIS and/or planning skills. Departments are also remaining astute in terms of positioning themselves to attract majors by focusing on techniques, environmental

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and global studies tracks. Enrollment in courses appears to be increasing or at least holding steady. Despite good enrollments in courses, some departments continue to struggle with adequate numbers of majors.

In the fall of 2011, the remaining faculty of the Department of Geography and Planning at the University of Akron transferred to the Departments of Geology and Environmental Science and of Public Administration and Urban Planning. The degree programs in geography and GIS (BS and BA; MA and MS) have been transferred to the Department of Geology and ES, and these degree programs will continue to be supported. This department is considering a name change to the Department of Geosciences to better reflect the new combination. The degree programs in planning (BA and MA) were transferred to the Department of Public Administration and are being phased out.

In response to the 'what's regional about the regions' question, there seems to be an overall sentiment that the time has come to rethink some of the regional divisions in the AAG and that one 'Great Lakes' region might prove to be a good option.

Southeast (SEDAAG)

Derek Alderman noted that the 2012 SEDAAG meeting will take place in Asheville, North Carolina, and in Roanoke, Virginia in 2013. SEDAAG has strong student registration numbers, and are seeking to increase faculty participation. They are grateful to the AAG for helping organize sessions at the New York Annual Meeting in memory of James Wheeler.

There is now a Caribbean representative on the SEDAAG Steering Committee. SEDAAG has been developing online election options.

Alderman mentioned the 51 volumes of *SE Journal*, noting that 2012 will be the fourth year the journal is published quarterly. SEDAAG has been struggling to get the *SE Journal* included in the ISI citation index and is seeking insight and advice to this process.

Enrollments remain strong, despite budget cuts and constraints in the region. The University of Alabama is planning

a PhD in Geography. If anything, the SEDAAG region seems to be dealing with growing pains.

SEDAAG established a student representative position on its Steering Committee, usually someone from the Department that is hosting the regional meeting. Alderman asked whether the AAG might want to consider a student representative to Council. Kobayashi asked for two volunteers to develop a statement describing the potential benefits of having a student representative on the AAG Council, including providing some background on how SEDAAG has benefited from student participation on its Steering Committee. WinklerPrins and Alderman offered their time.

NESTVAL

Bryon Middlekauff reported that NESTVAL regional meetings are scheduled through 2014, so they're doing well and seem popular. The 2012 meeting will be held at the University of Maine-Farmington.

The University of New Hampshire suffered 50% cuts; Rhode Island College is doing well; Clark University is still going strong; Westfield State reorganized its major. Two Canadian schools also participate in NESTVAL: Bishop's University is doing well; Concordia University has an astonishing 1,000 majors. The *NE Geographer* is publishing its fourth issue this year.

For the Annual Meeting in New York, Middlekauff organized a session on how to improve Regional Division Meetings. He also expressed thanks to the AAG for helping to organize a memorial reception for Maynard (Wes) Dow at the New York Annual Meeting.

West Lakes

Dagmar Budikova noted that the 2012 regional meeting has been scheduled to take place at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois between October 25 and 27, 2012. This will be a joint meeting between the East and West Lakes Divisions.

A new regional councillor has been elected by the division membership: Laura

Smith from Macalester College will serve a 3-year term beginning July 1, 2012.

Discussion regarding the general topic of "What is regional about your region" will be continued at the next regional meeting in DeKalb to gauge the overall sentiment towards a potential merger of the East and West Lakes divisions. Initial results from a survey conducted on the topic last October were submitted as part of the regional report to the council in the fall. No comments were made by the membership who participated in the survey about the possibility of a merger.

Updates from programs in the region included a hire of a tenure-track faculty member at the Department of Geography in UW-River Falls. The program boasts 35 majors and 40 minors, but wishes to further increase student enrollment. This goal is proving to be challenging. Help is requested from the AAG in terms of any existing resources and best practices.

Pacific Coast (APCG)

Jenny Zorn stated the APCG regional meeting is proving to be a diverse, stimulating event. It attracts a range of participants, from students getting their first experiences at giving papers, to retirees wishing to remain connected with colleagues and the discipline. Travel support and scholarships are also greatly appreciated. The papers are very diverse and community college participation is high. Field trips are also a big draw.

Middle Atlantic (MAD)

Michael Scott reported that the question from President Kobayashi initiated a discussion within MAD, revealing that the general feeling is a desire to hold on to the region as it has been traditionally, but some agreement that it's small and quite diverse and may not be as effective as it could be. In order to garner stronger attendance and participation, MAD may hold some of its annual meetings in conjunction with other regions' or other organizations' meetings (such as Middle States, Pennsylvania Geographical Society, SEDAAG, etc.). Some MAD geographers will meet in New York City to discuss this.

National Councillor Reports

Richard Wright reported on being currently half-way through a four year NSF project on the recession and internal migration of native- and foreign-born. He suggested the AAG might consider developing a forum on the devolution to local and state authorities of national immigration policies, as geographers could contribute significant insight and analysis on these phenomena.

Amy Glasmeier applauded the AAG's well tuned organization and its service to members. She focused her comments on respatialization of labor market trends and on how education is critical to the role of gender in the marketplace and the national economy. How does this raise opportunities and challenges for universities and the discipline of Geography? The current financial crisis and increasing unemployment may require assistance parallel to the 1970s training act serving women entering the job market for the first time. How can geography be used to assist the military returning from two ending conflicts into a weak labor market?

After 30 years as an AAG member, Allan James expressed his appreciation for his three years of service on the AAG Council. James reported on recent research that questions basic premises of river science based on changing spatial scales of analysis. This example of respatialization from fluvial geomorphology is intriguing in its own right, but takes on broader relevance as it may be indicative of similar developments in other sub-disciplines. Due to greater technological capabilities, both data collection and analysis now can capture much higher spatial resolutions to examine physical and human systems. Models of river response have maintained forms of gradual change through space for more than 50 years. Downstream hydraulic geometry holds that most hydraulic variables increase or decrease gradually and predictably in the downstream direction. Similarly, the river-continuum concept (Vannote et al., 1980) holds that biologic agents and processes change gradually and predictably downstream. Both of these prevalent concepts

have been challenged recently by examination of high spatial resolution data sets that demonstrate a great deal of variance in river behavior in the downstream direction.

How can the AAG facilitate this transition? Special sessions and perhaps a plenary can be devoted to hyperspatial data availability, effects on process recognition and emergence of new theories as a result in a variety of fields. A special issue of the *Annals* or *PG* could promote thought in this area as well. Speaker series could promote visits to departments large and small.

In short, it appears that the growing availability of hyperspatial information is likely to result in fundamental re-evaluations of theory. While this may be disturbing, what could be more geographic?

James Tyner pointed to various contested terms such as "state, respatialization, people". Space is something produced, never static or neutral. When considering two criteria, bodies being productive and responsible and the ability to participate fully, spatial and geographic notions become fundamental. So we see instances of cutting services to weaker neighborhoods, to those who do not contribute to the overall vision of progress. Tyner feels it is important for the discipline to engage in discussions of political and social justice, and to pay attention to these phenomena, with a view to providing just and human alternatives.

Marilyn Raphael framed the question in light of the AAG as an academic organization which facilitates meetings, publications, collaborations and discussions among geographers. It represents geography to the U.S. and the rest of the world. Climate change and global warming are changing climatic variables over space (e.g. large scale, extended droughts and floods, severe extended cold outbreaks, reduction in Arctic sea ice, change in sea level leading to mass evacuation from low-lying islands, etc.). These alterations will continue to influence where and how people and animals live and how they move. However, often there is a disconnection between how larger? entities (cor-

porations, governments, industrial groups) respond, vs. the responses by local populations. From this we deduce the potential for change in the relationship between civil society and state. Within the AAG we might consider developing a focus on these themes, or to ask Department Chairs to sponsor colloquia series to bring in the public and larger populations. The AAG could encourage research at the intersection of climate and society/policy and ask how geographers are helping to respond to these challenges.

Karen Till suggested alternative venues like blogs for raising awareness of what geography is at the same time as recognizing engagement with the important issues of society. This is something that may be the Council's task to lead and may admittedly be hard to do, but much work at the AAG has already begun. Many of us already have some civic engagement: Till asked for more encouragement and high-profile coverage of it, perhaps coordinating it. She stated that geographers do well with applied/theoretical connections, moving across those artificial boundaries. She suggested using some AAG materials in many of the programs within our institutions, as ambassadors within our institutions, to recruit geographers at younger ages. As an example, Till mentioned her work with artists who are socially engaged, pointing out that those are good occasions to learn from the arts, too. Till also suggested the idea of Geography Classics on Kindle. Till updated the Council on Specialty Groups, and also encouraged them to submit annual reports on time. Till also suggested the possibility of an AAG-sponsored speaker tour visiting? departments. Departments might put in proposals and have visitors speak to these issues. Richardson mentioned a potential model for this under VGSP, which is supported in part by GTU.

Finance

Treasurer Glasmeier reported on the 2012 Finance Committee meeting. The AAG auditors called-in during the

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meeting, and reported the organization is very well run and implements state-of-the-art financial management practices. The auditors stated that the AAG was in the top 2% of the non-profit organizations they audit in terms of fiscal controls and record-keeping, as well as in financial growth and performance. Glasmeier moved that Council accept the auditors' report. Wright seconded, the motion was passed unanimously.

The proposed 2013 budget was reviewed and Treasurer Glasmeier moved for it to be approved. Middlekauff seconded, the proposed 2013 budget was approved unanimously.

Treasurer Glasmeier further moved to transfer \$1million from the AAG's general investment account to the AAG's Douglas Richardson Endowment for Geography's Future. Middlekauff seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Council discussed formulating a strategic plan. Till moved that the Executive Committee begin the process of formulating a strategic plan for discussion at the Fall Council meeting. WinklerPrins seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

Treasurer Glasmeier moved to commend Doug Richardson, Teri Martin, and Michelle Ledoux for their excellent stewardship of AAG finances. James seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.

Membership

Richardson informed the Council that AAG membership totaled 10,823 at the end of December, 2011.

Richardson also described continued progress since the launch of the AAG Knowledge Communities, using Higher Logic software. The Knowledge Communities provide interactive and user-friendly means for members of AAG Specialty Groups, Regional Divisions and others to communicate, share documents, and engage in a variety of discussions and exchanges. Richardson also referenced his recent *Newsletter* column, *Help Geographers in Need*, which listed ways the AAG has responded to requests for support from

students, retired, unemployed and underemployed geographers to become and remain AAG members, and to participate in the Association's many activities, including attending the Annual Meeting.

Journal Operations

Richardson gave a brief overview of journal operations, noting also that the *Annals* Managing Editor Robin Maier was currently on maternity leave. He confirmed that all journals operations continue smoothly in her absence, and thanked PG Managing Editor Miranda Lecea for her support of the *Annals* as well during Robin's maternity leave. He also reported that the Honors Committee approved Routledge as recipient of the 2012 AAG Publication Award.

WinklerPrins gave an overview of the editorial terms and renewals, and described the interview format for the *Annals* book review editorial position. The interviews were held later in the Council meeting and Kent Mathewson was selected as the Book Review Editor for the AAG *Annals*, effective July 1, 2012.

The backlog in the AAG journals was discussed, as well as the suggested solutions previously proposed by the AAG Council. WinklerPrins moved that the Council authorize Richardson to negotiate with Routledge to move forward with all but two of the suggestions. Middlekauff seconded the motion, which was accepted unanimously.

Options for publishing book reviews in an online format were also discussed. WinklerPrins moved that the Publications Committee (in collaboration with the Association's current and incoming editors) investigate the vision for, and implementation of an online AAG *Review of Books* to be discussed at the Fall Council meeting. Wright seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.

Council discussed the possibility of the AAG *Newsletter* being published online. Discussion also included the need for a strategic communications plan for the Association. Sheppard moved that Richardson begin the process of transitioning the AAG *Newsletter* functions online

by the end of the year, as part of a larger communications strategy, with a view to implementing it by the end of the year. WinklerPrins seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

Richardson updated Council on progress with the *International Encyclopedia of Geography*, including the editorial meeting organized in New York in February of 2012 with the general and section editors, and representatives from Wiley Publishing.

Meridian Place Operations

Richardson provided an update on personnel at the AAG. He also announced that the AAG elections in 2013 will be held online. The AAG has researched several online election systems for accomplishing this, and plans to select the final system in the summer of 2012.

Richardson discussed ongoing improvements to the AAG website, which underwent a substantial overhaul and was launched in the summer of 2010. The Knowledge Communities were recently implemented and the AAG has since offered training and technical support to members, including a special session at the New York Annual Meeting.

Richardson noted that a major upgrade to the iMIS membership management system would occur during the summer of 2012. This will involve moving the entire system to new servers, updating software, and custom programming of several accounting, membership, and Annual Meeting data processing and interactive online features.

The AAG is also making preparations to provide an option for the Los Angeles Annual Meeting attendees to have the Meeting Program available also online for handheld devices such as smart phones, laptops, and tablets.

Research

Richardson remarked that the many currently funded research programs are proceeding well. He pointed to a strong trajectory of projects, scheduled to last well into 2013.

Solis gave an overview on the launch of several new projects in the second

half of 2011. She mentioned international activities under MyCOE and the AAG's multiple diversity programs. MyCOE is focused on a partnership showcase at the June 2012 Rio+20 conference, making good progress towards that goal.

A newly funded MyCOE program was recently launched, supported by the US Department of State, with the goal of connecting 165 teachers in 23 secondary schools in the U.S., Bolivia, Nicaragua, Ghana and the Philippines and to assist them in enhancing their capacity to use social networking and online mapping tools. Under this initiative, there are currently over 150 teachers signed-up and using a dedicated Knowledge Community, their Facebook page is very active, and the project is proceeding well towards achieving the overall goals.

Richardson added that the AAG has invited geographical organizations around the world to participate in MyCOE, to help give geography a presence in Rio.

Kobayashi added that the *International Encyclopedia* will also be major vehicle to gather international participation.

Solís briefly also mentioned a number of diversity sessions organized and co-sponsored by the AAG ALIGNED project for the Annual Meeting in New York. The Catalyzing Research project is now poised for its first workshop with 20 new participants, who will be meeting at the end of March 2012 at Temple University.

The AAG is also continuing to lead a long-standing cooperative agreement, launched in August 2008 with the U.S. Department of State, to provide support for local end-users of geospatial data in selected African countries. Currently, the AAG is making plans to co-host a training workshop in Kampala, Uganda with partners EIS-Africa and Makerere University. Scheduled for June 25-29, 2012, the workshop will focus on enhancing the capacity of planners who work in the Lake Victoria Region of East Africa, to use geographic concepts and geospatial data to address the consequences of urban sprawl and increasing population pressure affecting the natural environment there. The Kampala workshop will be held at

Makerere University and will pair six Ugandan urban planners with six university students into teams. The State Department will provide high resolution satellite images of the planners' townships and districts, while the University will host the trainers and participants in its computer lab. Training will include the analysis and interpretation of high resolution satellite imagery and methods and procedures for deriving digital base maps and data layers.

In connection with the AAG Initiative for an NIH-Wide GIS Infrastructure, the AAG also recently received a competitively awarded grant from NIH's cross-cutting OppNet Program entitled *Geospatial Frontiers in Health and Social Environments*. This funding supports a series of three scientific symposia to examine the possibilities and challenges for health-and-environments research that are associated with innovative developments in the fields of geography and GIScience. Senior project personnel include: Douglas Richardson (PI), Michael Goodchild, Mei-Po Kwan, Jonathan Mayer, and Sara McLafferty. Each symposium will involve approximately 25 leading geographers, GIScientists, biomedical scientists, public health researchers, and senior NIH officials to encourage interactive dialogue.

The first two symposia are scheduled in April 2012 and July 2012. The April symposium will focus on the theme of *Spatiotemporal Analysis for Health Research*. The July symposium will focus on the theme of *Geospatial Frontiers in Health and Social Environments: Enabling a National Geospatial Cyberinfrastructure for Health Research*. The third symposium, to be held in early 2013, has as its theme *Synthesis: Towards a Unified Vision*. This final symposium will provide a capstone to the project, building on the first two symposia, and result in an innovative research agenda to enhance the integration and sophistication of GIScience-based approaches in health and environment research.

Education

Michael Solem gave a brief update on the EDGE project, researching and improving geography graduate education

for Business, Government, and Non-Profit (BGN) careers, and the numerous paper and panel sessions on careers in geography organized for the Annual Meeting in New York, with dozens of volunteer mentors participating. He shared the newly redesigned EDGE brochure.

The new AAG "Understanding the Changing Planet" website will also provide extensions and multimedia add-ons for chapters in the newly published *Practicing Geography* publication.

Solem mentioned he is also working on a proposal to compare teacher preparation internationally.

Solem pointed out that the AAG is completing a directory of all departments offering online or hybrid courses; currently this directory comprises a list of over 900 courses, in more than 200 institutions.

Upon Rogers Downs' retirement, Solem will be joining the GENIP board this year, along with Susan Gallagher Heffron and Joseph Stoltman as AAG representatives. Solem also mentioned that the *Geography for Life: National Geography Standards, Second Edition* that Susan Gallagher Heffron has been working to finalize, are in the final editing phase and expected to be released in the course of 2012. Richardson shared the AAG's Resolution in Support of Geography Education and pointed out the many high-profile endorsers from the government, business and academic sectors who have signed-on to the AAG Resolution. He mentioned the possibility of eventually running this as an ad in the *Washington Post*, when Congressional efforts to fund geography education move forward.

Outreach

The AAG continues an intensive program of outreach to federal government agencies; international geography organizations; dozens of other associations such as AAAS, COSSA, ACLS, and AGI; educational and research organizations such as NRC, NCCE, NSF, NIH, NASA, USGS and many others; geography funding agencies; foundations; inter-

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disciplinary outreach; developing regions institutions and colleagues; human rights organizations; and many more.

Richardson also noted that, as a result of his recent outreach efforts in China, the AAG will sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Geographical Society of China at the New York Annual Meeting. He added that the AAG has joined the American Geosciences Institute (AGI), in response to a request from Past Presidents Carol Harden, William Graf and Richard Marston. Richardson continues to play a leading role in the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition.

Annual Meeting

Richardson mentioned several high-light sessions organized for New York, including the plenary honoring Mary Robinson as the AAG Atlas Awardee, the AAG's Human Rights session with Nicholas Kristof and Salil Shetty, and the AAG's international geographical society sessions titled "Snapshots: Geography in the World Today."

Kobayashi described her opening plenary, entitled: "The City Beyond Symbolism," featuring panelists Frances Fox Piven, Grace Lee Boggs, Scott Kurashige, Don Mitchell and Ruth Wilson Gilmore.

At the time of the Spring Council meeting, more than 8,500 attendees were registered.

Future Meetings

The 2013 Annual Meeting will be held in Los Angeles, California, the 2014 Meeting will be in Tampa, Florida, and the 2015 Meeting in Chicago, Illinois. Council discussed several venues to be considered for the years 2016 and beyond, including Boston, San Francisco, Saint Louis, Baltimore, Washington, DC, and New Orleans.

Letter requesting family/child support

Council discussed a request for more family and child support to facilitate attendance and participation in the AAG Annual Meeting. Glasmeier moved to table a response until Council is able to gather more information on what sister

organizations offer their members, and the implications of additional support. James seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. Richardson offered to respond to the authors of the letter.

Honors and Awards

Richardson gave an overview of the Honors and Awards to be distributed at the Annual Meeting.

Past President Foote proposed a motion to increase the maximum number of awardees from the current six to eight. Council discussed this proposal. Alderman seconded the motion, it was passed unanimously.

Council also expressed support for expanding the categories of awards. On this subject, President Kobayashi put forward a motion to reinstate the AAG Anti-Racism Award, at the same time keeping the existing Enhancing Diversity Award.

Tyner moved to create the AAG Harold M. Rose Award for Anti-Racism Research and Practice, Alderman seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Further Council discussion resulted in a decision to create a three-member award committee for this award, and that future committees should include at least one previous recipient of this award. Council also requested that the committee for the implementation of the award (criteria, deadlines, etc.) be formalized by the Committee on Committees after the Annual Meeting in New York. Wright moved to commend the Honors Committee for its work. James seconded, the motion was passed unanimously, with one abstention.

Committees and Specialty Groups

Secretary Zorn presented the current slate submitted by the Committee on Committees and moved for its approval. Wright seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously. WinklerPrins moved to allow the Nominating Committee to fill vacancies as needed (for this year); Wright seconded, the motion was passed unanimously.

Till updated Council on the most recently submitted Specialty Group reports.

A request to allow the formation of a Polar Geography Specialty Group was discussed. James moved to approve the request, seconded by Greiner. Further Council discussion resulted in an agreement to table this decision to the Fall Council meeting, asking Councillors Till and Raphael to communicate with the chairs of the proposed Polar Geography Specialty Group and the existing Cryosphere Specialty Group.

Council

Richardson announced the 2012 AAG Election results:

President: Eric S. Sheppard, University of Minnesota

Vice President: Julie A. Winkler, Michigan State University

National Councillors: John Harrington, Jr., Kansas State University; Elizabeth A. Wentz, Arizona State University

Honors Committee A: Richard A. Marston, Kansas State University

Honors Committee B: John Kupfer, University of South Carolina; Diana M. Liverman, University of Arizona

Nominating Committee: Leslie Duram, Southern Illinois University; Robert W. Lake, Rutgers University; Fausto O. Sarmiento, University of Georgia

Regional Councillors elected Brad Rundquist as their Chair.

Zorn nominated Derek Alderman to chair the Publications Committee. Alderman accepted the nomination, and Sheppard seconded the motion. The nomination was unanimously confirmed.

Glasmeier nominated Marilyn Raphael to serve as Treasurer for one year. Raphael accepted the nomination, Sheppard seconded the motion. The nomination was unanimously confirmed.

The Fall Executive Committee and Council meeting dates were discussed and it was agreed that the Executive Committee meeting would be held on the shoulder of the October APCG regional meeting, precise dates to be confirmed. The Fall Council meeting will run from the evening of Nov. 2nd, through mid-day on Nov. 4th in Washington, DC, to allow some Councillors to also participate in

the Middle-Atlantic and Middle States regional meetings.

President Kobayashi read the following Council Resolutions, which were unanimously approved.

Resolutions

Whereas, Kenneth E. Foote, as Vice President, President, and Past President of the Association of American Geographers has ably led the Association in addressing the challenges facing the discipline of Geography, particularly by developing leadership within geography departments; building community and inclusion throughout the discipline; fostering creative responses to changing opportunities; supporting early career faculty as well as geographers the public, private and non-profit sectors; and thus has contributed considerable and significant efforts that advance the AAG's mission, goals, and activities;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Association of American Geographers, assembled in New York City, New York on the occasion of its 108th Annual Meeting, heartily thanks Ken for his leadership of the Association during the past three years, especially for his efforts to develop individual and institutional capacities within geography departments, his role in improving geography

curricula and programs, and for encouraging us to challenge, at times, some of the fundamental assumptions of our trade.

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

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

Therefore Be It Resolved that The Association of American Geographers, assembled in New York City, New York on the occasion of its 108th Annual Meeting, extends its appreciation and thanks to Past President Ken Foote and retiring AAG Treasurer and National Councillor Amy Glasmeier, National Councillor Allan James, East Lakes Regional Division Councillor and Publications Committee Chair Antoinette Winkler-Prins, Middle States Regional Division Councillor Laurie Hummel, Southwestern Regional Division Councillor and Regional Division Councillor Chair Alyson Greiner, and West Lakes Regional Division Councillor Dagmar Budikova for the energy, time, and

talent they dedicated to the Association during their terms on the AAG Council.

Whereas, Members of The Association of American 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 Association of American Geographers, assembled in New York City, New York on the occasion of its 108th 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.

Council moved to closed session at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenny Zorn, AAG Secretary

Call for Nominations: AAG Vice President and National Councillor

The AAG Nominating Committee for the 2013 election is seeking nominations for AAG Vice President (one to be elected) and National Councillor (two vacancies). Those elected will take office on July 1, 2013. Members should submit the names and addresses of each nominee and their reasons for supporting nomination to any member of the committee no later than **September 15, 2012**.

As part of your nomination statement, please confirm that your nominee is willing to be considered by the nominating committee for the position for which you are nominating her or him.

Committee members: Leslie Duram (committee chair) University of Southern Illinois, Carbondale, Dept of Geography & Environmental Resources, Carbondale, Illinois 62901 (duram@siu.edu); Fausto O.

Sarmiento, University of Georgia, Geog-Geol Bldg, 210 Field Street, Athens, GA 30602 (fsarmien@uga.edu); Robert W. Lake, Rutgers University, Civic Square Building, Room 483, 33 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ, 08901 (rlake@rutgers.edu).

Lists of past and current AAG officers may be found in the Handbook section of the current issue of the AAG's *Guide to Geography Programs in the Americas*.