

COUNCIL MINUTES

AAG 2013 Spring Council Meeting Los Angeles, California, April 7-9

PRELIMINARIES

Present: Eric Sheppard, *President*; Julie Winkler, *Vice President*; Audrey Kobayashi, *Past President*; Marilyn Raphael, *Treasurer*; Jenny Zorn, *Secretary*; Douglas Richardson, *AAG Executive Director*; Derek Alderman, Ron Hagelman, John Harrington, Jr., Thomas Maraffa, Bryon Middlekauff, Bradley Rundquist, Grant Saff, Michael Scott, Laura Smith, Karen Till, James Tyner, Elizabeth Wentz, Richard Wright.

AAG Staff: Candida Mannozi, Michael Solem, Patricia Solís.

Observers: Mona Domosh, Vice President Elect; David Parr, Student Representative.

Opening of the Spring 2013 Council Meeting

President Sheppard convened the meeting at 3:00 p.m. on April 7 with a short welcome and introduced two observers to the meeting, Vice President Elect Mona Domosh and Student Representative David Parr.

Sheppard asked for a motion to adopt the Spring 2013 Agenda. Scott moved to adopt the Agenda, Alderman seconded, and the Spring 2013 Agenda was approved unanimously.

Sheppard then asked Council to approve the Minutes from the Fall 2012 Council Meeting, which had been electronically circulated by Secretary Zorn and approved electronically, and also published on the AAG website. Wright moved to approve the Minutes, Hagelman seconded and the Fall 2012 Council Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved.

Executive Director's Comments:

Richardson listed several major projects successfully undertaken on short deadlines at the AAG in response to recent Council resolutions (i.e., digital transition in AAG publications, new publications such as the *AAG Review of Books*, the AAG's first online election, the new Jobs in Geography online and many others). He noted that if we continue to take on additional projects at the current rate, we will need to expand our staff substantially, and acquire additional office space. He stressed the need to prioritize which new activities to implement first and which to defer, and to assess the impacts on staff and on existing programs as we consider new discretionary programs and unfunded projects.

President's Comments:

Sheppard summarized the emphasis he has placed during the course of his Presidential term on diversity and diversification in the discipline, which he most recently addressed in his December 2012 column in the *AAG Newsletter*. He praised the AAG for successfully transitioning multiple publications and communications online and indicated that these new developments will allow the AAG to communicate more effectively with its membership, with Council, and with other organizations.

New challenges come with these online transitions, among them the debate about Open Access policy and online classes. Sheppard encouraged Council to consider these challenges in a broader

context and their effect on the social and physical sciences, especially considering the effect of massive open online courses (MOOCs) on academia, the progressive neo-liberalization of the university, and shrinking public funding for state schools due to sequestration and budget cuts, all of which negatively affect full-time employment and tenure track prospects for young and early career faculty. He pointed to a shift in higher education towards vocational training and asked how this might influence how we think about geography as a discipline and how our departments may be choosing to prepare students for future careers. Sheppard also stated that a deeper engagement across the full breadth of natural and human sciences remains a challenge.

Vice President's Comments:

Winkler commented on her time as Vice President, indicating her gratitude to Doug Richardson and the AAG staff for their support and guidance in this new role for her. She pointed out the key initiatives of interest to her, including outreach to other professional societies. . The goals of this outreach are to enhance the exposure of scholars and practitioners from other disciplines to the AAG's journals and meetings and to explore how professional societies might work together and learn from each other as we deal with, and respond to, the challenges facing scholarly societies and their members, such as funding for research and education and changes in modes of publication . The initial target for this outreach is the American Meteorological Society (AMS), as the President-Elects the AAG and the AMS are active members of both societies, with activities (e.g., joint sessions, displays/booths) planned for the annual meetings of both organizations. Winkler indicated that her Presidential Plenary at the AAG's Annual Meeting in Tampa will address the geographic dimensions of climate change and will highlight the contributions of geographers to climate change research. Winkler also indicated her desire in continuing the work on diversity undertaken by her predecessors.

Past President's Comments:

Kobayashi stated that her past six years on Council were a wonderful experience. She thanked Richardson and the AAG staff, as well as colleagues on Council for their support. Kobayashi indicated that the focus of her tenure as AAG President has been on diversity and antiracist initiatives. She was therefore especially pleased to observe the Council's swift motion in approving the Harold M. Rose Award for Antiracism in Research and Practice. She was saddened that the inaugural recipient of this Award, Don Deskins, passed away recently.

Kobayashi then moved Council to a closed session.

Regional Councillors' Reports

Rundquist, Chair of the Regional Division Councillors, gave an overview of a conference call of Regional Division Councillors held in February, which resulted in a list of requests and items brought forward for consideration at the Council Meeting. Rundquist noted some regional division requests for further support from the AAG for regional division member management and meeting registration. Also, the regional divisions asked the AAG to provide financial support for Regional Division Chairs to attend the Annual Meeting and also to provide extra funding for Regional Councillors to do so. The Regional Division Councillors also requested that AAG waive the Annual Meeting registration fees for Regional Division Chairs and Councillors.

Great Plains-Rocky Mountains (Bradley Rundquist):

The GPRM's 2013 meeting is set for Oct. 10-12, hosted by the University of Nebraska-Omaha and organized by GPRM Chair, Dr. Karen Falconer Al-Hindi. The University of Wyoming will host the 2014 meeting.

Reports on the status of undergraduate education in the region are mixed. There is concern about a decline in the number of geography majors, due to online courses competing for enrollment, tuition fees, and no new tenure track positions. UC Colorado Springs is seeing a decline due to funding cuts and tuition cuts for veterans. The University of Northern Colorado reports a decline in majors. UNC is changing the name of the department to “Department of Geography and GIS” and changing the name of their traditional degree program from “Liberal Arts” to “Global and Area Studies.”

Graduate programs continue to be fairly strong, especially those with a GIS focus, although there are concerns about competing programs in Environmental Studies and Earth Systems Sciences. Some departments are experiencing budgetary problems, which leads to cuts in departmental budgets and no replacement of departing and retiring staff and faculty, as well as no pay raise for faculty over several years. If retirements occur, those lines are expected to stay unfilled for at least three years. Plans for PhD programs have been postponed for a few more years as well.

West Lakes (Laura Smith): Current regional officers are Jie Song (Northern Illinois University) as Chair, Paul Kaldjian (Univ. of Wisconsin-Eau Claire) as Secretary/Treasurer, and Euan Hague (DePaul University) as Past-Chair. The 2013 West Lakes regional meeting will be hosted by the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire on October 17-19. Paul Kaldjian is serving as program chair. The program website is now active.

Geography programs within the West Lakes region seem to be continuing to fare well, despite ongoing economic challenges. Again, much of this success can be contributed to the continued popularity of and demand for GIScience. However, a number of the private liberal arts programs have reported difficulty in securing replacement lines for retiring tenure-track professors, as well as difficulty in securing visiting positions to fill openings. Geography programs at these institutions view Geography as a core part of a liberal arts education and emphasize geography’s ability to serve diverse student populations as well as general education and interdisciplinary program requirements across campus.

A common concern of many department representatives within the region is entrepreneurial encroachment on the traditional domains of geography; for example, having to fight to keep GIS programs housed within geography vs. computer science departments, or trying to keep GIS from being moved to solely adjunct faculty positions. Other programs report the growth of Digital Humanities (including Historical GIS) as a trend that may detract from work that has been already been done or is ongoing in geography; these programs will need to make the case for geography’s connections with the Humanities. Finally, the introduction of new degree programs centered around “sustainability” also threatens to encroach on programs and enrollments that may have previously been served by geography departments.

Another concern brought forth is that the majority of West Lakes members may not be in tenure-track positions. Many programs have been in situations of “no new hiring” for extended periods of time, and face increased pressure to hire long-term “teaching professionals” on rolling contracts instead.

Southeast (Derek Alderman):

Alderman expressed SEDAAG’s appreciation to AAG Executive Director Doug Richardson and AAG Vice President Julie Winkler for participating in the Division’s 2012 meeting in Asheville, NC. The Department of Geography at the University of Tennessee and the Tennessee Geographic Alliance also expressed appreciation to Richardson for contributing a featured op-ed piece in *The Tennessean* entitled “Let’s map out smarter education.” Richardson’s op-ed laid out the case for the

value of geography education and opposed a highly debated proposal in Tennessee to eliminate a distinct geography curriculum for K-12 students.

SEDAAG's 2012 meeting in Asheville, NC was well attended, attracting 435 registrants, an increase compared to the 2011 meeting. Students made up a significant share of attendees. SEDAAG's 2012 meeting was also marked by an increase in the number of presentations. The inclusion of undergraduate posters was a new addition that garnered a lot of enthusiasm. Of special note were sessions in honor of the late John Winberry (University of South Carolina) and the late Sid Jumper (University of Tennessee). Dr. Ron Kalafsky of University of Tennessee was tireless in his service as Program Chair of the Asheville meeting, and Dr. William "Bill" Graves of UNC-Charlotte provided exemplary leadership in organizing the Asheville meeting.

SEDAAG faces some key issues and future decisions related to its annual meeting. The first involves the meeting's growing popularity and the difficulty of squeezing presentations and other activities (e.g., World Geography Bowl, honors banquet, major committee meetings, and the new SEDAAG Student Social Event) into a meeting format that only runs from Sunday afternoon to Tuesday morning. The second issue involves possible changes to the paper submission process, specifically whether the advent of a new electronic submission and registration process (offered by UNC Press) will necessitate the submission of an extended abstract. SEDAAG's 2013 meeting will be held November 24-26 in Roanoke, VA, and organized by Virginia Tech.

Current SEDAAG President Doug Gamble suggested that the AAG consider holding workshops for Regional Divisions on finance, administration, and meetings. Such workshops could be held in conjunction with the AAG Annual Meeting, at a regional meeting, or a healthy department workshop and might not have to be offered every year, but perhaps every other year.

New England-St. Lawrence Valley (Bryon Middlekauff):

All programs reporting suggested that enrollments are steady and even growing. Salem State indicated that a new MS in Sustainability is being proposed. Dartmouth is hiring a climatologist and has been given permission to hire another faculty member, and approval for two post doctorate positions to continue. Clark hired a new GIS faculty member last fall. Rhode Island College is enjoying a reinvigoration of geography there. The University of Southern Maine has developed an accelerated (i.e., in a compressed time frame) BA/MA in Geography and Community Planning. Plymouth State and others indicate that GIS course demands continue to grow as more disciplines are discovering its utility. Even with severely restricted budgets, positive reports and outlooks were received.

Middle States (Grant Saff):

The 2012 Middle States Division Annual Conference was held at Shippensburg University, PA and showed a large increase in registrants over the prior year. Unfortunately, due to the effects of Hurricane Sandy, approximately 20% of the registrants were unable to attend. Although MSAAG refunded the registration fees to all those who could not attend due to the weather, they were still able to break more or less even, as opposed to losing money on the previous year's meeting. The 2013 Middle States meeting will be held October 18-19 at Buffalo State College in Buffalo, New York, which is home to current MSAAG President, Kelly Frothingham.

MSAAG has updated its website, moving it to a hosted server. The Division is currently moving the hosting of all the *Middle States Geographer* functions and back issues to the new server, expecting this process to be completed by the end of April 2013.

All parts of the region continued to report issues with regard to tightening budgets or cuts in state funding. Departments are being squeezed and the job situation for graduate students and others scholars is tight. A theme that runs through much of the feedback received from the Region is to continue to present the case for geography to university administrators.

Southwest Division (Ron Hagelman):

Based on the few responses received from member departments, no substantive changes have taken place at the departmental level since the fall report, beyond seasonal hiring for replacement positions. Most departments appear to be experiencing modest growth in enrollments, but little to no growth in net new faculty lines. The division continues to host a variety of departments and programs distributed across all states within the region, the largest number of them in Texas and Louisiana.

A new slate of officers is in place as of the 2012 fall meeting: Murray Rice (University of North Texas UNT) as Chair, Rebecca Sheehan (Oklahoma State University) as Secretary, and Michaela Buenemann (NMSU) as Treasurer. The SWAAG 2013 fall meeting is scheduled for October 24-26 in Nacogdoches, Texas at Stephen F. Austin State University (Darrel McDonald, organizer). The 2014 meeting is scheduled to be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico at the University of New Mexico and the 2015 meeting is tentatively scheduled for San Marcos, Texas at Texas State University. If current plans hold, the 2015 meeting will be held jointly with the Applied Geography Conference. A formal request to hold the Fall 2015 AAG Council meeting in San Marcos, in conjunction with the SWAAG/AGC joint meeting, is forthcoming.

The regional journal, *Southwestern Geographer*, has been successful overall, but is challenged by changeover in editorial staff, publishing costs, and meager submission rates. It is likely it will move to an online digital model over the next year or two, in an effort to bring down costs. Some SWAAG officers have expressed a desire to have the AAG Central Office take over SWAAG's membership management, fee collection, and their regional meeting registration and payment management. Richardson noted that the AAG might be reluctant to take this on, given the costs of doing so, the complexity of managing the multiple divisional structures, the different traditions of the regional divisions, and the potential for a perceived intrusion of the AAG into regional governance.

As for other states, in Texas there are efforts to weaken or remove geography curriculum at the high school level. The Texas state legislature is considering removing the current requirement for World Geography from the state-level testing rubric and graduation requirements. The region is currently gathering materials to share with the AAG in an effort to garner some editorial assistance to combat these proposed changes, similar to Doug Richardson's recent Op-Ed in *The Tennessean*.

Middle Atlantic (Michael Scott): Scott reported that geography is very strong in this region. There has been no decline in the need for geographic skills in the region, which remains a hotspot of large demand for geospatial professionals, sequestration notwithstanding. 550 people attended the latest GIS Conference at Towson University. Programs are growing, faculty lines appear not to be an issue, the Maryland governor is an active supporter of education and education funding for STEM. Jeremy Tasch from Towson University was elected the new MAD Councillor. The 2012 MAD meeting at Salisbury University was well attended. The 2013 MAD meeting will be held in Annapolis jointly with the Applied Geography Conference. The organizers invited Maryland's Lieutenant Governor A. Brown to talk at the Applied Geography Conference on the use of geography in state government.

East Lakes (Thomas Maraffa): The East Lakes Division will hold its annual meeting on October 25th and 26th at the University of Toledo. This is a joint meeting with the Ontario Division of the

Canadian Association of Geographers. It also coincides with the 50th anniversary of the Department of Geography at the University of Toledo. The meeting will continue the Division's emphasis on student participation and presentation of papers and posters. Future meetings are scheduled for Western Michigan University (joint with West Lakes) and Kent State University.

In addition, a geographer, Deidre Mageean, was named provost at Cleveland State University, which does not itself have a geography program. Ohio State University is exploring the development of academic programs in data analytics, which could have connections to geography through spatial information systems.

Pacific Coast (Jenny Zorn): The APCG's next meetings will be held in Lake Tahoe, Sept. 25-28. The APCG website has been revamped. Elections will be held in May. While there are budget challenges, some departments are seeing a slight uptick in the number of searches for new faculty across the region. Debates regarding online initiatives continue, with some departments developing some online courses.

The California Geographic Alliance is seeking a new host institution. CSU Stanislaus was recognized for its excellence in community engagement. The Geography Department at San Diego State University is moving into new facilities in 2014, the year of their centenary. Their majors have never been higher. State funding for the graduate program is diminishing so they rely on grants and contacts to sustain it. At the undergraduate level, SDSU is developing a new urban major and, with anthropology, a sustainability major.

Review of Topical Developments: National Councillors

Sheppard reiterated the question he had posed to Councillors in preparation for the Council Meeting: From the perspective of your areas of the discipline, looking forward, what challenges and opportunities for Geographic scholarship and pedagogy are emerging with the online revolution and digital earth?

The ensuing Council discussion covered a variety of topics, with particular emphasis on the growing impact of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). Councillors shared questions raised about MOOCs. Some of the questions were: What do MOOCs mean for traditional reward systems, remuneration frameworks, student learning systems? What about standards/quality control? How does our prior experience with online courses provide lessons for the coming technological changes? What topics within geography are best suited to MOOCs? How can we envision new opportunities rather than substitutes to curriculum? How can we reach new "markets"? Will the eventual result be a bifurcation of programs that succeed versus those that do not, and what impact might that have on program resources at smaller institutions? What evidence exists that these are effective as an outreach tool? What does this mean for pedagogy? What does this mean for efforts to broaden participation? How can we ensure continued relevance of geography?

Student Representative, David Parr

Parr thanked the AAG Council for the opportunity to observe the meeting. He stressed the importance of the role of graduate students in the AAG, and pointed out that students are an important entry point to the Association and to the disciplinary community as a whole. Parr gave a summary of important AAG student-related activities, including the "Newcomer's Guide" in the Annual Meeting Program, mentoring, career-related and other services offered to students in collaboration with AAG staff and programs.

STATUS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Finance

Richardson and Raphael reported on the February Finance Committee meeting, distributed the final audit, and reviewed the Finance Committee's recommendations to Council. Raphael reported that the auditors (Thompson, Greenspon) complimented the AAG on the growth and strong financial position of AAG. The auditing firm stated that they work with many nonprofit organizations and they consider AAG to be in the top two percent of their nonprofit clients, in terms of financial management and controls. The auditor stated that he frequently uses AAG as a model and example to his other nonprofit clients, and that the AAG Finance Committee should be proud of the financial accomplishments achieved by the AAG. The auditor also noted that AAG's low ratio of general and administrative expenses to total support and revenue demonstrates that the majority of revenue received is being used for program expenses, and that this presents a strong position to federal agencies or private foundations awarding grants and contracts to the organization.

Both a standard financial audit of the AAG was conducted, as well as an extremely detailed A-133 audit of the AAG's federal research grants and contracts. There were no issues or findings of problems with either audit and no deficiencies with AAG's management and internal controls were identified. Finding no cause for reservations, Thompson, Greenspon issued an unqualified opinion of support.

Raphael reported that the Finance Committee passed several resolutions in the form of recommendations to the Council. The Committee unanimously endorsed the AAG's conservative investment policy, as established by Richardson several years ago, and urged the AAG Council to also re-endorse the AAG's current investment policy. Raphael then moved that Council re-endorse the AAG's conservative investment policy. Scott seconded this motion and it passed unanimously. Raphael requested that the Council re-authorize the AAG's current resolution authorizing Richardson, as Executive Director, to purchase and to sell securities and to take actions as necessary in connection with the purchase or sale of securities on behalf of the AAG. Wright moved for this re-authorization, Alderman seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Finance Committee also endorsed the proposed AAG FYE 2014 budget and recommended that the AAG Council also approve the proposed budget. Richardson elaborated on some of the considerations that went into the formulation of the FYE 2014 Budget, such as budgeting for contingencies and shoring up the AAG's reserves in a continued soft economy, while also responding to recent approval of new programs which represent additional expenses. He pointed out that the AAG has had no dues or significant annual meeting fee increases in many years. Scott moved to adopt the proposed FYE 2014 Budget. Wright seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

The Finance Committee also recommended that the Council transfer \$500,000 to the AAG's Douglas Richardson Endowment for Geography's Future. Raphael moved to transfer \$500,000 into the AAG's Douglas Richardson Endowment for Geography's Future, Harrington seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Richardson indicated his willingness to develop a formal fundraising campaign in 2014 around a theme or issue of interest to the AAG, perhaps to be identified by the Long Range Planning Committee as part of the soon-to-be-revised AAG Long Range Plan. He mentioned and thanked Harm de Blij and Thomas Baerwald, whose generous donations have supported the AAG Atlas

Award, and Duane Marble, who pledged a substantial bequest to the Marble Fund for Geographic Science.

Richardson informed Council that a new bookkeeper, Shirley Boone, was hired to replace Michelle Ledoux, who was recently promoted to serve as the AAG's Membership Director.

Membership

Richardson reported a slight decline in total membership, partly due to sequestration and government cutbacks. He indicated that membership numbers are expected to remain fairly stable overall. Richardson discussed the development of the AAG's new online Careers in Geography website and other newly implemented services and forms of communication with membership, and encouraged Council to provide feedback on these recently rolled-out online products and services, and to assist in fine-tuning and improving them. Richardson concluded his report by recommending there be no increase in membership dues for the upcoming year, and a continuation of the AAG's highly progressive dues structure. He also recommended again deferring a Cost-of-Living increase at this time for membership dues or annual meeting registration fees, given the state of the US economy, but noted that these issues inevitably will have to be addressed at some time in the future, as costs of operating the AAG continue to rise each year with inflation, including very large cost increases in areas such as health and liability insurance, energy, member services.

Publications

Richardson mentioned the popularity and strong citation rate of the *Annals* special issues, including the most recent special issue on Geographies of Health. He also indicated that a memorial for Neil Smith will be published in the *Annals*, as approved at the last Council Meeting.

Richardson described a recent staffing adjustment at the AAG: Robin Maier will be shifting from her current position as Managing Editor of the *Annals* to the role of Production Editor for both AAG journals. This change is taking place following her move to Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, where her husband recently accepted a job. With Robin acting as Production Editor, Miranda Lecea will become the Managing Editor for both journals, thus the operation of the journals will now be divided along the stages of production rather than by journal. Wright commented that the transition has been seamless and expressed his thanks to Robin and Miranda.

In reviewing the current journals' editorial terms, Richardson pointed out that the process to select several new editors and editorial board members will need to begin at the Spring 2014 Council Meeting.

Council reviewed the final list editorial board members, as submitted by Kent Mathewson, for the *AAG Review of Books*. The editorial structure is as follows: The Editor-in-Chief is Kent Mathewson, *Louisiana State University*. The Associate Editors are: Audrey Kobayashi, *Queen's University*; Alec Murphy, *University of Oregon*; L. Allan James, *University of South Carolina*; Mark Monmonier, *Maxwell School of Syracuse University*; Karen E. Till, *National University of Ireland-Maynooth*; Paul F. Starrs, *University of Nevada*. The Editorial Board members are: John Agnew, *University of California, Los Angeles*; Derek Alderman, *University of Tennessee*; David R. Butler, *Texas State University-San Marcos*; Anne Buttimer, *University College Dublin*; Judith Carney, *University of California, Los Angeles*; Andrew Cromrie, *University of Arizona*; Bill Crowley, *Sonoma State University*; Diana K. Davis, *University of California, Davis*; Harm de Blij, *Michigan State University*; Deborah Dixon, *Aberystwyth University*; Dydia DeLyser, *Louisiana State University*; Ken Foote, *University of Colorado at Boulder*; John Gillis, *Rutgers University*; Anne Godlewska, *Queen's University*; Susan Hanson, *Clark University*; Lesley Head, *University of Wollongong*; Sally P. Horn, *University of Tennessee*; Robert

Kates, *Independent Scholar*; Cindi Katz, *CUNY Graduate Center*; Mei-Po Kwan, *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*; David Ley, *University of British Columbia*; David Lowenthal, *University College London*; Charles Mann, *Independent Scholar*; Jennifer A. Miller, *University of Texas at Austin*; Katharyne Mitchell, *University of Washington*; William Moseley, *Macalester College*; Peter Muller, *University of Miami*; Kenneth R. Olwig, *Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Alnarp*; Bimal Paul, *Kansas State University*; Richard Peet, *Clark University*; John Pickles, *University Of North Carolina*; Laura Pulido, *University of Southern California*; James Shortridge, *University of Kansas*; B.L. Turner, *Arizona State University*; James Tyner, *Kent State University*; Bret Wallach, *The University of Oklahoma*; Stephen J. Walsh, *University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*; Barney Warf, *University of Kansas*; Elizabeth A. Wentz, *Arizona State University*; John P. Wilson, *University of Southern California*; Jennifer Wolch, *University of California, Berkeley*; Dawn Wright, *Esri*; Karl Zimmerer, *Pennsylvania State University*; and Leo Zonn, *University of Texas at Austin*.

Alderman mentioned that the Publications Committee had organized two panels at the Los Angeles Annual Meeting: one a discussion forum on the *AAG Review of Books* chaired by Kent Mathewson, and another on manuscript reviewing. Alderman indicated that the AAG Publications Committee plans to review and provide input on the *AAG Review of Books*, once it is available online. Alderman then moved to approve the list of proposed *AAG Review of Books* editorial board members. Wright seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Till and Kobayashi abstained.

Kobayashi moved that for their initial appointments, the editors and editorial board members of the *AAG Review of Books* also be allowed to serve as editors or editorial board members of other AAG journals, but that at the time of term expiration they no longer may serve on more than one AAG editorial board, in accordance with existing Council policy on editorial appointments. Wright seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

GeoHumanities Journal Proposal

Richardson provided an overview of various AAG Initiatives over the past decade on Geography and the Humanities, including symposia, special sessions, and the recent publication of two books, entitled *GeoHumanities: Art, History, and Text at the Edge of Place* and *Envisioning Landscapes, Making Worlds: Geography and the Humanities*. He also summarized more recent discussions about a proposed new AAG GeoHumanities journal, and his successful negotiations with Routledge during the past year about launching such a journal. He suggested that Council authorize a subcommittee to review the AAG's prospectus of the journal prior to its submission to Routledge. Kobayashi moved to endorse the creation of an AAG GeoHumanities Journal, asking Vice President Elect Domosh to work with Publications Committee Chair Alderman to review the AAG prospectus prior to its submission to the publisher. Further discussion will occur at the 2013 Fall meeting. Wentz seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Further Council discussion revealed an interest in also supporting a journal related to physical geography, perhaps on the general theme of Geography and Global Change. Vice President Julie Winkler will work with Domosh and Publications Committee Chair Alderman to deliver recommendations on this at the Fall 2013 Council meeting.

Discussion of Open Access

Sheppard concluded the Council's discussion of Publications by suggesting that the Long Range Planning Committee be tasked to consider open access questions, to help the AAG prepare for this changing landscape and any action that may be needed, in collaboration with other organizations. He urged Councillors to inquire at their home campuses and libraries for perspectives on how open access is being addressed.

Communications

Richardson provided an overview of the many online and digital services the AAG has rolled out in the course of the past year, as mandated by Council, and the many AAG columns and other communications, both hard copy and online, that he has written to inform the membership of these changes. He described how AAG news is now distributed via several mechanisms: regular News and Special Feature updates on the AAG website; the Geogram for news and annual meeting-related topics; the SmartBrief, offering geography-related news selections from the broader media; and the AAG News Update emails sent to all members, which provide a monthly digest of *AAG Newsletter* content. He encouraged feedback from Council on these changes, emphasizing that these processes are still in transition and will be tweaked and improved based on feedback from members, Council and staff. Council discussion resulted in several recommendations for continued communication with membership, to ensure that all members are aware of the transition to online news from the formerly printed monthly *AAG Newsletter*, and to familiarize members with how and where news is now provided on the AAG website. Richardson also noted that regular columns and other major features of the AAG news will be archived for future reference.

Richardson also reported the successful launch of the online Jobs in Geography system, and the completion of the first online election, which resulted in very high voter turnout compared to previous AAG election cycles using paper ballots.

He also mentioned work underway for transitioning the *AAG Guide to Geography Programs in the Americas* to online only, as recommended by Council.

Meridian Place Operations

Richardson reported to Council on AAG staffing and recent hires, including Rebecca Pendergast, formerly with *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, as Director of Design and Digital Products, Recha O'Neal as Administrative Assistant, and Shirley Boone as Bookkeeper. The AAG also continues to invest in and implement new computing systems and software to manage its complex operations and to support its extensive services to members, Specialty Groups, and Regional Divisions, with efficient and state-of-the-art solutions.

After giving a brief history of the AAG name, Sheppard introduced a proposal to change the AAG's name to "American Association of Geographers." Richardson suggested polling the membership on this proposal, and also indicated that such a change, if approved, would require a constitutional change. Sheppard offered to write a column on the history of the AAG's name and the proposed name change, and to allow membership to express their views on the topic. Till moved that the Council explore changing the Association's name to "American Association of Geographers." Middlekauff seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Long Range Plan Update

Sheppard summarized the discussion from the Fall Council Meeting regarding updating the current AAG Long Range Plan and circulated the list of nominees developed by the Executive Committee for a committee to update the AAG Long Range Plan. Council suggested additional names and tasked the Executive Committee with selecting the committee and confirming the nominees' willingness to serve.

The members of the Committee to update the AAG Long Range Plan are: Thomas Baerwald, *National Science Foundation*; Ken Foote, *University of Colorado, Boulder*; JW Harrington, *University of*

Washington; Audrey Kobayashi, Queen's University; Thomas Maraffa, Youngstown State University; Sara McLafferty, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; Jeremy Mennis, Temple University; Kavita Pandit, University of Georgia; Marilyn Raphael, University of California, Los Angeles; Doug Richardson, AAG; Eric Sheppard, University of California, Los Angeles; and Julie Winkler, Michigan State University.

Richardson suggested that the AAG Long Range Plan update also include discussions on strengthening the AAG Regional Division network, identifying goals as expressed by the regions, and soliciting regional division views on the varied and changing environments in which regional divisions are now operating, as well as potential future challenges facing the AAG regional division system. Rundquist, as Regional Division Councillor Chair, and Maraffa, as Regional Division Councillor on the LRP Update Committee, were asked to inform the AAG regional divisions about the Long Range Plan update and invite them to contribute to this process by sharing input or results from planning activities from each of the regional divisions.

Policy and Outreach

Media

Richardson summarized AAG activities in this area, including his extensive liaison with media, both electronic and print, and asked for Council volunteers and recommendations of geographers to be available for writing op-ed pieces, and for newspaper interviews, radio programs, webinars, podcasts, etc. Till suggested also asking Specialty/Affinity Group chairs to assist.

Geography and the Military

Council discussed whether the AAG should form a commission to examine the engagements of geographers employed by or contracting with the U.S. military and intelligence communities, and to evaluate the potential implications of U.S. Department of Defense and intelligence agency work by geographers upon the discipline. Kobayashi moved to form a commission, led by two members of Council, to study and make recommendations on the relationship between geography and the military. Till seconded the motion. The motion did not pass. Wright suggested, as an alternative, to invite op-eds in the AAG Newsletter on this topic.

GIS Program Accreditation

Scott presented the report from the Council-appointed committee tasked to explore GIS Program Accreditation. Council discussion resulted in the recommendation to keep the current subcommittee on task, track developments at the May 2013 meeting of the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS), and report back on directions being taken regarding accreditation at the 2013 Fall Council meeting.

Legislative Monitoring and Congressional Liaison

Richardson and AAG staff member John Wertman gave an overview of the AAG's extensive public policy activities on core issues: scientific freedom; funding for geographic research; GIS licensing and certification issues and the restrictions on mapping being sought by some private surveying and engineering companies; federal and state education policy; and funding for geography, science, and social science research programs. Richardson and Wertman pointed out that the AAG's non-profit status restricts the Association's ability to carry out extensive lobbying activities. The AAG monitors these issues, and provides information, education, and analysis of these issues. It also responds to requests for information by members of Congress and their staff, and provides testimony to Congressional Committees upon their request.

There was a discussion of the Coburn Amendment and an AAG Council Statement drafted in response to it, in consultation with other associations. Tyner moved to approve the AAG Statement on the Coburn Amendment. Hagelman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The Statement will be posted on the AAG website, together with extensive information related to threats to funding for geography, science and social science programs.

There was also discussion of a general AAG public affairs approach to engaging and informing membership, and encouraging them to contact their representatives and the public with their views on key issues. Background information and analysis is available on the AAG website for AAG Councillors and AAG members to use in their local outreach to Congressional representatives as they express their own views. Richardson and Wertman also work with the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA), the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF), and many other similar coalitions, as well as with individual scholarly and peer associations on these issues. Sheppard volunteered to also work with Richardson and Wertman on suggesting best ways forward to leverage the strengths of the AAG to address these issues, such as a blog or similar means of communication.

Projects and Programs

Richardson and AAG staff members Solís and Solem provided a brief overview of current and new AAG projects and programs. Special mention was made of several education-related grants focused on: analysis of national curriculum standards and frameworks in the U.S., England, and Finland (GeoCapabilities); aligning learning outcomes and workforce competencies for terminal geography and geology Master's degrees; internationalizing geography education with a focus on the East Japan earthquake region (collaborations between U.S. and Japanese high schools and colleges); the recent publication of the revised Standards for Geography Education (also being highlighted at a session with Gilbert Grosvenor at the Los Angeles meeting); and establishing a roadmap for large-scale improvement of K-12 education in the geographical sciences.

The AAG staff also noted the many jobs and careers-related activities and services developed over recent years, as well as a number of related panels and workshops at the Los Angeles meeting.

Solís also briefly described the two current My Community, Our Earth: Geographic Learning for Sustainable Development (MyCOE) fellowship cycles in the program's decade-long history: one funded by USAID and NASA to develop the long-term capacity of students and mentors in critical regions of Africa, Asia and Latin America to use geography and geographic technologies for sustainable development; the other MyCOE fellowship program is funded by the U.S. Department of State with the aim of creating and facilitating virtual learning collaborations and classroom exchanges between students in the U.S. and in developing countries on the subject of sustainable development in climate change, food security, and green economy using geography and GIS.

Numerous AAG diversity-related grants, projects, and programs were also discussed. More detail on these and other AAG projects and programs are provided on the AAG website.

Richardson also summarized key new developments in the AAG's collaborations and outreach to the NIH health and medical research communities, including two new NSF and NIH grants and the publication last month in *Science* of the article, "Spatial Turn in Health Research," authored by Douglas Richardson, Nora Volkow, Mei-Po Kwan, Robert Kaplan, Michael Goodchild and Robert Croyle.

Sheppard praised the AAG for its service to membership and offered the Council's thanks and appreciation.

CONTINUING AND NEW BUSINESS

Annual Meetings

Richardson provided an overview of the Los Angeles meeting about to begin, the keynote and other guest speakers featured during this week, the awardees to be honored, and other highlighted events. Sheppard offered the Council's formal thanks to the Los Angeles Local Arrangements Committee and to the entire AAG staff, including AAG Conference Director Oscar Larson, for organizing another exciting meeting.

Winkler gave an overview of the recently expanded benefits of the AAG Childcare program, and a discussion of Eldercare from the Fall 2012 Council Meeting. She reported that the regional divisions requested more information on extending childcare services to the regional; meetings and more time to discuss the issue with their memberships. that other priorities seem to take precedent. Harrington provided a summary of the suggestions from the Committee on Status of Women in Geography (CSWG) for exploring on-site childcare. Solís shared data on the AAG Childcare program's history, usage and demand, as well as costs for the current childcare reimbursement program and for potential on-site childcare services. Council also reviewed input from other professional societies polled by the AAG on their childcare and eldercare programs.

Council tasked Winkler, Harrington and Domosh and to hold a conference call with the CSWG and Enhancing Diversity Committees, including retiring members and new appointees, to communicate and receive feedback on Council perspectives and request the committees to respond to the broader topic of inclusion at AAG annual meetings and in the Association, as well as other issues related to the status of women and minorities in the discipline, as raised during Council discussion. Solís was asked to provide documentation of past Council discussions, decisions and actions taken on childcare programs, to share with this group and incoming or new Chairs.

Richardson outlined a proposal he recently received for the creation of an AAG/GTU Student Travel support program to help GTU students attend AAG Annual meetings. The AAG and GTU would work together to raise donations for the program, with the funds managed by the AAG and the awards being granted competitively by GTU. Zorn moved for the creation of this program. Rundquist seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. Richardson indicated there would need to be an initial fundraising effort by AAG and GTU to establish the program.

Several Regional Division Councillors proposed that the AAG change its long-standing council expense reimbursement policy for the Spring Council meeting, and to now fund the airfare costs and the Annual Meeting registration costs for Council members attending the Spring Council meeting, which is held in conjunction with the AAG Annual Meeting. Harrington suggested that Councillors who have other support or do not wish to accept this reimbursement, could donate these funds back to the AAG. Zorn moved for such a change, effective for this current meeting, in the AAG policy. Raphael seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Rundquist also argued for more financial support from the AAG for Regional Divisions, to also fund Regional Division Chairs to attend the AAG Annual Meetings. After extensive Council discussion, Richardson moved to provide Regional Division Chairs with funding for meeting registration fees to attend AAG Annual meetings. Middlekauff seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Till suggested the organization of a special session for Regional Division Chairs at the next Annual meeting to learn from one another, to share solutions, best practices, and other ways to support regional divisions and communication with the AAG. Kobayashi moved to fund a one-time travel subsidy to facilitate a planning meeting with Regional Division Chairs and Council members at the 2014 AAG Annual Meeting in Tampa. Till seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Till provided an update on a proposal to expand the AAG Enrichment Funds to allow Specialty and Affinity Group Chairs to nominate and select recipients for up to a collective total of five local non-geographers to attend AAG Annual Meetings, without speaking or other obligations. This proposal was passed at the Fall 2012 Council meeting and will be implemented at the Tampa Annual Meeting.

Honors and Awards

Sheppard listed the 2013 Honorees and Awardees:

AAG Lifetime Achievement Honors to Sallie Marston and Edward Soja;
AAG Distinguished Scholarship Honors to Judy Carney and John O'Loughlin;
AAG Ronald F. Abler Distinguished Service Honors to Ruth Shirey;
AAG Gilbert Grosvenor Geographic Education Honors to Gwenda Rice;
AAG Gilbert White Public Service Honors awarded posthumously to Thelma Glass;
AAG Distinguished Teaching Honors to Dawn Wright;
Media Achievement Award to William Moseley; and
the *Presidential Achievement Award* to Bobby Wilson.

Richardson pointed out two inaugural awards being presented this year: the *Harold M. Rose Award for Anti-Racism in Research and Practice*, issued posthumously to Don Deskins, Jr. and the *AAG Stanley Brunn Award for Creativity in Geography*, issued to Yi-Fu Tuan.

Committees and Specialty Groups

Zorn gave an overview of the Committee on Committees meeting and shared reports from the AAG Standing Committees.

Archives and Association History Committee

Richardson gave a summary of his recent pleasant visit and discussion with AAG Archivist Geoffrey Martin at his home in New Haven, Connecticut, and an earlier visit to the AAG Archives in Milwaukee. Currently, portions of the AAG Archives are located at four different locations: 1) the main but small AAG Archive at the AGS Library in Milwaukee, WI; 2) the AAG Geographers on Film Collection at the Library of Congress' Geography and Map Division, in Washington, DC; 3) extensive material at the home of the AAG Archivist in New Haven, CT; and, 4) most of the rapidly-growing collection of digital archival files, and some more recent hard copy files, at the AAG headquarters in Washington, DC. It was noted that there is lack of visibility of the AAG archives in their current Milwaukee location, and concern was expressed by some that the organizational identity of, and access to, the AAG Archives there is very low. There also appears to be no capacity or funding to digitize and provide online access to the AAG Archives there, or to process, preserve, and organize the AAG's rapidly growing collection of digital archival materials.

Richardson suggested that the AAG develop a strategic plan for its AAG Archives, addressing issues such as preservation, consolidation, and expansion of the current collections; enhancing public and international access to the AAG Archives; digitization and dissemination of AAG's existing Archives;

and the archival curation, preservation, and access to AAG's rapidly growing current and future digital archival materials. This might also be addressed as part of the AAG's upcoming Long Range Planning Process. The Council charged Richardson to work with the AAH Committee, the AAG Long Range Planning Committee, and others to see how these concerns and the AAG's long-term archival needs might best be addressed for the long term, and also to explore the possibility of housing a consolidated AAG Archive at the Library of Congress Geography and Map Division.

Enhancing Diversity Committee

This Committee, together with CSWG, proposes a Mentoring Award. Council discussed the proposal and requested the two committees to formulate a full proposal for this award, as well as continue to develop ideas for mentoring activities at AAG Annual Meetings.

Healthy Departments Committee

Sheppard will request the Chair of this Committee to write up a short statement (for publication) on the kind of support they can offer. Zorn asked Council whether there was any interest in adding a SAGE or small department representative to this committee. Several potential members were suggested. Zorn agreed to follow-up with the suggested persons.

Council discussed a proposal for an Outstanding Departmental Award, to be linked possibly with Healthy Departments Committee activities, perhaps having that Committee also serve as the selection committee for this award. Council requested Alderman to work with Hagelman and Maraffa, as well as Murphy (Chair), and Price or Wilkinson of the Healthy Departments Committee to further explore this proposal and the award criteria that might be involved, for discussion at the Fall 2013 Council Meeting.

Committee Appointments

Zorn proposed a slate of appointments to fill committee vacancies for the terms ending June 30, 2013. Council suggested adding Janice Monk to the Archives and Association History Committee. Alderman moved to approve the slate of committee appointments. Saff seconded. The slate was unanimously approved.

Council

The Executive Committee recommended appointing Laura Smith as AAG Secretary and Grant Saff as AAG Treasurer. Scott moved for approval of Smith's and Saff's appointments, Till seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously. The two nominees accepted the appointments. Till nominated Wentz as new National Councillor Chair. Wright seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

The 2013 Fall Executive Committee meeting will be held in conjunction with the AAG Pacific Coast Regional Division Meeting in Lake Tahoe, Nevada, on September 26-27, 2013. The 2013 Fall Council Meeting will be held on November 1-3, 2013, in conjunction with the AAG Mid-Atlantic Regional Division Meeting and the Applied Geography Conference, in Annapolis, Maryland.

Scott moved for approval of a two-year trial period for an observing Student Representative to Council, chosen by the AAG Graduate Student Affinity Group. Middlekauff seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Resolutions

Sheppard read the following resolutions:

Whereas, Audrey Kobayashi, as Vice President, President, and Past President of the Association of American Geographers has ably guided and served the Association to address the challenges facing the discipline of Geography, particularly by promoting greater awareness and recognition for geographic scholarship and practice against racism and other forms of inequities with respect to gender, ethnicity, disabilities, indigenous and sexual orientation; by advancing international cooperation in part through relationships with other geography associations around the world; and by encouraging strong communication across the discipline, especially fostering excellence and innovation in scholarly publications of the association and beyond; and whereas she has thus 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 Los Angeles, California on the occasion of its 109th Annual Meeting, heartily thanks Audrey for her leadership of the Association during the past three years, and especially for her efforts to advance excellence in scholarship and collaboration in geography across differences of race, class, gender, and international borders, and to encourage geographers to address issues of equity and social justice within the association, academia and our global society.

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 Los Angeles, California on the occasion of its 109th Annual Meeting, extends warm appreciation to Past President Audrey Kobayashi, AAG Secretary and Pacific Coast Regional Division Councillor Jenny Zorn, AAG Treasurer and National Councillor Marilyn Raphael, National Councillor and Chair Karen Till, Mid-Atlantic Regional Division Councillor Michael Scott, and New England - St. Lawrence Valley Regional Division Councillor Bryon Middlekauff 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 Los Angeles, California on the occasion of its 109th 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.

Wright moved to approve the resolutions, Hagelman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further business, President Sheppard adjourned the Council meeting at 11:40 a.m. on Tuesday, April 9, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Zorn
AAG Secretary