

AAG Council Meeting Minutes

April 6-8, 2014

Tampa, Florida

Present: Julie Winkler, *President*; Mona Domosh, *Vice President*; Eric Sheppard, *Past President*; Grant Saff, *Treasurer*; Laura Smith, *Secretary*; Douglas Richardson, *Executive Director*; Derek Alderman, Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, Ron Hagelman, John Harrington, Jr., Marina Islas, Richard Kujawa, Thomas Maraffa, Scott Mensing, Bradley Rundquist, Jeremy Tasch, James Tyner, Elizabeth Wentz, Richard Wright

Regrets: Melissa Gilbert

AAG Staff: Ed Ferguson, Candice Luebbering, Candida Mannozi, Michael Solem, Patricia Solís, Yonette Thomas

Observers: Sarah Bednarz, *Vice President Elect*

Opening of the Spring 2014 Council Meeting

President Winkler called the meeting to order at 3:09 p.m. on April 6 with a short welcome. Council was introduced to new AAG staff member Ed Ferguson, who will serve as AAG Director of Administration. *Smith moved to approve the minutes of the Fall 2013 Council meeting. Sheppard seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.*

President's Comments

President Winkler commented on her presidential theme of cross-disciplinary outreach and visibility to other disciplines. She reported on the successful hosting of an AAG booth at the annual meeting of the American Meteorological Society (AMS), which yielded a steady stream of visitors and solicited some new memberships as well as potential vendors for the AAG annual meeting. She believes this represents another opportunity for AAG to enhance connections and membership, and sends a supportive message to geographers who attend other meetings. Wright suggested that AAG have an ongoing presence at AMS; Winkler suggested that the AAG think about other organizations as well and possibly rotate its presence at various meetings.

Winkler also highlighted upcoming events at the Annual Meeting, including the Presidential Plenary session on geographies of climate change, a lunchtime conversation on the future of physical geography, and the selection of climate modeler Warren Washington as the 2014 AAG Honorary Geographer.

Vice President's Comments

Vice President Domosh expressed her desire to pursue a "climate survey" of the AAG membership and to further explore issues of diversity within our organization, utilizing the support of AAG committees (e.g., Committee on the Status of Women in Geography, Enhancing Diversity Committee) and volunteers to determine what should be included. A professional organization would administer the survey tool.

Domosh also commented on her desire to build on both Sheppard's and Winkler's presidential themes of interdisciplinarity, specifically through her idea of "radical intra-disciplinarity" and pursuing the creative and exciting possibilities that exist under the umbrella of geography. For her Presidential Plenary at the 2015 Annual Meeting in Chicago, she plans to select themes that can reach out to various sides of geography (e.g., time, justice, nature) and to team up individuals who will represent various ideological backgrounds or generations to dialogue about these issues from different perspectives. In this way she hopes to change the nature of the plenary session to be more participatory, and will encourage creative approaches such as a staged debate or creative performance.

Past President's Comments

Past President Sheppard expressed his appreciation for working with an extraordinary group of past and future AAG Presidents (Foote, Kobayashi, Winkler, Domosh) and his enjoyment of working with those on the AAG Council, calling the different perspectives and collaborations "Geography at its best." He also expressed his appreciation to the AAG for supporting the President to attend regional meetings, where he witnessed flourishing discussions. He is pleased with the progress made on the idea of an organizational name change, pushing on the idea of the AAG as serving more than American geographers. He stated his admiration for the large number of activities going on at Meridian Place, including the transition to a new generation of communications. Finally, he thanked Executive Director Doug Richardson and the AAG staff, especially Candida Mannozi, Patricia Solís, and Oscar Larson, on behalf of the AAG membership but also personally.

Reports from Regional Councillors

Rundquist, Chair of the Regional Councillors, summarized the top news items from each regional division based on reports received from the Regional Councillors. Regions reported on the election of officers, divisional annual meetings, regional journals, financial concerns, and programmatic changes. The summary of regional reports is included as an appendix.

Alderman offered his thanks to Rundquist for all he has done to bring the Regional Councillors together over the past two years; Council joined in thanking Rundquist.

Student Representative's Comments

Student Representative Marina Islas, current chair of the Graduate Student Affinity Group, reported that the group is in the process of establishing a two-year position to serve as representative to the Council. She also reported on changes that have been made to the group's awards process. In the past, the group has granted research awards of \$500 to \$1,000 to a handful of students, but with various paper competition and research award opportunities available through the AAG and specialty groups, the group has decided to focus more on travel awards based on need. This past year, eight students were granted travel awards of \$250 each, prioritized by funding need.

Islas also reported on feedback from the Graduate Student Affinity Group about the AAG Dissertation Research Award. The primary concern is the small size of awards (\$100 to \$500) given the length of the application. The affinity group supports increasing the amount of the award and giving out fewer awards. The group feels that as the flagship organization for geography, the AAG ought to increase its support of graduate research. Council discussed the budget and application process for the grant program, as well as the benefit to graduate students of being able to include an AAG award on their CV. Richardson suggested that this might be a category that would draw support in a fund-raising program; currently the total annual award amount fluctuates based on the earnings of an amalgam of gifts, and the AAG regularly picks up the shortfall to get up to an average award of \$500. Winkler suggested that Council discuss this issue again later in the agenda under new initiatives.

Islas inquired about establishing a permanent liaison between the affinity group and the AAG.

Winkler requested feedback from the affinity group on compiling a directory of dissertation funding opportunities.

Discussion of Rebranding Question

The question posed by Winkler for consideration by all Council members was: “How common is the ‘rebranding’ of Geography Departments, and are there any trends or commonalities in the new departmental names? What are long-term benefits and consequences of the ‘rebranding’ of Geography Departments?” Some of the points raised in the ensuing discussion included the transdisciplinarity of geography both methodologically and conceptually; movement in institutions towards thematic units vs. disciplinary departments; the transformation in many institutions from faculty governance to a top-down business model; the permanence or longevity of new program names; the importance of long-standing core disciplines; the helpfulness of AP Human Geography in the visibility of geography as a discipline; and the increased involvement in state Geographic Alliances by faculty outside of geography.

Alderman identified a tension between rebranding as a way of being more inclusive and recognizing other voices within a department vs. rebranding as a response to pressure from above and a dilution of geography’s identity. He voiced concern over the marginalization of contemporary critical human geography when rebranding occurs. Kujawa agreed that rebranding may be of special concern for human geographers.

Saff reported on his 2012 research on interdisciplinary programs, which found that of 209 Ph.D. programs listed in the AAG Guide only 52% were named “Geography.” Rebranding has been an ongoing process, although the pressure seems to be intensifying.

Maraffa identified three common rebranding situations: 1) when departments are combined and renamed “Geography and Anthropology,” for example; 2) when a department participates in an interdisciplinary program and the outcome is positive; 3) when a Geography Department changes its name and loses its identity in a negative outcome.

Examples were given of department name changes that were undertaken as a way to keep interdisciplinary degrees within the department and to make it more evident to those outside of the department what geographers do.

Examples were also given of newly created interdisciplinary programs. Engaging with interdisciplinary programs (such as Global Studies or Sustainability Studies) may result in increased faculty lines and increased student numbers within geography as students are introduced to the discipline.

Wright reiterated his belief that geographers need to be aware of anything with “studies” after it, and need to be strategic about infiltration. Harrington cautioned that geographers need to be involved campus-wide and help to guide discussions, recognizing that change happens. He raised the question of whether it is more important to have people doing good spatial reasoning or to be calling it geography (focusing on the label itself). He suggested it might be useful to redo the National Academy of Science report on “Rediscovering Geography” from twenty years ago.

Tasch reported that the issue of rebranding has not been an issue within the Middle Atlantic Division as the accreditation institution is so strict that departments are loathe to make name changes.

Domosh cautioned that we need to be aware that the name “Geography” does not exist in most Americans’ minds. Winkler noted that geologists are having similar issues. Maraffa pointed out that other disciplines that are not taught in K-12 (e.g., psychology, anthropology) don’t have identity issues, and that the issue is one of public awareness and intellectuals who identify with the discipline.

Rundquist noted that recently some graduates of his program have rebranded themselves on their résumés, changing the name of their Geography degree to “Environmental Geography” or “GIS,” etc. Hagelman pointed out that an extra designation may not always be a positive as it may restrict or hinder where a graduate can apply. Smith agreed that rebranding can narrow people’s understanding of what geographers can do, again possibly to the detriment of human and/or cultural geography. Tyner stated that his program is able to make a hire by arguing that the position will do geospatial technology, but the downside is not being able to hire broadly-conceived human or cultural geographers. Smith suggested that an alternative to rebranding might be reillustrating what geographers do that is important and what we can contribute to pressing issues like sustainability or climate change.

Richardson noted that many disciplines that have persisted autonomously (political science, economics, etc.) have developed a quantitative focus and that one way to maintain Geography’s autonomy is through continued incorporation of GIScience, in addition to all else that we do. This will help to sustain other subdisciplines of geography, and continue to make us central to research programs and scholarship. This view is supported through extensive discussions with administrators. Wright agreed that Geography needs to be the go-to department for GIScience, especially as other disciplines attempt to reinvent themselves and also incorporate GIS.

Winkler inquired about particular recommendations coming out of this conversation. Alderman suggested thinking about alternative ways (beyond Geography Awareness Week) to promote geography awareness at the national level; popular media outlets are a powerful method. Maraffa pointed out that this is one of the strands that the Long Range Planning Committee is considering. Richardson noted the work of David Coronado, Communications Director, and Becky Pendergast, Director of Design and Digital Products, in the AAG central office. Harrington appreciated Richardson’s efforts to publish in the journal *Science* and suggested continued efforts to publish in outlets that administrators are reading (e.g., *Chronicle of Higher Education*).

Discussion of Council Minutes

Winkler explained that the AAG currently approves its minutes both by an online or conference call vote of the Council as soon as possible after a Council meeting, and also by a pro forma vote at the subsequent Council meeting to endorse the prior online or conference call vote. This subsequent vote is a legacy of ambiguity in prior District of Columbia regulations requiring D.C. corporations (the AAG is a nonprofit 501c(3) corporation) to conduct board business in person. These D.C. regulations and the AAG’s by-laws have both evolved so that previous restrictions are no longer in place. Winkler reported that the AAG Executive Committee recommends that the pro forma vote be discontinued and that the AAG Council minutes be approved as soon as possible following a Council meeting. The Executive Committee recommended that this early approval process may be conducted via an online process open to all Council members. The AAG Secretary would coordinate the approval process, taking comments received under consideration and distributing a final version for approval. The Executive Committee also suggests that a two-week comment period follow distribution of the minutes, and that Council members provide their vote on the minutes within one week of receiving the final version of the minutes from the AAG Secretary.

Kujawa noted that if there is a question or concern over the minutes, email as a forum for discussion is not always functional. He suggested that in those instances, the outcome could be to table approval until the Council meeting. Harrington suggested holding a conference call in those cases rather than tabling the process. *Harrington moved to approve the proposed new process for review and approval of*

the Council minutes with a friendly amendment that contentious issues would be resolved via conference call. Hagelman seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Winkler then summarized the other recommendations from the Executive Committee about organization of the minutes. The committee feels that there is a long history in the AAG of fairly detailed minutes, and that capturing the essence of the discussion leading up to a decision has advantages. However, the committee also feels that some changes should be made to make the minutes more accessible to readers. First, the committee suggests that a summary of the motions and resolutions approved at the Council meeting be added to the minutes, and that they be emphasized within the text of the minutes to help readers quickly identify those actions. In addition, the committee suggests that the reports from Regional Councillors, a summary of which currently comprises a large portion of the minutes, be included as an appendix.

Finally, the committee feels that one full regional report per year is sufficient and a more reasonable workload given that Regional Councillors are involved in numerous other Council activities and initiatives; the committee suggests that Regional Councillors be asked to make a detailed report once a year at the Spring Council meeting. The committee also feels that the regional reports are not receiving the visibility they should, and suggests that reports have two parts: a short synopsis for Council of items of note or concern and a longer summary that will be posted to the AAG website in order to be accessible to AAG members.

Rundquist agreed that producing a regional report once a year should be sufficient as long as time was allotted in the Council meeting for pressing regional issues to be introduced and discussed. He also supported posting the full reports to the AAG website as long as Councillors are able to edit the reports for sensitive issues. Hagelman asked for clarification that Regional Councillors would be expected to produce a full report for Council, a version for posting to the AAG website (edited for sensitivity if necessary), and the top two highlights (which will continue to be included in the minutes). Winkler confirmed, and emphasized that this change will allow for reports to be accessible into the future and hopefully be of increased value to the regions.

Harrington inquired whether the summary of motions and resolutions could be placed at the beginning of the minutes. Winkler responded that the Executive Committee had considered the placement of the summary at both the beginning and the end of the minutes, but had been swayed by the argument that technically minutes are chronological in order and hence recommended in their proposal that the summary be placed at the end of the minutes.

Sheppard moved to adopt the changes to the organization and format of the Council minutes and to the regional reports as outlined by the Executive Committee recommendations. Rundquist seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

STATUS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Finances

Treasurer Saff reported on the Finance Committee Meeting held in March in Washington, D.C. Saff noted that the AAG auditing firm (Thompson, Greenspon) found the AAG to be exceptionally well run and financially sound, and has no concerns; the firm finds the AAG to be in the top 5% of organizations they audit. Of particular note are the internal controls in place in the organization through segregation of financial duties. The auditor also commended the AAG on the fact that administrative expenditures

as a proportion of mission-related program expenditures are low at 8% (25% is considered efficient) and that most spending goes to programming. The auditor pointed out that members, donors, and funding organizations like to see that funds are being spent largely on programs that further the mission of the organization, rather than going heavily to administrative and overhead costs. In terms of planning for the future, the Finance Committee notes that membership numbers have declined slightly two years in a row. The committee also would like the Council to discuss membership dues, as the AAG dues have not increased since 2009 despite continued inflation. Finally, the committee notes that the AAG's contract with Routledge expires in 2017.

Richardson then reviewed both the standard audit and the more detailed A-133 audit conducted on AAG's federal research grants and contracts. The change in net assets for the AAG for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2013 is just over \$498,000. Richardson noted that he would like to close out some of the smaller grants and awards funds (e.g., those less than \$1,000) and consolidate them into larger funds to be used for the same purposes. To do this, he must consult with the accountants and reference donor requirements; he will do this and return to Council with a suggestion. Richardson also stated that he would like to see AAG's endowment for Geography's Future reach a total of \$15 million; this represents an ambitious but feasible long-term fund-raising goal. Richardson believes this will help ensure the financial future of the AAG.

Maraffa inquired about Richardson's expectations for subsequent publishing contracts. Richardson replied that the scholarly publishing world is currently in great flux (e.g., open access publishing, the proliferation of new online journals); he is thoroughly familiar with the issues and debates, and in about eighteen months will begin negotiations with current and other potential publishers. By the end of 2016, he will be in a position to assess all options and make a decision on an alternative publishing plan.

Richardson presented the proposed AAG FYE 2015 budget. He noted that the Finance Committee reviewed and made minor changes and recommends that we accept the budget as submitted. *Saff moved to approve the proposed FYE 2015 budget as submitted. Wright seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.*

Winkler suggested developing and preparing an alternative form of financial reporting that would make it easier for Councillors to carry out their responsibilities; this form would allow Councillors to view the general profit/loss for various categories such as annual meeting, publications, etc. Wright clarified that this alternative form would be in addition to rather than in place of the current format (that provides a high level of detail). Richardson cautioned that one caveat would be indirect costs, e.g., staff time spent on programs that would fall into a general overhead category. Much of the annual meeting work also falls into general office categories. Informed estimates would have to be made for these situations. He will put together a small group including Teri Martin, AAG Director of Finance, to work on this issue; they will put something together to pass by Winkler and the Finance Committee and to present at the next Council meeting.

Hagelman inquired about whether Council members are allowed to share the financial reports directly with AAG membership. Richardson noted that the AAG annually files a Form 990, which is a public document; AAG's detailed audit reports are also available to the public. Given the complexity of the detailed audit reports, he cautioned that they may be subject to misinterpretation by those unfamiliar with standard accounting requirements and terminology. Hagelman suggested that the simplified budget format might be something to share with the membership; Saff agreed that it would be easier to understand the financial picture from the simplified statement.

Richardson expressed hope that revenues generated from future fundraising programs could help further strengthen the AAG to meet future challenges. Winkler asked if a more concrete fundraising plan could be presented at the Spring 2015 Council meeting; Richardson agreed.

Membership

Richardson reported a slight decline in membership numbers over the past two years; he believes this to be a legacy effect of the recession. Smaller meeting attendance may have also impacted membership numbers as people often join the association when they register for the meeting. The AAG Central Office is conducting outreach to lapsed members. If numbers continue to drop, the organization will intervene in a more substantial way. Domosh inquired whether the Membership Committee could be of help with this issue; Richardson stated that the committee will be used as a resource. Maraffa inquired whether associations like the AAG undertake projections given demographic trends; Richardson responded that it could be done, but with great expense and time. Wright wondered how the AAG compares to similar organizations; Richardson noted that most of our peer organizations took a more dramatic downturn in membership, and at an earlier point in time. Alderman suggested that Regional Councillors should discuss further encouragement of membership in the AAG. Harrington suggested that the membership page on the AAG website be improved to “sell” membership more effectively.

Council returned to discussion of a possible membership dues increase. Saff reiterated that the Finance Committee has not taken a position on an increase but would like Council to discuss the issue. Dues have not been increased to accommodate cost-of-living increases since 2009 and the association’s rules do not allow for increases greater than annual cost-of-living increases without a vote of the membership. If dues are not increased, it will be more difficult to catch up with inflation in the future. Saff noted the uncertainty of how an increase may affect membership numbers; he also noted that not all categories would need to be increased equally.

Maraffa inquired about the amount of revenue that would be generated by a dues increase and how it relates to other budgetary issues. Richardson replied that he does not believe that a 2% increase would have a significant impact on revenues (or on membership numbers), but questioned whether we want to wait for a future Council to consider a more dramatic increase. In the past, dues were increased every year in order to track inflation; he has been an advocate of not raising dues for the last few years, but wonders if it is now time to consider such an action. Wright inquired whether AAG dues are comparable with other organizations; Richardson replied that the AAG is on the low end for dues. Hagelman suggested that if we increase dues we also undertake an awareness campaign about AAG’s financial situation to help the perception of members. Wright noted that annual dues and meeting fees are closely related; if the AAG is interested in sustaining revenues, maybe meeting fees should be increased instead of membership dues. Richardson noted he is in favor of subsidizing membership through meeting fees, as people can often get funding for conference attendance but not necessarily for dues. He also noted that membership revenues have declined for other reasons, such as the AAG’s subsidized Developing Regions membership program.

Alderman requested a series of financial scenarios (that would include both membership dues and meeting fees) for Council to consider to make a better choice on a possible dues increase. Maraffa agreed that the issue is not solely a question of dues, but an overall revenue question. Winkler suggested that the simplified financial reports be used to help forecast scenarios and that this could be Council’s next challenge question. It was agreed that basic data (e.g., membership numbers by category) are necessary to move forward. The Membership Committee, Finance Committee, and Wentz

will put together information on changes in membership, scenario planning, and a possible dues increase for the Fall 2014 Council meeting.

Richardson reported on improvements to the AAG on-line job center, including the possible addition of a section for assistantships, internships, and post-doc positions. The cost for posting an advertisement here would be inexpensive. This change would hopefully make the service more attractive to graduate students.

Puerto Rico

Winkler updated Council on Puerto Rico's interest in joining an AAG regional division. This requires Council action as Council retains the authority to modify regional divisions. She suggested a two-step process: Council consider a motion that Puerto Rico receive a formal invitation from the AAG and become affiliated with the regional division of their choice, and the chosen region change its constitution to expand its geographic definition. *Domosh moved that the AAG Council formally invite Puerto Rico to join a regional division of their choice. Alderman seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.*

Saff reported on recent communication between representatives of Puerto Rico and the Middle States Regional Division; at the annual meeting of the Middle States last fall, the board unanimously welcomed Puerto Rico if they would choose to join the division. Alderman reported on historical interactions between the Southeastern Regional Division and Puerto Rico, including the establishment of a Caribbean representative on the division's Steering Committee, a special issue of the *Southeastern Geographer* on the geography of Puerto Rico, and financial support for Caribbean individuals to attend the annual meeting of the Southeastern Division.

Richardson agreed to set up a meeting at the Tampa Annual Meeting between Winkler, Richardson, Alderman, Saff, and representatives of Puerto Rico to discuss their choice of regional divisions. Sheppard clarified that the choice will need to be ratified by Council officially. Winkler will do due diligence about the representativeness of the Puerto Rico representatives in attendance at the Tampa meeting and send a formal invitation to join the AAG regional division of their choice. Council will vote at the Fall 2014 Council meeting to ratify the choice.

Publications

Council discussed the publication and authorship of memorials in the *Annals of the AAG* for Wilbur Zelinsky and Harm de Blij. *Wright moved to approve a memorial in the Annals of the AAG for Harm de Blij. Hagelman seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. Wright moved to request Joseph Wood to author a memorial in the Annals of the AAG for AAG Past President Wilbur Zelinsky. Sheppard seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.*

As editor of the People, Place, and Region section of the *Annals*, Wright requested addition of three individuals to the section's editorial board to help with economic and food-related submissions. The additions include Sharmistha Bagchi-Sen, SUNY-Buffalo; Virginia Parks, University of Chicago; Megan Blake, University of Sheffield. *Sheppard moved to approve the expansion of the editorial board for the People, Place, and Region section of the Annals of the AAG. Harrington seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.*

Alderman reported that Mei-Po Kwan, editor of the Methods, Models, and GIS section of the *Annals*, has requested approval for a co-editor for the 2016 special issue of the *Annals* on the Geographies of

Mobility. The co-editor would be Tim Schwanen, University of Oxford; his appointment would help to broaden the international perspective of the issue. Wright noted that he thinks appointment of co-editors for special issues sets a good precedent. *Wright moved to approve the addition of Tim Schwanen as co-editor for the 2016 special issue of the Annals of the AAG. Sheppard seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.*

Richardson updated Council on the status of the *GeoHumanities Journal*. He has negotiated and received a counter-signed addendum from Routledge approving the new journal. AAG members will automatically receive the journal. Council discussed the proposed call for journal co-editors; the call for editors will make it clear that an “editorial team” is sought for the journal.

Winkler reviewed the involvement of the AAG with the online-only journal *Earth Interactions*. The AAG has had a long-term commitment (since the 1990s) to this journal in partnership with the American Geophysical Union and the American Meteorological Society. The journal was recently restructured and a new agreement of cooperation was signed in which the AAG agreed to help advertise the journal. Richardson inquired whether this is a journal that geographers should engage with and try to raise its profile; Winkler stated in the affirmative, that it has good visibility and fills a niche. Winkler will write something up for the *AAG Newsletter*.

Richardson updated Council on the *AAG International Encyclopedia of Geography*; a strong set of general editors and section editors is in place and are currently receiving and editing hundreds of entries. The online version of the *AAG Guide to Geography Programs in the Americas* should be completed by the third quarter of this year.

Richardson reported on Editor Kent Mathewson’s suggestion to reduce the number of associate editors for the *AAG Review of Books* as well as the editorial stipend. Sheppard suggested that discussion of the issue be postponed until the Fall 2014 Council meeting so that the Publications Committee can be consulted ahead of time. Alderman agreed to follow up with Mathewson and the Publications Committee.

Richardson reviewed the AAG policy that individuals may serve on only one AAG journal editorial board at a time; currently some members of the *AAG Review of Books* editorial board overlap with other journals as a result of prior Council action to temporarily exempt this new journal from this policy. Richardson inquired whether Council would like to consider the *Review of Books* to continue to be exempt from this requirement, or not. The terms of the current *Review of Books* editorial board members are not staggered; they all end in December 2014. Sheppard stated his belief that the discipline of geography should be large enough to field three editorial boards without overlap. Winkler concluded that Council’s feeling is to move toward ending the exception for the *Review of Books*, but that it might need to exempt the *Review of Books* one more time depending on the staggering of terms.

Alderman presented the Publications Committee report. There are three primary issues at hand for Council to consider: 1) developing criteria for evaluation of new journals (most immediately the *AAG Review of Books*, and then *GeoHumanities*); 2) the involvement of the Publications Committee in long-term planning of AAG publications and journals; 3) establishing a mechanism by which the Publications Committee can convene in person. In addition, policies need to be established for carrying out the reappointment of editorial terms; a proposed flow of communication and information is included in the report. Sheppard suggested addition of a general comment that reappointment should not be expected; that it is the exception rather than the norm. Wright inquired whether the Publications

Committee should attend editors meetings held during the AAG Annual Meeting; he will alert the editors that the committee members should attend.

Alderman distributed a revised editor reappointment proposal to Council, incorporating Sheppard's suggestion. Wright inquired whether the language was broad enough for the reappointment to not be for a full term; Alderman stated that the language did not specify and Council could decide what the term would be. *Alderman moved to approve the proposed procedure for the reappointment of editors for the AAG journals. Wentz seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.*

Winkler inquired whether development of review criteria for new AAG journals should have wider involvement than just the Publications Committee. From the Fall 2013 Council meeting minutes, it was determined that the Publications Committee, in consultation with the Executive Committee and journal editors, will determine the criteria. Alderman stated that it is reasonable for the committee to be charged with this task. A working draft to be reviewed ahead of time by editors and the Executive Committee will be presented for discussion at the Fall 2014 Council meeting.

Alderman would like to see the Long Range Planning Committee consult with the Publications Committee about long-term planning for publications. He also noted a need for increased communication among journal managers, publishers, and the Publications Committee.

Council thanked Alderman for his dedication and admirable efforts serving on the Publications Committee.

Communications

Richardson reported on the dedicated website for the *AAG Newsletter*. Harrington pointed out that the .pdf versions need to be updated; the most recent available is January 2014.

Richardson reported that the AAG is investigating implementation of a state-of-the-art teleconferencing system to facilitate meetings of committees, specialty groups, etc.

Ongoing and Potential New Initiatives

Long Range Plan Update

Maraffa updated Council on Long Range Planning Committee activities. The committee's agenda is organized around the sections of the previous Long Range Plan; the committee is charged to think about ways to update and/or revise each section. Ken Foote, Chair of the committee, is in the process of assembling the drafts into a single document. The plan is to complete the process, including consultations with committees, specialty groups, and the AAG membership, within the year. Maraffa reiterated the importance of involving AAG committees in the sections of the plan relevant to their issues.

Sheppard cautioned that by structuring the process around the same outline as the previous plan, we need to take care that we are not missing something. He asked for ideas on how to include the AAG membership. Domosh suggested sharing of categories on the website, or in a Geogram. Hagelman suggested the topic could be part of the fall tour of regional meetings by the AAG President. Maraffa agreed that a good target would be to have something to share at the regional meetings. Sheppard suggested that Foote might write an update and provide an avenue for sharing of comments. In

addition, when the draft plan is completed it will be placed on the AAG website with a suggestion box link.

GIS Accreditation Status

Winkler stated that this item tends to reoccur on Council meeting agendas and wondered if Council might want to designate a standing committee to keep pulse on the topic. Wentz suggested we solicit input from the GIS Specialty Group. Winkler concluded that Council should treat this topic as a standing agenda item and stay tuned to the broader community.

Part-time/Contingent Faculty

Sheppard reminded Council of previous discussions on the increasing prevalence of part-time/contingent faculty and the role that AAG might play for that group. The subcommittee that was formed at the Fall 2013 Council meeting (consisting of Sheppard, Maraffa, Dupigny-Giroux, Tasch, and Harrington) has developed a draft questionnaire for part-time/contingent geography faculty. The goal is to learn more about the positive and negative aspects of this type of appointment, especially as it involves an increasing proportion of our membership, as well as solicit input on what the AAG might do differently for this employment group. Council discussed additional items of information to collect (e.g., gender, age, ethnicity) and whether some data might already exist (e.g., through the American Association of University Professors). Harrington pointed out that having the AAG send a survey sends a message that the association cares about this constituency and about inclusivity, similar to establishment of the Stand Alone Geographers Specialty Group. Hagelman suggested data collection might take place through specialty groups or affinity groups, as these groups provide a means of communication with people in contingent roles. Winkler concluded that Council is supportive of this project continuing to move forward. The AAG will establish a Knowledge Community (an easy forum to start with) and then gauge interest in moving forward with an affinity group. Sheppard will distribute a copy of the questionnaire for Council to contribute feedback.

Regional Division Chairs Workshop and Luncheon

Winkler updated Council on plans for the Regional Chairs Workshop and Luncheon to be held at the upcoming Tampa Annual Meeting. The sessions will be centered around the types of changes regional officers would most like to see. Rundquist volunteered to take notes at the luncheon. AAG staff and Regional Councillors will be in attendance at the workshop. The workshop will include breakout groups focused around leadership development/mentoring; membership/communications/outreach; planning of annual meetings; and financial management. Each breakout group will have a scribe and an editor will be appointed to put together a single comprehensive document.

AAG Dissertation Research Awards

Council revisited the issue of increasing the amount of the AAG Dissertation Research Grants. Domosh expressed her support of increasing the amount; Hagelman also advocated for increasing the amount awarded but without reducing the number of awards granted. Richardson noted the complications of fluctuating numbers of applications received annually and fluctuation in earnings of the award funds. Wright inquired whether the funding has to come out of the designated funds; Richardson replied that it also could come out of the current operating budget. Richardson suggested that the AAG could focus on student grants as part of its fundraising initiative and in the meantime would be willing to allocate funds to top off the awards. He will target a total of \$10,000 for dissertation research grants for each of the next three years and will pursue a more sustainable source of funding for the increased award amount for the future. This will allow advertisement of awards up to \$1,000 rather than the current \$500.

AAG Standing Committees

Winkler noted that some of the AAG standing committees do not meet and are not active; these committees represent an untapped opportunity to take advantage of member volunteers. She suggested that Council look into ways to invigorate the committee structure. Domosh noted that some committees do a lot of work and that there is also a communication issue between committees and the Council. Richardson suggested reviewing the entire structure, e.g., using ad hoc vs. standing committees for issues that have not been addressed in recent years. Alderman suggested that some committees could be generating their own agendas rather than waiting for Council directives. Winkler concluded that Council should consider improvement to both the structure of committees and the structure of communication. As a first step, Richardson, Solís, and Smith will review the list of committees, rank them by activity and/or need, and submit this list to the Executive Committee.

Meridian Place Operations

Richardson introduced new AAG staff members Ed Ferguson, Director of Administration; Dr. Candice Luebbering, Research Geographer; and Dr. Yonette Thomas, Senior Research Fellow. He stated that he has taken the advice of the Annual Review Committee to hire a senior person (Ferguson) to help reduce his workload. He also has reorganized the staff to streamline the number of staff members who report directly to him (now reduced to four). AAG senior staff Michael Solem, Director of Educational Research and Programs; Ed Ferguson; Teri Martin, Director of Finance; and Candida Mannozi, Senior Manager of Program Development will report directly to Richardson and assist him in coordinating the overall activities of the AAG. Richardson has also established an External Management Advisory Committee.

Richardson reported that the AAG is now leasing additional satellite office space about two blocks from the main office.

AAG Potential Name Change

Richardson reported on the results of the non-binding name change poll included on the 2014 AAG election ballot. Of 2,343 voters, 79% voted in favor of a name change from the Association of American Geographers to the American Association of Geographers and 21% voted not in favor. Wentz expressed her concern with the exclusion of non-geographers; she believes something like the Geographic Association of America would better represent our mission. Some discussion of other name change options followed. Alderman stated that the poll results demonstrate strong support, especially considering his experience with naming and the contentiousness of the process. Domosh agreed that Council cannot let the search for the perfect name stand in the way of making a change. Wright suggested that if the poll had come back with a closer result, Council would be having a different type of discussion. Wentz inquired whether there was any effort to contact the 21% who voted not in favor of the name change; are they opposed to any name change, or only to this particular name change? Saff pointed out that if multiple names are presented there will be lower support for any choice, and this is a less desirable outcome. Richardson agreed that only one choice should be proposed. *Domosh moved that the Association name change question (using American Association of Geographers as the proposed new name) be placed on the 2015 election ballot as a binding poll. Wright seconded the motion. It passed with 15 in favor, 1 opposed, and 2 abstentions.*

Harrington thanked Sheppard for moving us forward on this issue. Sheppard thanked Tom Baerwald for suggesting the idea. Council tasked the AAG Central Office with researching next steps in the process if the name change is approved by AAG membership.

AAG Archives

Richardson summarized prior Council discussions about the possibility of relocating the AAG Archives to the Geography and Map Division of the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. There are two complicating factors to enacting such a move. The portion of the AAG archives currently housed at the American Geographical Society (AGS) Library at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee were gifted to the AGS when they were moved there in 1996, according to a letter presented to the AAG by the UWM library. Additionally, the AAG Archives and Association History Committee is undecided in its view of whether to recommend that the archives should move to the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., or remain at the AGS Library in Milwaukee.

Richardson stated that his vision for the archives is to have them available in digital format to all. Issues remain with the scattered locations of portions of the archives, increasingly dated digital storage formats (e.g., floppy disks), growing portions of the AAG's archives now in digital formats only, digitization of hard copies, etc. In addition, there is a need to gather and include AAG archival materials in areas such as radical, social, and urban geography, and in GIScience, among other programs. Wentz added that there is also a need to preserve the early documents of GIS, such as materials from Roger Tomlinson's collection. Richardson stated that there is a critical need for guidance on what to do with the materials the AAG already has (and what it is continuing to generate) as well as how to prepare them.

Fritz Nelson, Co-Chair of the Archives and Association History Committee, joined Council for further discussion of the archives. Nelson noted that the most important charge of the committee is to develop and supervise the AAG's archives, and reported on the committee's discussions of this issue. The committee is open to all possibilities for the archives, but would like to see more substantive feedback from both potential host institutions (American Geographical Society Library in Milwaukee, Geography and Map Division of the Library of Congress in D.C.) about what each will do for the AAG archives. The committee feels there are nuances to archival work that are not always obvious from the outside (e.g., library administration) and feels it is important to receive explicit written proposals from each institution. Finally, the committee requests time to have one or more meetings in both locations before delivering a report to Council.

Wentz inquired about a collection devoted to the developers of GIS that would be preserved for the community at large; the collection would not necessarily be part of the AAG archives. Nelson replied that collection development in general has been a concern of the committee in past years, e.g., the Geographers on Film collection in the 2000s. The committee would greatly appreciate guidance from Council; a revenue stream for travel would also be very useful as much personal time and money has been spent on this issue (e.g., Wes Dow collection).

Saff noted that none of the current Council members had been to the AAG archives in Milwaukee, even though these are individuals who should be interested in the history of the discipline. He argued that the practical perspective of an archive is to have it be used, and that we should be comparing a plan for Washington, D.C. vs. an evaluation of what has been done at Milwaukee. Nelson offered to provide documents and evaluation from Milwaukee. Maraffa pointed out that if archival material is accessible digitally then the physical location is not as critical. Nelson agreed that digital access is the future.

Sheppard concluded that Council agrees that an assessment of both locations is necessary. He further stated that another conclusion coming out of this discussion is that Council is not using the AAG standing committees well. Sheppard inquired whether there is someone on the committee with

expertise in the digital nature of archives. Nelson replied that someone with this type of expertise should be added to the committee.

Winkler inquired about what should be included in the proposals from each location (e.g., facilities for digitizing, how to archive original digital products, administrative structure of each location). Nelson agreed that we need to have both institutions addressing the same list.

Nelson inquired about funding for the committee to meet once at each location; the AAG offered \$5,000 to support this request. Domosh noted that most of what goes on in archives is not digitized and that it is important to see what is there and what is stored.

Kujawa inquired whether Nelson sees the committee's charge as making a decision on the archives location or making a recommendation to Council. Nelson replied that it is ultimately the Council's decision.

Council then discussed the materials located at the home of AAG Archivist Geoffrey Martin. This issue will be addressed in the work of the Archives Committee. Hagelman inquired whether the committee has had the opportunity to inventory the various locations of AAG archival materials so that they can eventually be consolidated into one archive. Nelson replied that it is critical for the AAG to embark on a concerted program of inquiry and acquisition.

Council expressed appreciation for having two locations to choose from, and a conscientious Archives Committee.

Domosh will work in consultation with the Archives Committee, Winkler, and Richardson to develop a list of criteria for both locations to address in their proposal, including acquisitions, digital archives, digitization of paper materials, accessibility, and advertising. The proposed timeline will be four to six weeks for the initial request and receipt of proposals within two months.

Council then turned to discussion of the makeup of the Archives and Association History Committee. Smith reviewed considerations of timing (attempting to avoid committee transitions during this process), adding a representative with digital expertise, and the presence of representatives from the AGS Library or the Library of Congress on the committee. Council supported the requested reappointment of Stan Brunn as Co-Chair of the committee in order to maintain consistency through the selection process. Council supported the nomination of Jeremy Crampton, University of Kentucky, to the committee for his expertise in digital technologies and strong interest in disciplinary history. Council advocated for appointing a Council member to the committee, which currently does not include a representative from Council. Hagelman volunteered to be appointed to the committee. Council also agreed that representatives from the AGS Library and/or the Library of Congress should not participate on the Archives and Association History Committee in either formal or informal capacities while the proposals from the two institutions are being considered. *Sheppard moved to reappoint Stan Brunn as Co-Chair and to appoint Jeremy Crampton to the Archives and Association History Committee. Wright seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.*

Saff inquired about the resolution passed at the Fall 2013 Council meeting to consolidate the archives at the Library of Congress. Richardson replied that Council can rescind the resolution if it makes a decision to the contrary.

Kujawa inquired whether the archives issue be considered by the Long Range Planning Committee; Harrington suggested it might constitute a fund-raising component. Council agreed that after the location decision has been made it would like to see the Archives Committee create an overall plan for collecting and obtaining materials. Kujawa suggested that Richardson look at similar organizations to collect information on their archival systems.

Domosh moved that the AAG Council and the Committee on Archives and Association History request proposals from the Geography and Map Division of the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., and the American Geographical Society Library at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, for a plan for the AAG archives for review and discussion at the Fall 2014 Council meeting. Wright seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Policy and Outreach

Richardson briefly summarized AAG activities in this area, including the recent defeat of the Coburn Amendment that has restricted NSF funding for political science research. Richardson also reported on his keynote lecture at the Phillips Society 2014 Conference on the History of Twentieth Century Cartography held at the Library of Congress.

Richardson introduced Yonette Thomas, AAG Senior Research Fellow. She summarized for Council the recently released National Research Council report on Proposed Revisions to the Common Rule for the Protection of Human Subjects in the Behavioral and Social Sciences. The Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects, known as the Common Rule, outlines basic regulations that aim to protect individuals who participate in biomedical and behavioral research. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in 2011 proposed a general overhaul of the Common Rule; the social and behavioral science communities were concerned with the heavily biomedical focus of this process. The report produced by the National Research Council examines the proposed changes as they apply to the behavioral and social sciences and offers recommendations for how to clarify, adapt, and implement them. Richardson and the Council expressed their appreciation for Thomas' work on this issue.

CONTINUING AND NEW BUSINESS

Honors and Awards

Alderman summarized revisions made to the proposed Outstanding Geography Program Award based on feedback received since the Fall 2013 Council meeting. The award will be restricted to Baccalaureate and Masters level programs. Preliminary nominations of geography programs will be made by AAG regional divisions, with the actual nomination submitted by the Regional Division Chair/President working in concert with the membership and Regional Councillors. The proposal now includes specific criteria for identifying an outstanding program. Nominees to the award selection committee will be provided to Council by the Committee on Committees. Two other suggestions that warrant discussion are the inclusion of PhD level programs through a two-category designation of Undergraduate and Graduate, and providing for the replacement of award selection committee members with an alternate if they represent a nominated department (rather than preventing nomination of the department).

Domosh supported leaving the award with Baccalaureate and Masters categories rather than introducing PhD programs. Hagelman suggested that there might be new PhD programs that would seem to fit the spirit of the award through creativity or innovation. Alderman expressed concern about the large category of Graduate. Hagelman clarified that the Masters category is for terminal Masters programs. Richardson expressed admiration for the development of this award, but also a concern

about the AAG being in a position where it is choosing one department over another. He suggested the award could recognize something that a department did vs. something that they are, and activities could be highlighted. Winkler suggested including the year in the award title to indicate that the program was “outstanding” in that year. Maraffa suggested the title “2014 AAG Award for BA/MA Program Excellence” and argued that the benefits of the award overshadow any potential competitive drawbacks. A majority of the Council supported the new name. Wright stated his belief that programs should be judged holistically, rather than through a single achievement. Saff noted that the award will likely be used internally to help departments within their institutions. Alderman suggested sharing of ideas through annual meeting sessions including award recipients.

Kujawa noted the timing would be tight to implement the award by June 2014; Alderman agreed it might need to be delayed. Sheppard reminded Council that the award will be evaluated after a trial period.

Wright moved that we adopt the proposed AAG Award for BA/MA Program Excellence and that this award be implemented in 2015. Domosh seconded the motion. Sheppard introduced a friendly amendment to add that any current “or former” member of the program will be replaced on the selection committee by an alternate if that department is nominated. Tyner suggested that the Committee on Committees provide alternates at the same time as it provides the nominees for the selection committee so that they are in place beforehand. The motion passed unanimously.

Committees and Specialty Groups

Committee Reports

Smith provided a summary of the reports received from AAG standing committees. Overall there was a low response rate from the committees and a general feeling that issues are being taken care of.

The Committee on the Status of Women in Geography would still like to pursue the provision of on-site child care at annual meetings, but finds the increase in the child-care subsidy to be a step in the right direction. It would also like to see the association provide space for nursing mothers at annual meetings. The committee is in the process of collecting information on groups supporting women in Geography to post on its website with the eventual goal of creating an online learning community. The committee also supports the idea of a “climate survey” of the AAG membership, especially regarding ways to make the annual meeting more family friendly.

The International Research and Scholarly Exchange Committee would like more involvement in the international reception at the annual meeting, possibly through a display with information on the regional specialty groups and the IRSE.

The Harold M. Rose Award Committee reported that it received no nominations this year and suggested that the AAG do more to publicize the award (both online and through networking).

The Healthy Departments Committee reported on their involvement in a few cases this past year and their service as a source of ideas for potential program reviewers. The committee encouraged Council to spread awareness of their capacity to help.

The AAG Student Award and Scholarship Committee reported disappointment with a small number of applications, and requested the AAG consider raising the value of the scholarships as well as undertake enhanced advertising and outreach.

Wentz pointed out that there are ways to enhance the advertising of AAG awards and opportunities through individual networks, in combination with advertising done by the organization itself.

Winkler noted that committees are seeing non-response from the Council as an issue. Richardson suggested that the Committee on Committees send recognition of the receipt of committee reports and acknowledge discussion of the issues raised in those reports. Rundquist noted that several of the regional reports also contained a request for a response from Council.

Wentz reported that a common theme in the reports received from specialty groups was the timing of business meetings and overlap with sponsored sessions. Nearly all of the business meetings are scheduled in the 7:30-9:30 p.m. time slot for the upcoming annual meeting.

Committee Appointments

Smith distributed a slate of appointments to fill committee vacancies for the terms ending June 30, 2014. The Committee on Committees decided to expand the size of both the Committee on the Status of Women in Geography and the Enhancing Diversity Committee in anticipation of the proposed “climate survey” initiative. The Committee on Committees and the Executive Committee also recommended that newly elected Council member Stuart Aitken, San Diego State University, be appointed Chair of the Publications Committee. Council requested the addition of two to three other nominees for the J. Warren Nystrom Award Committee to increase the representation of women and additional areas of the discipline on the committee. *Kujawa moved to approve the slate of committee appointments with expansion of the Nystrom Committee. Sheppard seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.*

Smith noted that the number of nominations varied widely by committee and that the Committee on Committees had difficulty filling some vacancies. She requested that each Council member generate a list of three potential nominees to serve on committees; the Committee on Committees will follow up on this request. Winkler suggested that Council consider graduate membership on committees as part of its broader look at committees.

Smith announced that Hagelman had been elected to serve as Chair of the Regional Councillors. Hagelman and the rest of Council expressed appreciation to Rundquist for his excellent service in the role.

Council

The Fall 2014 Executive Committee meeting will be held in conjunction with the AAG East Lakes/West Lakes Regional Division joint annual meeting in Kalamazoo, Michigan on October 17-18, 2014. The Fall 2014 Council Meeting will be held on November 21-23, 2014, in conjunction with the AAG Southeastern Division Annual Meeting in Athens, Georgia.

Resolutions

Winkler read the following resolutions:

Whereas, Eric Sheppard, 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 diversity, “engaged pluralism”, and the diversification of voices that make up the discipline; by strengthening

communication between the AAG and its membership; and by recognizing the growing internationalization of the AAG, including the important role played by international participants at the annual meetings; and by emphasizing the importance of the long-range planning process, especially considering emerging issues around open access publishing, massive open on-line courses, and the increasing institutional tendency toward employing temporary faculty; and whereas he has thus contributed considerable and significant efforts to advance the AAG's mission, goals, and activities;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Association of American Geographers, assembled in Tampa, Florida on the occasion of its 110th Annual Meeting, heartily thanks Eric for his leadership of the Association during the past three years, especially for his efforts to advance collaboration in geography across differences of race, class, gender, and international borders, and for his efforts to encourage the AAG to formulate plans for its continued sustainability and significance in the face of emerging challenges.

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 Tampa, Florida on the occasion of its 110th Annual Meeting, extends warm appreciation to Past President Eric Sheppard, National Councillors James Tyner and Richard A. Wright, Great Plains-Rocky Mountains Division Councillor and Chair Bradley Rundquist, and Southeastern Division Councillor Derek Alderman 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 Tampa, Florida on the occasion of its 110th 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.

Adjournment

There being no further business, President Winkler adjourned the Council meeting at 11:45 a.m. on Tuesday, April 8, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Smith
AAG Secretary

Summary of Resolutions

- *Smith moved to approve the minutes of the Fall 2013 Council meeting. Sheppard seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. (p. 1)*
- *Harrington moved to approve the proposed new process for review and approval of the Council minutes with a friendly amendment that contentious issues would be resolved via conference call. Hagelman seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. (p. 4)*
- *Sheppard moved to adopt the changes to the organization and format of the Council minutes and to the regional reports as outlined by the Executive Committee recommendations. Rundquist seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. (p. 5)*
- *Saff moved to approve the proposed FYE 2015 budget as submitted. Wright seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. (p. 6)*
- *Domosh moved that the AAG Council formally invite Puerto Rico to join a regional division of their choice. Alderman seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. (p. 8)*
- *Wright moved to approve a memorial in the Annals of the AAG for Harm de Blij. Hagelman seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. (p. 8)*
- *Wright moved to request Joseph Wood to author a memorial in the Annals of the AAG for AAG Past President Wilbur Zelinsky. Sheppard seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. (p. 8)*
- *Sheppard moved to approve the expansion of the editorial board for the People, Place, and Region section of the Annals of the AAG. Harrington seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. (p. 8)*
- *Wright moved to approve the addition of Tim Schwanen as co-editor for the 2016 special issue of the Annals of the AAG. Sheppard seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. (p. 9)*
- *Alderman moved to approve the proposed procedure for the reappointment of editors for the AAG journals. Wentz seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. (p. 10)*
- *Domosh moved that the Association name change question (using American Association of Geographers as the proposed new name) be placed on the 2015 election ballot as a binding poll. Wright seconded the motion. It passed with 15 in favor, 1 opposed, and 2 abstentions. (p. 12)*
- *Sheppard moved to reappoint Stan Brunn as Co-Chair and to appoint Jeremy Crampton to the Archives and Association History Committee. Wright seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. (p. 14)*
- *Domosh moved that the AAG Council and the Committee on Archives and Association History request proposals from the Geography and Map Division of the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., and the American Geographical Society Library at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, for a plan for the AAG archives for review and discussion at the Fall 2014 Council meeting. Wright seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. (p. 15)*
- *Wright moved that we adopt the proposed AAG Award for BA/MA Program Excellence and that this award be implemented in 2015. Domosh seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (p. 16)*
- *Kujawa moved to approve the slate of committee appointments with expansion of the Nystrom Committee. Sheppard seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. (p. 17)*
- *Appreciation for service of Past President Eric Sheppard (p. 17)*
- *Appreciation for service of Councillors (p. 18)*
- *Appreciation for service of AAG committee members (p. 18)*

APPENDIX: Summary of Regional Councillor Reports

East Lakes (Tom Maraffa)

The East Lakes Division will hold its Annual Meeting with the West Lakes Division at Kalamazoo, hosted by Western Michigan University. The dates of the meeting are October 16-18. The 2015 Annual Meeting will be hosted by Kent State University. Originally planned as a joint meeting with the Applied Geography Conference, it will now be a stand-alone East Lakes meeting.

Based on the limited reports, universities and departments continue to be impacted by the financial condition of higher education in the region. The Geography Major at the University of Akron will likely be discontinued as part of a budget reduction plan announced by their administration. Similarly Wittenberg University, historically one of the strongest and most active private institution geography programs, will also discontinue its geography major. Changes in the public retirement system will result in a wave of retirements in the next couple of years, meaning that departments will be faced with difficulties securing replacements in an increasingly challenging budgetary environment.

Great Plains/Rocky Mountains (Brad Rundquist)

GPRM's 2014 conference is set for Oct. 23-25 in Albuquerque, NM, a joint meeting with the Southwest Division. This marks the first cross-divisional meeting since the 2006 conference in Lincoln, NE, when GPRM met jointly with West Lakes. The conference is being organized by GPRM Chair Dr. Shawn Hutchinson, Kansas State University, and SWAAG Chair Dr. Maria Lane, University of New Mexico. The University of Nebraska at Kearney will host the 2015 meeting. UNK last hosted in 1990.

In general, departments in the region are doing well although concerns remain related to institutional budget restructuring and program prioritization, possible decreases in state funding, and emergence of competing programs on several campuses.

Middle Atlantic (Jeremy Tasch)

In early 2014 MAD-AAG held elections through electronic balloting. Running unopposed, the standing vice-chair, Tracy Edwards, Frostburg State University, was elected division chair as well as MAD's geography bowl coordinator; the current secretary, Karen DeLong, Montgomery College, was elected vice-chair; former chair Michael Radcliffe, U.S. Bureau of the Census, was elected treasurer. The post of webmaster remained unfilled (MAD's division website was last updated Aug. 20, 2013, and the last time business meeting minutes were posted was 2009). Of the division's 387 AAG-dues paying members, 29 voted in the division's election.

The 7% voting turnout suggests a range of issues, including one commented on by MAD members in response to a questionnaire shared online with MAD-members: "*What types of changes (broadly envisioned, related to your work in geography) would you most like to see within our regional division?*"

Members' perspectives were solicited via the AAG's "Knowledge Communities." The responses coalesced around a common desire to have more frequent and organized opportunities to network, share job information, meet for lunches and dinners with guest speakers, and to meet more often for social-professional get-togethers. Broadly speaking, there appears to be a general interest to have more and stronger communication throughout the year (i.e., not only leading up to the annual MAD and AAG conferences), including more outreach to the community and more notice offered to K-12 colleagues.

Middle States (Grant Saff)

The Middle States Board is in the process of reaching out to Department Chairs to try to raise attendance at the annual meeting. They are particularly concerned about the lack of support that larger research institutions show for the regional meeting and are actively working to try to increase their support for the meeting. They consider their lack of encouragement of sending students to the meeting as short-sighted as it deprives students from meeting potential employers and deprives them of valuable job skills. It was suggested by the Board, that to help dispel notions that it was not advantageous for faculty/students to attend the regional meetings, the President of the AAG should consider devoting a column in the monthly AAG Newsletter about the importance of supporting the regional meetings. A few members noted that the proliferation of professional meetings (such as Applied Geography, NCGE, and the Race, Ethnicity, and Place Conference) in the fall negatively affects numbers at the annual meeting.

The Board approved the joint purchasing of Geo-Bowl buzzers with 3 other regions. The AAG agreed to pay for half the cost with the remainder shared between the 3 regions. Some Board members felt that due to the regional support of the Geo-Bowl that the AAG should have agreed to pay the full cost of the buzzers.

There is a lack of communication between departments in the region. One suggestion to improve this is a meeting of department chairs (perhaps a regular meeting of chairs at the regional meetings) that "could lead to better communication and stronger interrelationships among programs." A member from a SUNY institution suggested that it is possible that a SUNY department could propose a "Conversation in the Disciplines" and fund the first one. This is something the Board will need to explore before the meeting in York.

On a positive note, the College of Staten Island now has a new, official Geography major. They also hired a new full-time geography faculty member.

New England/St. Lawrence Valley (Richard Kujawa)

NESTVAL released the latest volume of its refereed publication *The Northeastern Geographer*.

The Annual Meeting for 2014 will be held October 24-25 at the University of New Hampshire in Durham, NH.

While constraints on resources have played a role in limits on hiring and other budgetary challenges at some institutions, others have clearly bounced back and Geography departments and programs have benefitted. The upcoming election in Quebec will play a strong role in allocation of resources for higher education. In the U.S. portion of the region, highlights include new or replacement tenure-track positions at the University of Connecticut (which has an ambitious program to expand the visibility and quality of the graduate program there); at Central Connecticut (with new hires in GIS and Tourism); and at Dartmouth College with two new positions and two new post-docs. The University of Vermont, Westfield State University, and Southern Connecticut University have all made new tenure-track hires.

Programs that offer GIS certificates have seen growth in that sector while Keene State College in New Hampshire is opening a new Community GIS lab. NESTVAL Geographers have continued to support Geographic Alliances to advance Geography in K-12 education. The New Hampshire Alliance has secured a state-wide license for ESRI software for all K-12 schools in the state. Meanwhile, the University of Vermont continues its "across the disciplines" spatial analysis/GIS initiative. Finally it is

important to note that several programs have been engaged in cross disciplinary partnerships in Sustainability, the Environment, and Food Systems – some of these at the graduate level.

Pacific Coast (Scott Mensing)

The APCG will hold its 2014 annual meeting September 24-27 in Tucson, Arizona. The meeting will be held at the University of Arizona and is being hosted by the School of Geography and Development, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Institute of the Environment and Southern Arizona Geographers Association. Chris Lukinbeal of the University of Arizona and Tina Kennedy of Northern Arizona University are coordinating the conference. Chris also happens to be the President-elect for the APCG.

The organization's publication, the APCG Yearbook, published once a year since 1935, is now available electronically through JSTOR, exclusive of the most recent three years. APCG president, Sriram Khé, has blogged about once a month on geographical items of interest. The blog can be seen at <http://apcgpmez.blogspot.com/>. He is encouraging a meeting-wide discussion at the APCG Presidential plenary entitled *Quo vadis* "where are you going" or more to the point for Geographers "where are we going?" This theme picks up from ideas generated through the AAG concerning the direction of departments and specialty groups.

APCG's Executive Council and the Women's Network will co-sponsor the Feminist Geography Conference 2014 "Who we are, what we do and why we do it" being held in Omaha, Nebraska. The APCG Women's Network has a long history in support of women's activities in Geography.

Southeast (Derek Alderman)

SEDAAG will hold its 2014 annual November meeting in Athens, Georgia. It has been 18 years since SEDAAG last met at the University of Georgia and it represents an important effort to encourage the (re)involvement of traditional major Ph.D. program programs in the Regional Division. The participation of faculty members from those programs has fallen off over the past several years. There is some anxiety among the Athens organizers about how to carry out guidelines for AAG-supported childcare at regional meetings. The AAG might consider making an initial contact with local arrangements folks with each region to coordinate, if the association has not already.

At the 2013 SEDAG meeting in Roanoke, Virginia, the Regional Division supported, financially, the participation of several students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities. It was a major success and the supported students were actively involved in attending papers, posters, social events, and networking with students and faculty. SEDAAG has plans for continuing this support of student attendance from these colleges, with the target being institutions in Georgia for the Athens meeting. The AAG might consider the benefit of a similar program at the national level.

Southwest (Ron Hagelman)

SWAAG hosts a regional peer-reviewed journal, *The Southwestern Geographer*. Until recently, the journal was cooperatively housed at The University of Houston-Clearlake and Texas A&M University. At the fall 2013 business meeting it was agreed that the journal needed to be reinvigorated and reintroduced to potential authors and reviewers. To that end, the Department of Geography at Texas State University volunteered to host the journal (its first home when it was started back in the mid-1990s). The journal will be moving to an Open Access online platform to ensure rapid turn-around, higher visibility, and easier access.

SWAAG has a new website: <http://www.sw-aag.org>. SWAAG leadership is currently exploring the best way to leverage this site with the capabilities of the Regional Division Knowledge Communities at the AAG. The site will be officially launched this fall in conference with our fall meeting to be held in Albuquerque, NM, and hosted by the University of New Mexico. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the Great Plains/Rocky Mountains Division.

Of both regional and national importance, The Texas State University Department of Geography is happy to announce the formation of the *National Center for Research in Geography Education*. This Center represents a partnership between the Association of American Geographers and the Texas State Gilbert M. Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education. Visit the NCRGE website for details at www.ncrge.org.

West Lakes (Laura Smith)

The 2014 West Lakes annual meeting will be held jointly with the East Lakes Division October 17-19 in Kalamazoo, MI, hosted by Western Michigan University. Lisa DeChano is serving as program chair.

Relevant to Council's larger discussion of "rebranding" of departments, a number of departments across the region have recently been involved in the creation of new programs at varying levels that have been given names other than "Geography." Last fall, DePaul University began a new MA program in "Sustainable Urban Development" in which about 60% of the classes are taught by Geography faculty. The University of Missouri Geography Department is in the planning stages of establishing a joint doctoral program with Geological Sciences that would be called a Ph.D. in "Geosciences." The Geography Department at Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville has developed three new minors open to any major across campus – Meteorology/Climatology; Urban Studies (interdisciplinary); GIS – that will go into effect fall 2014.

Department chairs from some of the smaller schools in the region report that their libraries no longer subscribe to GEOBASE as a result of restructured pricing options several years ago, which makes student geographic research especially challenging. Might the pricing options for GEOBASE for small schools be something the AAG could address?