



Fall 2021 AAG Council Meeting

Minutes

October 28 – 29

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1.0 Opening

Welcome

Present:

Emily Yeh, President; Marilyn Raphael, Vice President; Amy Lobben, Past President; LaToya Eaves, Treasurer; Joseph Oppong, Secretary; Gary M. Langham, Executive Director.

National Councilors: Pablo Bose, Meghan Cope (Chair), Wei Li, Elizabeth (Edna) Wangui; Student Councilor John (Jack) Swab;

Regional Councilors: Marcia England – East Lakes; Shannon O’Lear, Great Plains-Rocky Mountains; Tracy Edwards, Middle Atlantic and Regional Councilor Chair; Steven Schnell, Middle States; Richard Kujawa, New England St.; Lawrence Valley; Yolonda Youngs, Pacific Coast; Colleen Myles, Southwestern; Heike Alberts, West Lakes; Diana Ojeda, International Councilor-Observer.

Regrets: Oct. 28, Sultana, Southeastern, who joined the meeting on Oct. 29.

AAG Staff: Mannozi, McKnight, Treby

10:30 AM

President Yeh called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. She mentioned her regrets at this meeting again taking place over Zoom. She extended a special welcome to the new Councilors Alberts, Bose, Wangui, England, Schnell, and Myles.

Adopt the Agenda

Li moved to adopt the Agenda. Oppong seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adopt the Consent Agenda

Yeh asked about items in the consent agenda that appear not to have corresponding reports in the Council packet. Langham explained that in the interest of allowing ample discussion time at this virtual Council meeting for several larger issues such as the JEDI framework and the Climate Change topics, he had decided to cut back on other reports and updates in the packet that would not have required a Council decision or vote.

Eaves moved to approve the Consent Agenda, which Oppong seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

*Ratify June 17 Approval of Spring 2021 Council Meeting Minutes

Cope moved to ratify the previously approved Spring 2021 Council Meeting Minutes. Oppong seconded the motion, which received unanimous votes in favor.

Vice President’s Comments

Raphael expressed her excitement and pleasure at being on the Council, serving for a second time after a hiatus of approx. 10 years. She mentioned that the goal in her tenure on Council is her commitment to forwarding Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at the AAG. She stated wanting to

help the AAG do more to make the discipline inclusive and mentioned being excited to see the Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) framework proposal before the Council.

State of the AAG

Langham stated that the AAG is doing well, though still in a transition phase from the immediate effects of the pandemic. He reminded Council that AAG had projected a \$1.6M deficit for FYE21. At the special June 2020 Council meeting, he pledged to cut expenses to meet half of this deficit, and Council approved the remaining \$800,000 from reserves if necessary. To cut costs, Langham initiated austerity measures, which prevented new hires, promotions, and raises as well as eliminated all non-staff expenses possible. He reported that the AAG ended FYE2021 in the positive by a little over \$500,000. He reminded Council that the AAG obtained two rounds of PPP support which covered about 5 months of AAG salaries, and also took on an additional contract with the US Dept. of State that provided approx. \$50,000 in income. He stated that the stock market also did well and that AAG investments earned approximately \$1.3M.

Langham introduced two new senior staff at the AAG, Amanda McKnight, Chief Program Officer and Jill Treby, Chief of Staff and indicated that he expects them to participate in future Council meetings with him and Mannozi.

Langham mentioned that there are currently 3,766 registrants for the NYC meeting with a 7:1 ratio of preferences for in-person registrations. Membership was projected to decline as much as 50% during the pandemic, but ended down only 20% in 2020. Three quarters of this decline was traced to students and members making less than 75k/year. To date in 2021, membership was stable, showing promise for a faster than projected recovery. He mentioned that the incentivized free membership program for eligible students is in effect for another year. The current total of AAG membership is 8,219 and Langham stated that he hopes to see these numbers grow also, thanks to new efforts to grow the participation of physical geographers, community college faculty and students, and non-academic geographers.

He stated that the IT system overhauls underway at the AAG are expected to support these improved services to members. He decried the current AAG website and its plethora of pages and third-party vendor integrations that are complicating overhaul efforts. He indicated that he is optimistically hoping to launch the website at the NYC meeting.

Langham reported that the renovations at Meridian Place have been on hold during the pandemic, despite Council approving funds for this effort in the fall of 2019. He indicated that he hopes Jill Treby of the AAG staff will be able to restart this process.

Yeh asked about the temporary problem with the website making it difficult to look up some of the content. She also asked about the JEDI and Climate “corners” of the new website and what the plans are to build these out. Langham stated that the new website will be set up with modular units, to allow AAG staff to easily build any new pages as needs arise. Youngs also mentioned that members are reaching out to her about pages that are not loading and what general timeframe to give them. Some issues are the result of temporary fixes to stabilize the

old site during peak meeting registration; these will return to normal soon. Langham suggested mentioning February 2022 as a target date for the new site.

Youngs also asked about Meridian Place and what the plans for it are. Langham mentioned that a previous Council approved a renovation of Meridian Place, so the plan is now to revisit these plans and update them to current circumstances, with Treby supporting this effort.

Li mentioned that Sultana, Oppong, Eaves and Li participated in the Race, Ethnicity, Place (REP) conference in Baltimore, MD in October and recommended that the AAG have a person in each session room able to handle hybrid/in-person technical issues. She commended the AAG's Oscar Larson for his presence and assistance at the conference. Yeh mentioned that this topic will be discussed later in the day. Bose echoed the fact that for a virtual participant at REP the hybrid model can be a challenge and that he supports the idea of more technical support for these meetings. Oppong suggested training student assistants to provide some of this technical support at future hybrid meetings.

2.0 Diversity and Inclusion Framework

Review and adopt JEDI Framework

Lisa Marshall and Ronald Schumann, Co-Chairs of the AAG Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) Committee, joined the meeting. Yeh and Langham welcomed them.

Schumann thanked the Council for their invitation to present the D&I Committee's strategic plan for Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) at the AAG. He stated he and Marshall are excited to present this proposal after a lengthy process of carrying out interviews, conducting surveys, and writing. Marshall mentioned that this latest effort is not entirely new to the AAG but that it builds on previous efforts.

Schumann and Marshall described the process by which the Committee gathered input from the membership including several requests for DEI-related guidance from AAG Specialty groups, member surveys, and other interviews which were then discussed in monthly D&I Committee meetings.

Schumann outlined the JEDI framework Strategic Goals as:

1. Advancing Leadership,
2. Establishing Organizational Tools and
3. Integrating JEDI into Programming.

He and Marshall elaborated on these three goals and the D&I Committee's recommendations for how to implement these into the AAG's operations over time. They also presented the committee proposal to change from the current name to JEDI (justice, equity, diversity and inclusion) Committee.

Council discussion: Li commended the two Co-Chairs and external consultant Michael Tey for their tremendous work. She also mentioned providing the Council with notes from a session

held at the REP conference last week which could also be beneficial. She mentioned the suggestion by David Padgett (Associate Professor of Geography Tennessee State University; with Mark Barnes of Morgan State University) at REP for revitalizing the AAG minority summer institute that had been held some 30 years ago that they both attended and found most helpful.

Yeh asked if there already was an implementation plan for JEDI at the AAG, besides the current framework being presented. Schumann indicated that the framework is before Council for approval. If the framework is adopted, then the D&I Committee and Executive Director Langham will have the authorization to develop an implementation plan which will come before Council.

Yeh also asked for more detail on the vision for the Truth and Reconciliation task force mentioned in the proposed framework. Cope explained that this idea came out of a sense that the AAG and the discipline needs to recognize past and present abuses, exploitation and violence done in the name of the discipline. This could take several forms: an apology, some form of disciplinary reckoning or acknowledgment, and ways to address these past practices. Schumann also pointed out that “reconciliation” may not be the best term, perhaps recognition can serve as a form of justice. He indicated that the idea behind this committee or a new task force would be to also propose the tool or mechanism to address problematic past and present practices in the discipline. Oppong shared his experience as an African geographer in the AAG and the support that the AAG has provided him and other colleagues. He asked for more clarity on the practicality of what the AAG would be offering or doing. Marshall suggested that this could, for instance, be including the problematic, racist, or oppressive parts of the discipline’s history into foundational classes of the discipline.

Yeh asked Langham for clarity on what the Council is asked to vote on at this juncture. Langham explained that at this meeting the Council is asked to approve the overall JEDI framework proposal. If approved, this will allow Langham to design a JEDI implementation plan with AAG staff (including an associated funding request) for Council to review.

Yeh stated being very excited to see the proposal and its timeliness given the fraught times in which it is being presented to the Council (e.g., local and state efforts to ban or curtail critical race studies, hiring freezes of diverse faculty, etc.). Schumann echoed that the AAG membership wants to see action on these topics precisely because of the current times.

Langham also pointed out that he is projecting two future hires of AAG staff as part of this implementation effort.

Yeh moved to approve the JEDI framework, Eaves seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

3.0 Climate Change and AAG

Overview, Task Force

Yeh and Langham introduced this section of the Agenda and the general structure planned for the three hours dedicated to this topic. Yeh provided background on the Climate Action Task Force, pointing to its genesis from a Council mandate in April 2019, which was the

Council's response to a member petition requesting a reduction of the carbon footprint of AAG Meetings. She summarized the focus areas of the task force and outlined the history of its activities, including their work during the 2020 and 2021 virtual AAG Annual Meetings, and hosting sessions that resulted in publications intended to be made available on the AAG website.

Task force requests:

- Council to approve a survey of members regarding their meeting format preferences.
- AAG staff to stream as many sessions as possible. (To allow registrants to "visit" as many sessions or presentations as possible.)
- AAG to offer real hybrid options.
- Starting in 2023, AAG to allow the organization of nodes. (Node = self-organized; Hub = AAG-organized).

Business Analysis, Carbon Analysis

BUSINESS ANALYSIS

Langham provided an overview of the Annual Meeting and the AAG's finances. He stated that registrations make up nearly 50% of the AAG's revenue, 15% coming from membership join/renewals to obtain the cheaper member registration rate. He underscored that Annual Meeting registrations are closely tied to membership renewals. In addition, Langham reminded the Council that the AAG has existing hotel contracts set up in advance through 2025, and cancellation costs are prohibitive (\$506,000 being the cheapest cancellation fee for Hawaii; \$800,000 being the cancellation fee for Detroit).

Langham defined NODES as local, self-assembling units with limited in-person attendance; HUBS as larger, AAG-sponsored units linked via the AAG platform. He summarized that the Regions Connect experiment of Oct. 14-16 was organized as a combination of NODES and HUBS. The experiment showed that the fully hybrid sessions were the best product, but also the most expensive.

Langham stated that alternating virtual and in-person AAG Meetings would cause a financial shortfall of approximately \$1M and would disrupt the continuous, annual staff cycle dedicated to organizing these conferences (i.e., the challenges of supporting staff salaries in a year in which there is no in-person meeting revenue). In addition, he pointed out that revenue from the in-person meeting allows the AAG to fund and pursue initiatives such as JEDI. Langham suggested that implementing an annual hybrid meeting and making it best-in-class would provide the needed organizational and financial stability for the AAG.

Langham walked the Council through the business and carbon analysis provided to Council and indicated that a proposed meeting structure combining NODES/HUBs + a Focal Place seems worth exploring further. HUBS should be considered to offset a carbon-high meeting such as meetings on the West Coast, Hawaii, etc. Langham also underscored that

sessions are important factors in any version of an AAG meeting. A fully Hybrid meeting offers both virtual and in-person sessions and content, but the challenge is how to offer hybrid sessions with virtual *and* in-person presenters, and the needed support (3 support staff for a virtual session) in a cost-effective manner?

Langham provided Council with this Tech Cost Comparison

In Person meeting	1 tech can support 8 sessions
Virtual meeting	1 tech can support 3 sessions
Hybrid meeting	2 techs needed in each session (1 to assist in-person participants, 1 to support virtual participants)

He summarized this comparison by pointing out that hybrid session costs are 16 times the cost of in-person sessions and cost 6 times more than virtual sessions.

Discussion:

Yeh made the case for streaming vs. hybrid.

Langham stated that for the 2022 Annual Meeting the staff are working to stream and record as many of the sessions as possible with the bandwidth the AAG contracted for. Youngs asked about considering streaming a session room vs. tying the presenters to a Zoom platform (she also asked about wireless mics vs. mics fixed to a podium). Langham indicated this will require negotiation with the AAG's current OpenWater platform provider and that there might be an uneven transition period as the meeting culture evolves and changes.

Li asked whether student conference assistants could be trained and engaged as the support personnel for hybrid meetings to potentially bring costs down. Langham stated that he would investigate all options to cut costs and cautioned that the AAG's mandate to use union hotels can at times work counter to some of these efforts.

Li also asked about Hubs and Nodes and who would approve the locations and organize these events (e.g., regions as Hubs – how to ask volunteers to do more work)? Youngs stated that the collaboration with the AAG on the APCG hybrid meeting was crucial from assisting with hotel negotiations, to tech support, to financial support. She thanked Langham and the AAG staff for their work. O'Lear echoed the sentiment.

Langham stated that Fekete will be collecting feedback from the Regions on the Regions Connect experiment and plans to share it with the Council.

CARBON ANALYSIS

Langham summarized the results of a new AAG climate report on carbon emissions, estimated from travel to recent AAG annual meetings (2015-2019). Adopting methods published by AGU, analyses revealed that travel to meetings produced an average of 16,244 tons of carbon dioxide (tCO₂) per meeting and 1.93 tCO₂ per attendee.

He indicated that the past 5 years of AAG Annual Meetings totaled 16,244 tons of carbon emissions, or the equivalent of a 1.93 ton of emissions per attendee. He also showed a graph indicating that 25% of meeting attendees (those arriving on long-haul flights) produce more than half the emissions, underscoring the reason for his proposal for an international meeting Hub to offset some of these long-haul travel emissions.

Kujawa asked about the mention of radical transparency in the analysis and whether these statistics would be shared with members or the public at large. Langham indicated he would like the Council to consider/approve the AAG to be transparent in its discussions, analyses, and the results of any of its experiments in this arena.

Ojeda suggested hosting the AAG meeting in-person in different sites to continue supporting international participation. Yeh agreed.

Li suggested also exploring establishing Hubs in other world regions, not simply Canada and Europe as suggested in the current study.

Swab raised the question about an AAG Hub perhaps supplanting a national geography conference elsewhere? Cope suggested perhaps coordinating geography conferences over the same week across multiple national organizations.

Langham indicated having begun conversations with CAG and RGS about their potential interest in collaborating on a Hub and anticipated that one first difficulty will be negotiating everyone's already locked-in hotel contracts and dates.

Bose asked about the intangible aspects of an in-person meeting that go beyond the presentation or the session and the pros and cons of having people travel to attend an in-person event, vs. use of funds for other purposes. Yeh pointed to the need to ask such questions in the member survey.

Alberts asked whether we can predetermine which Hub registrants would choose to register for –would they automatically choose the Hub closest to them, or the Hub that the persons they hope to interact with will attend?

Yeh presented the task force's proposal for experimenting with self-organized nodes (watch parties), with virtual-only registration cost (except for hybrid high profile panels such as keynotes) collected by the AAG. She summarized other task force proposals: capping the national meeting at a certain size for in-person attendance; host meetings in smaller cities with lower costs that are also train or other public transport hubs.

Langham replied that the cap would be more beneficial if it were applied to sessions, as opposed to overall attendees. As for smaller venues, Langham stated that staff is ready to issue RFPs for such venues for future years, but the downside for a smaller venue is that it might not have the technological capacity to support the hybrid meeting needs of the AAG. Swab asked about incentives to encourage registrants to participate virtually vs. in-person.

Langham shared statistics on the 2024 Hawaii Annual Meeting, which will more than double the emissions of a typical AAG meeting. He showed that by adding two other Hubs (in Canada and Ireland) would reduce the emissions to half those of a typical AAG meeting.

Cope praised the analysis presented by Langham and hoped it would soon be shared with the membership at large. Cope pointed to the lower emissions associated with Chicago and Washington, DC and asked whether perhaps regularly cycling those two in-person locations with other Hubs might be beneficial. Youngs requested that the AAG consider a Western/West Coast location for future AAG meetings, as there is sentiment in her region that the AAG is not equally focused on all regions.

Li requested the analysis be expanded to the past 10 years if possible.

Wangui commended the analysis and wondered if the AAG knows what other meetings geographers attend, to be able to anticipate consequences for cycling the same locations and possibly “losing” attendees to other meetings and their venues. Yeh agreed to add this question to the survey.

Swab asked about timelines for Council decisions on these various options and scenarios. Langham indicated that RFPs for 2026 should go out no later than the end of this year, in order not to lose some good opportunities.

Yeh mentioned surveying the members about this and for AAG to follow the members’ majority wishes. Langham cautioned about surveying members without providing them some of the context and the consequences evolving from any decisions.

Yeh concluded the discussion by stating that the Council will proceed with the current hybrid plans for New York and wait for the survey results and the analysis of the New York meeting emissions before deciding on any models going forward.

SURVEY

Several edits and comments were offered. Lobben suggested reorienting the survey to ask more generally about barriers to attendance at AAG meetings, not to focus it solely on carbon emissions. There was general consensus to offer edits to the survey document overnight.

Options, Next Steps

Discussion ensued and there were suggestions from Swab and Cope to carry out the member survey, but in the meantime, continue to plan the 2026 meeting in a low-carbon location (e.g., Washington, DC) or a smaller city (e.g., Louisville, KY) with Hubs and Nodes as additional options. There was general agreement to circulate the proposed member survey for comments/edits overnight, and to revisit the entire topic again the next day, for Council decisions and votes.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 PM.

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Friday, October 29

The Council was joined for the Publications-related section of the meeting by Jennifer Cassidento, AAG Publications Director.

4.0 Publications

*Journals Operations Report

Yeh asked about the Annals not being perceived as attractive for physical geographers to publish in. Raphael stated that there is a very welcoming reception of physical geography submissions to journals outside of the discipline. Sultana concurred. Cassidento stated that this is a topic the Council has discussed before and that it will be prepared for a later meeting, allowing more time for a more thorough discussion.

Approve Ling Bian's proposed 2024 Special Issue Topic

Sultana presented Bian's Special Issue topic of "Networks" for Council review.

Yeh moved to approve the proposed 2024 Special Issue topic submitted by Editor Ling Bian. O'Leary seconded the motion. It passed with a majority of votes in favor and 2 abstentions (of Councilors not present).

5.0 Governance and Training

Governance Audit Update, initial recommendation

Langham welcomed consultants Michael Anderson and Donna Dunn from Tecker International to the meeting. Anderson and Dunn previewed what they were planning to work through with the Council: reviewing and working through Council roles and responsibilities, as well as the results of the Council's self-evaluation survey from the summer.

The Council was issued a group exercise regarding the optimal level of engagement of Council/Senior Staff and were then divided into 4 breakout rooms to discuss the questions in smaller groups. The resulting responses were discussed with the fully reconvened Council after approximately an hour.

Bylaws and Roles

Langham introduced the need for a new task force to work on revisions to the AAG Bylaws and policies in order to have something ready for the next Council meeting expected before year's end. Dunn and Anderson elaborated on this need. Langham asked for 1-2 volunteers to serve on the task force. **The general agreement was that the**

Executive Committee would serve in this role. Edwards volunteered to serve on this task force as well.

Langham also introduced the idea that he and McKnight will develop a Councilor's Handbook to capture policies, council position descriptions, orientation-related materials and similar materials to facilitate the orientation for candidates standing for election to the Council as well as elected Councilors. This suggestion met with general praise.

Discussion/Vote on changes to Council meeting frequency

Langham introduced the idea of increasing the Council meetings from 2 to 4 a year. Two 2-day in-person meetings 6 months apart to cover larger, strategic, and directional issues for the Association, and two shorter (1-day), virtual meetings in between the longer ones to handle shorter-term issues and routine governance-related topics. He then opened this topic up for discussion.

Discussion showed a preference for three meetings a year, with only one in-person meeting in the spring (in consideration of the carbon/climate discussion of the previous day). Sultana suggested a hybrid Council meeting model, to allow for more of a personal connection between Councilors, but to facilitate virtual participation for those who prefer not to travel. She also pointed out that it might be harder to recruit candidates if the Council meetings were mostly online-only.

There were several requests for improvements in the communication to the membership between the Council and the AAG.

Council voted 10/6 in favor of increasing their meetings to 4 a year, starting after the Feb 2022 meeting.

Lobben requested that the nature of these meetings and their duration be clarified, to avoid ending up with four 2-day meetings per year. Langham suggested beginning the four meetings a year in 2022 and revisit the frequency after this trial year.

Sultana suggested holding the summer meeting on July 1 with an Orientation, to coincide with the beginning of new terms on the Council.

6.0 Committees, Specialty 7 Affinity Groups

Select candidates to stand for election to Honors and Nominating Committees

In Secretary Oppong's temporary absence from the Council meeting, Mannozi presented the results of the Committee on Committee's recruitment of volunteers to be considered for election to the Honors and Nominating Committees. The Council elected the following candidates to stand for election for these two committees:

Honors Committee A (former Honorees)

Sarah Witham Bednarz, Texas A&M University (ret.)
 Carol Harden, University of Tennessee (ret.)

Honors Committee B (at-large AAG members)

Godwin Arku, University of Western Ontario
 Fernando Bosco, San Diego State University
 Kate Derickson, University of Minnesota
 Caroline Nagel, University of South Carolina

Nominating Committee

Stefano Bloch, University of Arizona
 Sarah Blue, Texas State University
 Karen Falconer Al-Hindi, University of Nebraska Omaha
 Danielle Purifoy, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
 Sara Smith, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
 Chetan Tiwari, Georgia State University

Ratify Nominating Committee's slate for 2022 Election (Council vacancies)

Mannozi also presented the Nominating Committee's slate of candidates to stand for election in 2022. She explained that the Nominating Committee followed revised Council guidelines for this procedure.

President:

Marilyn Raphael, University of California Los Angeles

Vice President:

Timothy Beach, University of Texas at Austin
 Rebecca Lave, Indiana University

National Councilor:

Shrinidhi Ambinakudige, Mississippi State University
 Patricia Ehrkamp, University of Kentucky
 Debarchana Ghosh, University of Connecticut
 Richard Quodomine, City of Philadelphia
 Chris Sneddon, Dartmouth College
 Patricia Solis, Arizona State University

Student Councilor:

Amariah Fischer, Kansas State University
 J Zoe Malot, University of California Los Angeles

There were no questions about the slate. **The Council approved the slate by a unanimous vote.**

Review/vote on D&I Committee's request for a name change

The Council reviewed the request from the Diversity & Inclusion Committee to be renamed the JEDI Committee.

The Council approved changing the AAG Diversity and Equity Committee's name to the AAG JEDI Committee by a unanimous vote.

7.0 Finance Overview

AAG FYE2021 End of Year Projections (P&L + Balance Sheet + Investments)

Langham provided an update on the AAG's financial status, indicating that the AAG's net assets ended in a \$500,000+ positive, after a \$1.3M loss in 2020 due to the cancelled Denver Annual Meeting. Raphael asked about the spike in assets in 2007. Mannozi explained that this was the result of former AAG staff (Solem, Solis, Gallagher-Heffron) securing externally funded grants and contracts that benefited the AAG's bottom line. Cope asked about the composition of the AAG investment portfolio and how much of our holdings are in fossil fuels, considering recent carbon emissions concerns and discussions. Langham indicated that he planned to work with McKnight on addressing some of the questions around the AAG's investments and the desire for Council to move away from fossil fuel-related investments.

Opping and Li asked about raises for AAG staff, after the belt-tightening implemented during the pandemic downturn. Langham responded that some staff have been promoted recently, others will have salary conversations as part of the annual January performance evaluations. He indicated that he would not include himself in such considerations, as he is evaluated by the AAG Council and that evaluation is slated to take place next Fall.

Lobben asked about development efforts and activities. Langham indicated that the AAG will hold an annual year-end appeal. He indicated that the development efforts have reaped more success in obtaining sponsorship sign-ups rather than in securing foundation grants. He indicated that Treby and he will be reviewing the results and next goals for the AAG development office. Li added that she is now serving on a new development working group that is working with AAG Development Director Julie Ische.

Langham elaborated on the question of sponsorships and an earlier plan to set up a career fair with a few large sponsors. The AAG was encouraged not to accept major sponsorships that may conflict with recent ethics statements. Langham reported that the AAG will set up this career fair and carry some of the costs not covered by the exhibitors. All employers will be allowed to participate.

Based on this experience, Langham, indicated that he would welcome the adoption of a policy around sponsorships or other collaborations, to ease the communication with certain organizations around their potential offers.

*FYE2022 Budget

The FYE 2022 Budget was provided in the documentation before Council as a point of information, having already been discussed and approved at the Spring 2021 Council meeting, following input from the Finance Committee.

2020 Event Cancellation lawsuit update

Langham provided an update on the cancellation lawsuit.

Kujawa moved to authorize the use of up to [REDACTED] to continue pursuing the lawsuit against the 2020 meeting cancellation insurer. The motion was seconded by Eaves and Oppong and passed with 15 votes in favor and one abstention.

8.0 2022 Honors & Awards

AAG Fellows (ratify)

Oppong shared the rosters of 2022 and 2021 classes of fellows recommended by the AAG Fellows Selection Committee.

Li moved to approve, and Eaves seconded approval of the 2021 and 2022 classes of AAG Fellows.

The 2021 class of Fellows was approved with 15 votes in favor and 2 abstentions.

The 2022 class of Fellows was approved unanimously.

AAG Honors (ratify)

Oppong introduced the request from the Honors Committee to allow posthumous Honors. The Council was generally favorable to this request and discussed details about how to change the Honors guidelines to allow posthumous Honors starting in 2022.

Yeh moved to allow no more than one posthumous Honors in any given year in any Honors category, but to maintain the total maximum of eight Honors per year, starting in 2022. Cope seconded this motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The Council reviewed the AAG Honors Committee's slate of 2022 AAG Honorees.

O'Lear moved to approve the 2022 slate of Honorees. Oppong seconded the motion, which passed with 13 votes in favor and 3 abstentions.

9.0 Council & Resolutions

Conclude any pending items

Climate Change and the AAG

Yeh brought up the proposed member survey and mentioned that she will incorporate feedback and circulate it to Council for additional review. She also stated that the carbon footprint and the 2024 Hawaii meeting need further discussion before year's end.

10.0 New Business

NYC 2022 Sheraton contract

Langham updated the Council that the AAG is looking to cancel the 2022 Sheraton contract due to low registration numbers for the conference which indicate there is no longer the need for a second meeting hotel. He stated that the AAG will be issuing a one-question poll to members to be able to exercise the force majeure clause in our contract and cancel our contract with the Sheraton.

The Fall 2021 AAG Council meeting was adjourned at 3:40 PM.