

September 2022 AAG Council Meeting
Los Angeles, CA
Sept. 15-26

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Present: Marilyn Raphael, President; Rebecca Lave, Vice President; Emily Yeh, Past President; Joseph Oppong, Secretary; Gary Langham, Executive Director; Selima Sultana, Southeastern; Pablo Bose, National; Debarchana Ghosh, National; Patricia Solis, National; Edna Wangui, National; Dydia DeLyser, Pacific Coast; Tracy Edwards, MidAtlantic; Colleen Myles, Southwestern; Steven Schnell, Middle States.

Via Zoom: Marcia England, Treasurer; Meghan Cope, National; Steven Silvern, New England St. Lawrence Valley; Heike Alberts, West Lakes, Amariah Fischer, Student; Diana Ojeda, International.

Staff: Jill Treby, Chief of Staff; Amanda McKnight, Chief of Programs; Candida Mannozi, Chief Operating Officer; Elin Thorlund, Events Manager; and Jennifer Cassidento, Publications Director, during Sept. 16 AAG Publications discussion.

Guest: Michael Tey, Consultant, during Strategic Planning session on September 15.

1.0 Opening

Langham and Raphael welcomed all in-person and virtual participants to the AAG Council meeting.

1.1 Adopt Agenda

Raphael asked the Council to review the meeting agenda and opened the floor for questions. There were none. ***O’Lear moved to approve the September 2022 AAG Council Meeting Agenda. Myles seconded the motion, which received unanimous approval.***

1.2 Adopt Consent Agenda

Raphael introduced the Consent Agenda and asked if there were any questions. There were none. ***Myles moved to approve the Consent Agenda. O’Lear seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.***

1.3 President’s Comments

Raphael greeted everyone and expressed her pleasure at working with everyone on Council. She mentioned her excitement that Council was meeting in-person in Los Angeles and close to the UCLA campus, which she also indicated looking forward to touring with everyone in the course of the two meeting days.

She expressed her hope that the Council will work hard during this meeting and come together around important decisions, especially pertaining to the growth and spread of AAG in years to come.

1.4 Vice President’s Comments

Lave stated that she has two big priorities during her time on Council: keeping the work of the JEDI Committee and the Climate Change task force central to AAG.

She also indicated wishing to work on developing best practices for promoting and protecting publicly engaged scholarship. To that end, she mentioned having formed a task force of volunteers from inside

and outside the discipline, within and outside academia, who will bring best practices forward for Council's consideration and for eventual sharing with Department Chairs. She also indicated wishing to focus on interdisciplinarity, mostly at the Regional Division level.

1.5 State of AAG

Langham indicated that his State of the AAG report for this meeting is unusual, in that it takes stock of the past three years of his tenure, as opposed to the typical forward-looking focus for these reports. He pointed to the many, important, once-in-a-generation structural improvements the AAG has undergone, and the challenge of COVID which Council and staff met head-on in 2020. He indicated that AAG has now divested 100% from its fossil fuel holdings and is now 100% invested in socially and environmentally just funds. He also reported that AAG is now implementing a Council-approved 3-Year JEDI strategic framework.

He thanked the Council for its openness at a time of crisis to meet the challenges the AAG has faced and is still facing and for being open to investing in the AAG's future, rather than retrenching.

2.0 Strategic Plan

Langham indicated that he would spend the next hour level-setting the Strategic Plan in advance of the formation of four different breakout groups tasked to subsequently discuss the various components of the proposed 2023-2025 Strategic Plan.

He walked Council through the main topical areas of the Strategic Plan:

- Current Plan and Progress
- JEDI Framework
- 2023-2025 Plan
 - Elevate the Discipline
 - Membership
 - Community
 - Programming
 - Organizational Excellence

The Council shared some initial questions, then broke into 4 subgroups to review each section of the New Plan in more detail and bring each group's recommendations to the full Council.

There was a call to audit the AAG awards with a view to make the outreach and selection processes more diverse and inclusive; and to also ascertain whether the revised guidelines for the Honors and Fellows programs are achieving the desired results.

Councilors also praised the AAG and its staff for the success and impact of the student-related webinar series.

3.0 Meridian Place

Langham introduced the need for up to \$250,000 in extrabudgetary expenses to cover costs for the AAG moving into its new office space (e.g., furniture, hardware, move and storage, etc.).

Solis moved to approve authorization for the Executive Director to spend up to \$250,000 from AAG reserves for the purpose of furnishing and moving into the new, leased, AAG office space. Sultana seconded the motion, which received a majority of votes in favor with one non-vote.

4.0 JEDI Framework

Cope provided an update on the JEDI Committee's work, including a recent vote to elect new Committee Co-Chairs, Caroline Nagel and Wan Yu. She indicated that the JEDI Committee is looking for ways to support Specialty Groups on JEDI activities and is also interested in sponsoring sessions at the 2023 Annual Meeting, including a possible plenary lecture. The Committee will soon be working on the Truth & Justice component of the JEDI Plan. She asked the Council to please share widely the sentiment that the JEDI Committee is willing to partner with anyone interested in these issues and initiatives.

McKnight updated the Council on the first round of the AAG's DEI Director recruitment, which did not produce a desirable pool of candidates. As a consequence, the AAG hired a consultant to design a revised job description and relaunched the search. As of September 15, there are approximately 14 applicants. McKnight indicated that the AAG would welcome any Councilors with relevant networks sharing this professional opportunity as widely as possible.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM

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On September 16, Raphael called the meeting to order at 8:37 AM.

Langham then introduced the Publications section of the meeting Agenda. He welcomed the AAG's Director of Publications, Jennifer Cassidanto, to the meeting, and asked Publications Committee Chair, Selima Sultana, and AAG Chief of Staff, Jill Treby, to guide the Council through this portion of the meeting.

5.0 Publications

5.1 *Professional Geographer* Editor's term-end

Sultana stated that *Professional Geographer* Editor Heejun Chang's term ends Dec. 2023, and that the Publications Committee recommended inviting him to serve a second term.

There being no objections or questions to this recommendation, **Schnell moved to invite Heejun Chang to serve a second term as Editor of the *Professional Geographer*. O'Lear seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

5.2 *Annals* Fifth Editor Proposal

Sultana introduced the revised proposal for a 5th editor for AAG *Annals*, as presented to the Council by the Publications Committee. Cope commended the revised proposal.

Bose moved to create a permanent fifth editor for the *Annals*, which DeLyser seconded. The motion carried with all Councilors voting in favor.

5.2.1 David Butler's *Annals* Special Issue

Sultana asked Council to consider the *Annals* Special Issue topic proposed by David Butler. Yeh and others offered some suggestions for the wording of the Special Issue call, which were generally agreed to. There was a consensus to approve the Special Issue topic and to offer Butler some additional suggestions for improvement to the call for papers, which Councilors were asked to share directly with Treby or Cassidanto who would convey them to Butler.

Lave moved to approve David Butler's proposed Special Issue topic. Ghosh seconded the motion which received unanimous approval.

5.2.2 Yi-Fu Tuan memorial in *Annals*

Sultana then turned the Council's attention to the topic of a possible memorial in the *AAG Annals* for the recently deceased Yi-Fu Tuan. During the discussion, Solis pointed out that there is a dearth of memorials in the *Annals* celebrating deserving and important women geographers. Treby suggested sharing with Council the backlog of pending memorials for the *Annals*, have Council revise it, and ask them to make suggestions for other/additional geographers to memorialize. This suggestion met with general consensus.

Yeh moved to approve that a memorial for the late Yi-Fu Tuan be published in the *AAG Annals*, and to invite Tim Creswell to consider authoring it. Schnell seconded the motion, which received unanimous approval.

5.2.3 *Annals* Katie Meehan term-end

Treby explained to Council that Katie Meehan and Kendra Strauss' terms on the *Annals* are ending in December 2023.

Solis suggested encouraging people to be reviewers among the broader membership, such as those who may be early career and might not realize they could be experienced enough to serve in this capacity.

Treby suggested creating a session at the AAG Annual Meeting on this topic, to expose this opportunity to a wider audience and encourage broader participation. This suggestion met with general approval.

5.2.4 *Annals* Kendra Strauss term-end

Sultana indicated that the Publications Committee is recommending renewing Kendra Strauss' term, with the option of offering her a one-year extension, in the event she is unable or unwilling to serve a full second term.

Lave moved to invite Kendra Strauss to serve for a second term, with the option of offering her a one-year extension, in the event she is unable or unwilling to serve a full second term. DeLyser seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

5.3 AAG journals publication frequency increase

Sultana informed the Council that starting in 2023, Taylor & Francis will increase the publication frequency of the *Annals* to 10 issues per year, and the *PG's* frequency to 6 issues per year. This will allow them to charge increased fees for this additional content and will also address the backlog of articles awaiting publication in both journals.

6.0 Finance

Langham informed the Council that the fiscal year-end projections will be provided at the November Council meeting, as the FYE of August 31 occurred so close to this September Council meeting, that final or even close estimate figures are not available.

Yeh suggested that Langham bring the projected costs of the 2023 Denver meeting to Council, if it appears the costs for this hybrid meeting indicate requiring approval for additional funds to be allocated.

7.0 Committees and SGs

Mannozi announced that the results of the Council vote on the slate for Honors and Nominating Committees are as follows:

Honors A

LaToya Eaves, University of Tennessee Knoxville
Ibipo Johnston-Anumonwo, SUNY Cortland

Honors B

Kara Dempsey, Appalachian State University
John Harrington, Jr., Independent Scholar Bay Center, WA and Kansas State University (Emeritus)
Yongmei Lu, Texas State University
Joseph Palis, University of the Philippines Diliman

Nominating Committee

Holly Barcus, Macalester College
Jacqueline Housel, Sinclair Community College
Ingrid Nelson, University of Vermont
Chetan Tiwari, Georgia State University
George White, South Dakota State University
Matthew Wilson, University of Kentucky

8.0 Governance

8.1 Councilor roles

Langham invited McKnight to walk the Council through the new proposed Councilor roles and invited feedback or edits to the descriptions.

O'Lear mentioned her desire to see the knowledge and insights of Councilors gain after their three-year term of service not be lost, once they rotate off. She indicated that the AAG invests much time in Councilors' service to the AAG. She suggested adding language to the Councilor and Officer role descriptions to encourage former Councilors to continue finding ways to serve the Association into the future, to make continued use of their newly acquired knowledge and insights.

8.2 Draft Policy Manual

McKnight introduced the Draft AAG Policies Manual and summarized the process that went into the creation of both the new AAG Bylaws and the Policies Manual. She asked for volunteers for a Policy

Review Group that would work on these draft policies over the next few months to present a Policy Manual to the AAG Council for review/approval.

Solis suggested the AAG develop an Ombudsperson role for AAG employees and refer to it in the Policy Manual and/or the AAG Employee Handbook.

8.3 Governance Handbook

McKnight described the efforts behind the creation of the AAG Governance Handbook. She introduced Councilors to the password-protected Governance Handbook section on the AAG website and indicated that she'd later share login information with the Council to allow them access.

9.4 Additional certification for AAG awardees

Langham introduced the background to this agenda item.

Council discussion resulted in Langham offering to work the suggested edits into the proposed language, obtain review of it by the AAG lawyer, and then bring the revised certification before the AAG Executive Committee for approval.

Oppong moved for Langham to work the suggested edits into the proposed certification, obtain review of it by the AAG lawyer, and then bring the revised certification before the AAG Executive Committee for approval. Wangui seconded the motion which passed with a unanimous vote in favor.

9.0 Annual Meeting

9.1 2023 Annual Meeting

McKnight introduced this topic and thanked Oscar Larson and Elin Thorlund for all their dedication to and hard work on AAG events.

She shared some statistics on the 2023 Annual Meeting:

- 162 registrants: 83% in person, 17% virtual;
- 40% individual member; 14% student member; 4% non-member;
- 14 countries represented; 84% US; 6% Canada.

McKnight reminded the Council of the planned structure for the 2023 Denver meeting:

- 5-10% Hybrid Sessions (i.e., audience and presenters)
- External Sponsored Sessions (capped)
- AAG Executive Sessions
 - Welcome Address
 - Presidential Plenary
 - Atlas Award
- Honorary Geographer
- Past President Address
- Executive Director Address

Specialty/Affinity Group Plenary Sessions

- 2 Slots available per Specialty Group/Affinity Group
- First-come, first-served for days/timeslots

50+% Hybrid (audience) Sessions

- 1-2 dedicated rooms for streaming fully virtual content into a physical room

Discussion resulted in suggestions for clearly messaging to attendees what to expect, especially for hybrid or virtual sessions. There were suggestions to elevate posters as a valuable, interactive experience for virtual or hybrid attendees, perhaps by offering asynchronous, recorded sessions or comment threads/message boards in the virtual space to allow for more connections and networking for virtual participants. There were also suggestions to reallocate the hybrid functionality to other sessions, if an Executive or other session organizer does not feel that functionality is needed for their particular session.

Nodes: McKnight summarized the thoughts behind the tiered nodes option being piloted in Denver. There are several unknowns for these options, cost being one of them.

DeLyser shared her positive previous experience having organized a watch party node at her department for 2022, and how it resulted in student recruitment for her Department. For 2023, DeLyser indicated that her Department is extending the invitation to participate in a watch party node to nearby community colleges and hopes to see undergraduate recruitment numbers increase by virtue of this experience.

There was a suggestion to allow Departments to join as members and offer AAG benefits to their students.

9.2 Annual Meeting location planning

Langham introduced the topic of determining Annual Meeting locations and the desire to establish a task force to work with him on briskly deciding future meeting locations after the Denver meeting.

Closed Session

From 12:20 – 1:20 PM, Council met in Closed Session for Gary Langham’s Performance Evaluation.

1.6 Regional Division reports update

Edwards and Mannozi updated the Council on the mechanism and the timing for the forthcoming survey tool to be used by AAG Regional Councilors, to assist them in collecting data on the health of departments in their Regions. This will be shared with the Councilors in late 2022 or early 2023, so they can collect information and report out to the Council at the Spring 2023 meeting.

10.0 Membership

10.1 GeoEthics Program update

Langham provided an update on the GeoEthics program efforts, including a recent summit on Locational Information and the Public Interest held in Santa Barbara, and the ensuing White Paper. He indicated that there is ongoing desire on the part of the summit participants to continue to remain in communication and stay engaged in this effort.

Yeh reminded all that the AAG Council recently decided to periodically review and update its Statement of Ethics and to take into consideration any suggestions resulting from the GeoEthics program’s results. Langham urged the Council to reach out to any of the White Paper authors for additional follow-up.

11.0 Council

There were no pending items to conclude, so President Raphael invited the Councilors to bring forward any new business they wished to discuss.

12.0 New Business

Solis asked Councilors if they had any news on activities or initiatives that they wish to share, which was followed by a few responses.

Adjourn

The September 2022 AAG Council meeting was adjourned at 1:53 PM by general acclaim.