

MINUTES OF THE ALA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS
AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK
October 18-20

Thursday, October 18, 2007

The meeting began at 3:15p.m

Present: Oty Agbayoh-Laoye, Fahamisha Patricia Brown, Maureen N. Eke, George Joseph (for Amy Elder) Anthonia Kalu, Mark Lilleleht, Lokangaka Losambe, Laura Murphy, John Nimis, Eustace Palmer, Thelma Pinto (President), Abioseh Porter.

1. Ratification of the Agenda

The Agenda was Ratified.

2. President's Opening Remarks

Joanne Cornwell cannot be at the meeting and has sent her report which will be read later.

Tony Hurley cannot attend this meeting, because he is in the West Indies. Abioseh will pass around the finance report.

George Joseph will serve as proxy for Amy Elder.

Thelma thanked everyone their understanding. She was happy to say that she has started teaching again. She is thankful to the E.C. for propping her up when she seriously needed it. Her institution has been very good. They have given her an intern. The Vice-President will send a note of appreciation to Hobart & William Smith Colleges.

We need names and addresses of new members of the E.C. so that the President can send letters to their institutions.

3. Ratification of the EC Minutes from meetings at Morgantown, WV, March 14-18,

2007. Ratification was delayed until Friday's meeting.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes. Delayed until Friday.

5. Treasurer's Report

Abioseh presented the financial report (attached) in Tony's absence. All further questions are to be sent to Tony with cc. to the President and Vice Presidents.

6. JALA Report

Abioseh Porter. Brought the new issue, and distributed a few copies. He then made the following points.

1. He has reserved the editorial board as an additional resource, but looks beyond the editorial board for referees. He always makes sure gets at least 2 readers.

2. He is looking into the question of rates for advertisement. The ASA document has given good guidelines. ASA news is \$360, but the ASA circulation is much greater. Abioseh was given permission to go over the figures and make a recommendation as a council.

3. The council discussed the problem that arises when Abioseh gives a book to be reviewed to someone who does not do it but does not send the book back. At times, these books are quite costly. Others will say very much later that they cannot do the review. The Council left it to Abioseh's discretion how to follow up.

4. Eustace Palmer congratulated Abioseh for coming out with the new issue of *JALA*, and thanked him for informing us of Oyekan's passing.

7. ALA's relation with the ASA.

A meeting is scheduled with the ASA on Sunday morning at 9 a.m. The rejection of ALA panels for the ASA set into motion a series of conversations and email exchanges between Maureen Eke and Aliko Songolo. Even if panels are ALA sponsored, since we do not have associate status, ASA can reject them. If an organization is an associate or sponsored, that organization can do own screening. A certain percentage of ALA people have to belong to ASA to get associate status. Maureen suggested that president of ASA should come to have a conversation with us. We thought we had a certain level of privilege. Aliko wants to come tomorrow. This rejection is a problem not only for the ALA but other affiliate organizations. Anthonia Kalu said that the ASA also did this to IBO studies. Chiwengo had been informed that the ALA panels had been accepted, but then found that they were rejected. It looks as if this is a 50th anniversary blunder.

There are three issues. 1) We have to clarify our relationship with the ASA. 2) clarify what happens with our panels. 3) Space for ALA functions at the ASA. Tony had a problem getting us a meeting room. Kassahun did not get a booth at the book exhibit. Why not have a 1-day retreat instead of meeting at the ASA?

8. Committee Reports:

a. Finance Committee: Folabo Ajayi-Soyinka

There is no news. Outstanding issues include: a) Lifetime dues. C) How much subvention should we give to the annuals? We should make some kind of a statement. Finance related issue with *JALA*. Some of our members fail to renew on time. What do we do? At the beginning of the year Abioseh will ask the treasurer. Members who have not renewed will be sent a reminder. If they do not renew, they will be dropped from the list. Even members who have not paid up are kept on the mailing list.

- b. Issues Committee: Mark Lillileth (Darfur Issue) For Western Illinois there will be another sponsored panel at the ALA. Compiling information on the visa issue for foreign nationals trying to come to the U.S. We have collected anecdotal stories and will be more active in soliciting stories from member attempting to come to ALA. Watson came out with a new book saying that Blacks are genetically inferior. The ALA will have to send a letter to his institution protesting that. We will revisit this issue on Saturday. There is also the issue of keeping the website up-to-date
- c. Awards Committee: Oty Agbajoh-Loye. Thanked Eustace and Thelma for reminding her and giving guidelines for Fonlon Nichols awards. She also spoke to Abioseh and did not think anything was circulated. We have to check on the Fonlon Nichols website and check again with George Lang. we want to get some kind of resume to see whom we are dealing with. Writing and Activism in Human Rights & freedom of expression. She will send out calls for suggestions and try to get something together by Saturday. She would like to put out a call by end of ASA. Maureen suggests that the Awards Committee adds Past President to the committee or add the Vice President. to the committee. Abioseh should be added to the committee. Other awards. Several issues that the Awards committee has to take a look at. We need to develop a sheet. Thelma came into awards committee because wanted to honor others besides graduate students. The committee needs to review last 5 years of the E.C. and the ALA annual business meeting minutes. The Awards committee will have time on Saturday.

Mimi Mortimer and Becky Clark apologize for not being here.

Joanne Cornwell could not attend because of the death of her brother. We will send a letter of condolences. The Handbook was sent as a word file to Abioseh who will distribute it. We can put it on the website, which has been updated thanks to Abioseh. The issue of Headquarters is moved to Saturday.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m. Moved by Eustace Palmer, seconded by Anthonia Kalu.

Friday, October 19, 2007

Present: Oty Agbayoh-Laoye, Fahamisha Patricia Brown, Anne Carlson, Maureen N. Eke, George Joseph (for Amy Elder) Anthonia Kalu, Mark Lilleleht, Lokangaka Losambe, Laura Murphy, Eustace Palmer, Thelma Pinto (President), Abioseh Porter. Aliko Songolo attended the meeting to discuss relations with the ASA.

9. Continuation of Leftover Business from October 18. The Executive Council restated the issues to be raised at the ALA meeting with the ASA.

1. The ALA must clarify its status and requirements for status with the ASA.
2. The ALA must understand how its panels are considered for inclusion in the ASA program.
3. The ALA must clarify whether or not it is entitled to space for the ALA Executive Council meetings at the ASA meeting.
4. Because we did not know until the last minute that a room had been provided for a reception, no reception has been organized, and we are cancelling the reception.

10. Continuation of Committee Reports:

e. Travel Grants: Anthonia Kalu reported that the Travel Grants committee had decided at the last meeting that it should give travel grants to three members. It was decided to post a call for applications after the Executive Council meeting. Applications are to be sent to Anthonia or to Debra Boyd. Committee members are Anthonia Kalu, Debra Boyd, Chiwengo, Wangui and Oty. Decisions will be announced in January.

f. Publications: Anthonia Kalu is co-chairing the committee with Janis Mayes who is on sabbatical. Not much has been done. The Dean at Binghamton has given institutional support to Carol Coates to publish the annuals.

g. Newsletter: Joanne Cornwell. There was no report.

h. Teaching and Research: Ngwarsungu Chiwengo. George Joseph reported that there was nothing to report on teaching and research.

i. Publicity and Media Relations: Fahamisha Patricia Brown said that she has sent out call for papers to University of Pennsylvania, the MLA, and the Chronicle of Higher Education. She has also established publicity guidelines for conference conveners. One should arrange to work with local university communications offices for local publicity including getting press photos, announcing the Fonlon Nichols award and other such items. Within that context, documentation can occur for the archives. Usually the ALA conference generates items for national attention. We should get practices institutionalized to get ready for 35th anniversary. For example, we could make up a membership brochure rather than a card; do something with the logo; write a blurb about JALA. Metropolitan College is ready to help us produce this brochure.

Text of the proposed Constitutional Amendment:

(a) In the event of the President not being able to perform his/her functions or a vacancy occurring in the office of President, the Vice President shall act as Interim President until such time as the President is able to resume his/her duties or for the remainder of the President's term of office.

(b) In the event of the Vice President not being able to perform his/her functions or a vacancy occurring in the office of Vice President, the Deputy Vice President shall become Acting Vice President until such time as the Vice President is able to resume his/her duties or for the remainder of the Vice President's term of office.

(c) In the event of an elected Vice President not being able to assume the office of President, for any reason, in the usual manner after the spring annual Business Meeting, the Deputy Vice President, who would have been acting as Vice President, will become Acting President, until such time as the elected Vice President is able to assume

office as President, or for the remainder of the term the elected Vice President would have served as President.

(d) In the event of a vacancy occurring in the office of Secretary, the Executive Council shall appoint someone to fill the vacancy until the next annual elections when a Secretary will be elected to serve a normal term in the usual way.

(e) In the event of a vacancy occurring in the office of Treasurer, the President will be delegated to take control of the finances until the next annual election when a Treasurer will be elected to serve a normal term in the usual way.

j. Constitutional Reform: Maureen Eke. Eustace Palmer recalled that at the last meeting we passed and amended a motion. P. 13 of the minutes refers to rewriting the definition of vice president. It needs to be broadcast to the membership.

11. Policy on Subcommittee Tenure and Chairs (Possible Recommendations). Eustace observed that there needs to be a tenure period for subcommittees. That way we do not have the same people on the subcommittee for many years. We should consider rotating the chairs. Fahamisha pointed out that technically committee memberships expire with term of office. Every year all committees should be reappointed every Sunday meeting after the business meeting. The E.C needs a more effective oversight. The E.C. will review all committees at the start of every year. Oty recommended that we do not change an entire membership all at once. The Deputy Vice President should make sure that committees are complete. The Deputy Vice President reviews and coordinates events. At present that is the function of the President. Fahamisha recommended that we use a portion of the conference to generate interest in committees. It was also recommend that one third of the membership automatically change. There are no term limits unless we make a constitutional reform. The President coordinates committees. At one executive meeting the President reviews the committees. We may also want to consider staggered memberships and honorary memberships. Committees are normally set up on the Sunday following the business meeting. Should we consider sanctions for non-participation?

12. Issues Surrounding Retiring Members. Should retiring members be given honorary lifetime memberships gratis? Since membership fees are based on income, some members had difficulty understanding why. We have to keep in mind that responsibilities are a two-way street. Once a member has ceased participating in the organization he or she has severed ties. On the other hand, we should encourage our elders. We need leaders in retirement.

13. The Executive Council welcomed ASA President Aliko Songolo to discuss relations with the ASA. Aliko observed that it was thanks to the ALA membership that he was elected President of the ASA, and that once he was elected and saw the margins he was humbled. Even from the inside, the workings of the ASA are incomprehensible. 30% of papers were rejected. In the past, nearly all papers were accepted. In San Francisco 4% of the papers were rejected. Especially disfavored was history, where close to 60% of historians papers were rejected. Political science was second. Generally that is what happened. The ASA is trying to find ways of correcting things and making proposals to change the system. Many papers from abroad (France & Africa) were rejected, but they

would have brought a diversity that is unusual. For a long time it was thought that affiliate organizations had the right to propose two panels not reviewed by the program chair. But the ALA is not a sponsored coordinate organization. Sponsored organizations must have two-thirds of their members in the ASA. Their papers do not go through committees. An Associate Organization has one-third membership in the ASA. We should send a list to ASA showing our membership. The rule was enforced for the first time this year. Even if we show that 2/3 of the ALA membership is in the ASA, it no privilege for anyone. Merit based. All the papers and panels should be reviewed.

Fahamisha moved to adjourn the meeting. Mark seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25

Saturday, October 20, 2007

Call to order 7:15

Present: Oty Agbayoh-Laoye, Fahamisha Patricia Brown, Maureen N. Eke, Naare Banyiwa Hare George Joseph (for Amy Elder) Anthonia Kalu, Mark Lilleleht, Lokangaka Losambe, Laura Murphy, Eustace Palmer, Thelma Pinto (President), Abioseh Porter. Anne Carlson,

Leftover Business from Friday, October 19th

Eustace moved to ratify the minutes of the W. Virginia meeting. Maureen seconded the motion.

14. Continuation of Committee Reports

k. Employment Committee: Huma Ibrahim. No report

l. Heritage Project: Debra Boyd proposed the Heritage project which would organize documentation that maintains the history of ALA because people are worried about what is going to happen with their photos if we use them. Debra had made collages of her photos and sold them. We are going to put out a general call in the newsletter and see what can get. Copyrights seem easy enough

15. Caucus Reports:

m. WOCALA: Ada Azodo : No report Fahamisha: call went out. Ada has been active. WOCALA speaker will be Chimamnda Ngozi Adichie

n. Graduate Students: Laura Murphy. A new website with a listserv has been set up. The graduated students had a gathering on Thursday night with drinks. Laura requested a spot in JALA for a graduate student paper award. She has talked to Abioseh about having a panel at ALA on publishing. Mark showed a letter asking graduate students to participate. Thelma thought that there was already a panel. One would not be against taking undergraduates into caucus.

o. TRACALA: Wangui wa Goro has a written report to be included in the minutes. (I have not received the report)

p. Francophone: Anne Carlson: Francophone caucus has met. They have had nominations for speakers for luncheon. Alek Toumi has accepted invitation. They are in the process of organizing a panel on his work and a public reading of excerpts.

q. No report from Finance Committee.

16. Venue for new Headquarters. George Joseph announced that the administration of Hobart and William Smith Colleges is willing to support headquarters for a period of five years. It is not willing to pay for space, but willing to give course release, graduate assistant support of 10 hours per week for 52 weeks, and \$1000 for paper and supplies. According to Eustace Palmer all responsibilities and jobs are clearly listed in the revised handbook with deadlines. Nominations close January 5. The Headquarters director takes the lead in determining new directions. It was recommended that the ALA start looking for the next Headquarters director in the third or fourth year of the HWS term.

17. Review of 2007 Conference and Recommendations for 2008 Conveners. Morgantown went very well. There are recommendations.

18. WIU and Macomb have difficulties with dates because of scheduling around Easter.

19. Reports on Upcoming ALA Conferences

a. 2008: Western Illinois University: Igolima Amachree and Abdul-Rasheed Na'Allah gave an update on conference preparations. Anne Carlson wants to thank Abdul Rasheed his help with Francophone caucus.

b. 2009: University of Vermont: Lokangaka Losambe. Thanks Eustace, with whom has worked closely as past president, who enabled him to proceed with a bid. He has wide enthusiastic support.

c. 2010: University of Cape Town / University of the Western Cape/University of Durban: Thelma Pinto and George Joseph. Both U of Kwa Zulu Natal and Cape Town are interested. Both sides are interested. Both sides are potentially interesting. We need to straighten out the year. Dennis had said 2009, but Thelma will inform them that 2010 is a real possibility. Other bids are in the making from Canada and Nigeria. We used to have 3 to 4 years planned out. It is good that there are more people.

20. Leftover Business

a. Africa World Press. We need to set up a meeting with Kassahun Checole. We are four or five annuals behind schedule including Egypt and Ghana. Dr. Carole Coates, who will head the Publication Committee will oversee the publication of the annuals.

b. Executive Council Slate of Candidates: VP (Maureen Eke) etc
Maureen Eke: Really difficult to get people to run for the executive c.

For V.P
Fahamisha Brown
Anthonia Kalu
Omofolabo Ajayi

Naana Banyiwa Horne
Nwarsungu Chiwengo
Slate closed by vote

E.C.

Patricia Jabbeh-Wesley
Joyce Dixon-Fyle
Pat Alden
Adetayo Alabi
Greg Thomas
Roberta Hatcher
Laura Martin

Eustace moved and Mark seconded a resolution to accept the slate subject to confirmation that the nominees are paid up members.
The motion was accepted.

Secretary

Treasurer reappointed last year.

Those on the slate do not need a nomination form. From body at large need people nominating.

21. Announcements: Awards committee will send report via email.
Thelma got through to Tony Hurley. No reception was planned. There is a room but no reception. We will put up an announcement saying that the reception cancelled.

22. Adjournment. Mark moved and Fahamisha seconded a resolution to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:15.