

**MINUTES OF THE ALA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS
AFRICAN LITERATURE ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE
UNIVERSITY OF WEST VIRGINIA
MARCH 14 – 18, 2007**

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

The meeting began at 3:12 p.m.

Present: Folabo Ajayi-Soyinka, Ngwarsungu Chiwengo, Amy Elder, Tony Hurley, George Joseph, Keiko Kusunose, Mark Lilleleht, Soraya Mekerta, Eustace Palmer (President), Thelma Pinto, Abioseh Porter,

1. Ratification of the Agenda

The Agenda was ratified.

2. President's Opening Remarks

- Eustace noted with pleasure the publication of the inaugural issue of *JALA*, the ALA literary journal.
- He announced that Dr. Damian Opatá received the first ALA travel grant award and is present at this Conference.
- The *ALA Handbook* has been revised and will soon go to press.
- According to the vote of the EC, Dr. Carrol Coates will become the new Editor of the ALA Conference Series.

3. Ratification of the EC Minutes from Meetings at the ASA in San Francisco, November, 2006

- Addition to the Minutes: the Finance and Revenue Committee was approved at this meeting at a Standing Committee, not just suggested.
- The date for the Treasurer's Report should be changed from 2007 to 2006.

With these corrections, the Minutes were ratified.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

These matters will be dealt with at subsequent EC meetings.

5. Treasurer's Report: Tony Hurley

- Tony passed around copies of the ALA Combined Financial Statement, March 15, 2006 –February 28, 2007 and explained it in detail.
- In summary, the Financial Statement revealed the following:

Balance Forward from March 15, 2006:	\$22,572.59
Revenue:	25,206.05
Expenditures:	<u>19,893.60</u>
Balance:	27,885.04
ALA Assets as of February 28, 2007:	
a. Wachovia Checking and Money Market (2/28/07):	\$27,885.04
b. PAX World Funds (12/31/06)	<u>93,119.51</u>
Total Assets:	\$121,004.55

- ADDENDUM:
 - Membership:

2006:	392
2007:	294
Lifetime:	22
Institutional:	30
 - Checks Outstanding:

1018: Fonlon-Nichols Award:	\$1,000.00
1028: M. Murphy: Office Supplies, Stony Brook:	\$ 20.00

Discussion:

1. A question was raised about whether we should distinguish between Life Members and Honorary Life Members. Abioseh observed that, since there is only one Honorary Life Member, Stephen Arnold, an additional category does not seem necessary at this time.
2. Mark asked about the difference in cost between publishing the *Bulletin* and publishing *JALA*. Abioseh reported that there was no significance difference.
3. Eustace asked Tony for clarification of the profits from *RAL* subscriptions listed as part of ALA revenues. Tony clarified this entry.
4. Thelma asked for clarification of the source of the Fonlon-Nichols Award money. Tony explained that it comes from ALA funds.
5. Soraya asked for clarification of the Visa issues associated with the travel of the Fonlon-Nichols Awardee. Tony replied that these issues would be clarified.

6. Auditor's Report: Tony Hurley/Eustace Palmer

- Eustace read letters from Auditors Adlai Murdoch and Bob Cancel. Both reports verified the accuracy of the Treasurer's Report and declared ALA finances in good shape. Murdoch suggested including the figures from the previous year with subsequent Treasurer's Reports to aid in comparisons from year to year. Tony agreed with this idea.

7. Standing Committee Reports:

A. Finance: Folabo Ajayi-Soyinka

- Folabo reported on the Committee's desire to use funds for projects that emphasize the "human face" of the ALA. To emphasize this goal, they would like to appeal to the ALA membership for voluntary contributions to aid ALA members, either in the U.S. or in Africa, who have suffered disasters. The Chair of the Finance Committee should be a member of the Issues Committee to facilitate such awards.

Discussion:

- Questions were raised about how donated money should be collected.
- Another question concerned the effect of such donations on the ALA status as a non-filing, tax-exempt organization whose funds should not exceed \$25,000.
- Abioseh suggested that, because of these problems, we should simply urge members to be sensitive to other members' plights and be reminded to contribute on their own to other ALA members who are in need of help; however, the ALA, as an organization, should not be responsible for transmitting these funds. This idea was generally agreed to.
- In regard to the Finance Committee's desire to project a "human face," Tony suggested that the Committee priorities for expenditures. He was especially concerned with moneys being available for the continuation of *JALA*. He also suggested that the ALA should be investing in recording the oral presentations at our annual Conferences.
- Eustace reminded the EC that any member of the organization might make a request to the Finance Committee for funding. He also requested a decision from the Committee to place the Annuals on a sound financial basis. The previous discussion about this issue offered two possibilities: either raising membership dues; or, adding the cost of an Annual to the cost of each year's Conference fee.
- Abioseh mentioned that the ASA receives contributions from its members above the cost of yearly membership, but ALA does not. Eustace noted that finding new moneys should be the charge of the new Revenue Enhancement Committee, once its Chair and members are determined
- Folabo moved that the ALA change its status from non-filing tax exempt to filing tax exempt. She accepted a friendly amendment that before this

change would take place, the Treasurer would look into the implications of this change. With the amendment, the motion passed.

- Further, there was a decision to suspend activity of the Revenue Enhancement Committee until we hear Tony's report.

B. Issues Committee: Mark Lillileth

- His report must be postponed because the Committee will not meet until tomorrow. They will be considering is the problem of Visas and issues for African writers in general occasioned by Ayi Kwei Armah's complaint about his treatment by publishers. They will also consider the situation in Darfur and entertain suggestions of other possible sites that merit the organization's concern and response.
- The Committee will be sponsoring a Roundtable, "Ethics 'In Crisis': Introducing Contemporary Issues and Issues Advocacy in the Literature Classroom," at 8:00, Thursday, March 15th.
- He has been updating the Issues Committee website.

Discussion:

- Tony suggested that a regular column on Issues should be published in the *ALA Newsletter*.
- Soraya mentioned that another topic for the Committee's discussion should be Nawal's present situation, which is close to a *fatwa* being declared against her, forcing her exile from Egypt.
- Chiwengo proposed that Nawal be advised to contact Scholars at Risk, which has helped to place threatened exiles in jobs abroad.
- Folabo suggested that we read the play that led to the Egyptian government's condemnation of her, *God Resigns at the Summit Meeting*, once it is translated from Arabic, and ask Nawal to write something formal about her situation for the EC.

C. Awards Committee: Thelma Pinto

- Thelma reported that Nawal el-Saadawi has accepted the ALA Fonlon-Nichols Award.
- The current membership of this committee needs to be determined.

Abioseh expressed a sincere "welcome back" to Thelma and a vote of gratitude to Chiwengo for her excellent work when, as Deputy Vice-President, she stepped in for Thelma during her absence. The EC seconded these expressions of welcome and gratitude.

The meeting adjourned at 4:32.

Thursday, March 15, 2007

The meeting began at 7:14 a.m.

Present: Folabo Ajayi-Soyinka, Fahamisha Patricia Brown, Ngwarsungu Chiwengo, Carrol Coates, JoAnne Cornwell, Amy Elder, Tony Hurley, Anthonia Kalu, Keiko Kusunose, Mark Lilleleht, Soraya Mekerta, Eustace Palmer, Thelma Pinto, Abioseh Porter, Emmanuel Yewah,

8. Continuation of Leftover Business from March 14th

No leftover business

9. Standing Committee Reports, Continued

D. Travel Grants: Anthonia Kalu

- Anthonia reported that, as Eustace mentioned yesterday, the first Travel grant was awarded to Dr. Damien Opata. There were fourteen highly competitive applications; the seven completed ones were judged.

E. Publications: Anthonia Kalu

- Anthonia announced that this Committee has done nothing since the San Francisco ASA Conference.

1. *JALA*: Abioseh

In a historical reminder, Abioseh noted that vol 17, 1987 of the *Bulletin* called for the publication of an ALA scholarly journal. He added that, since there is no longer a *Bulletin*, the *Newsletter* should publish ALA news, Minutes, call for nominations for elections, and items of this sort. He explained the function of the *JALA* Editorial Board

2. Discussion with new Series Editor: Eustace

As reported earlier, by a majority vote, the EC elected to offer the editorship of the *Annuals* to Carrol Coates. Eustace informed him of the status of the outstanding *Annuals*. Carrol asked about the production quality expected for the *Annuals*, and he was reassured of the high production values of recent journals and agreed to be Editor.

Discussion:

- Carrol reported that there possibly will be support from his institution, but none is guaranteed as of yet.

- Abioseh recommended that Eustace write a letter to Carrol's Dean asking for the technological and administrative support that are essential for the production of the Annuals. Folabo added that Carrol's institution should inform us of its decision about providing its necessary resources before we make a final decision on the editorship.
- Mark suggested asking the previous Series Editor to get in touch with Carrol to fill him in on his own experiences.
- Tony argued the future need to put information about the necessary institutional support in the *Handbook* where the duties of the Annuals Editor are described.

These suggestions were agreed to.

3. *Newsletter*: JoAnne Cornwell

JoAnne distributed the spring, 2007, vol. 3, no.1 issue of the *Newsletter*. Rather than relying on members to send her information they would like printed, she is gathering material at this Conference.

She needs a way to mail the *Newsletter* to those not attending the annual Conference.

Discussion:

- Folabo proposed to eliminate expense by sending the *Newsletter* to members as a PDF file. More discussion followed, after which it was decided that both a printed and an electronic version were needed.

Folabo moved that the Headquarters Director be responsible for producing an electronic copy of the *Newsletter* and bring hard copies to the ALA and ASA conferences. The motion passed.

- Eustace raised the issue of how many times a year the *Newsletter* should appear. He said one needs to come out following the annual Conference, others in the summer, fall, and winter.

JoAnne said she would try to produce four issues a year but expects three is a more realistic goal.

F. Teaching and Research: Ngwarsungu Chiwengo

Postponed.

G. Publicity and Media Relations: Fahamisha Patricia Brown

- Fahamisha announced that the Committee has nothing to report.

H. Constitutional Reform: Eustace Palmer/ Debra Boyd/ Thelma Pinto

- Eustace distributed the Committee's proposed constitutional amendment concerning succession of EC members.

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 even 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.

After lengthy discussion, the amendment was moved and passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 a.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2007

The meeting began at 7:21 a.m.

Present: Tomi Adeaga (for Becky Clarke), Folabo Ajayi-Soyinka, Debra Boyd, Fahamisha Patricia Brown, Ngwarsungu Chiwengo, JoAnne Cornwell, Amy Elder, Tony Hurly, Anthonia Kalu, Keiko Kusunose, Mark Lilleleht, Soraya Mekerta, Eustace Palmer (President), Thelma Pinto, Abioseh Porter, Richard Priebe, Emmanuel Yewah

10. Left-Over Business from Thursday, March 15th:

A. Report of the Teaching and Research Committee: Ngwarsungu Chiwengo

- Chiwengo announced that the Committee planned two panels for the 2007 Conference: “Teaching African Literature with Post-colonial Theory” and “Audience, Text, Translation and the Teaching of African Literature.” Unfortunately, the second had to be canceled because of family emergencies; participants were placed on other panels.
- The Committee will contact publishers requesting reprints of African Literature texts that have gone out of print.
- McGraw Hill will be queried about the possibility of publishing an anthology of African Literature geared to the primary and secondary levels, with a Companion to it to be published on the ALA Website.
- The Committee recommends that *JALA* publish articles on pedagogy in each issue, plus reviews of texts on pedagogy.
- It wishes to produce an African writers series of texts that focuses on lesser-known authors.
- The Committee will identify possible sources for a grant proposal to support seminars on the teaching of African literature and cinema.
- Future conference conveners should provide the names of invited writers, so they may be interviewed for the ALA and Teaching and Research archives for members’ use; conveners should allocate program times for such sessions and a room in which to conduct the interviews.
- The Committee is looking into applying for an NEH Grant.
- To extend ALA official links with Africa, it recommends the establishment of an ALA African Conference Grant to support regional mini-meetings in Africa and a joint meeting when we have regular ALA Conferences on the continent. A voluntary \$20 donation to this grant to support this cause should be placed as an option on the dues form.

Discussion:

- It was pointed out that only the ALA Executive may sign off on grant applications.
- The Committee was advised to seriously consider the implications of establishing a publishing company.
- It was agreed that because of the complications of some of the Committee’s proposals, it should continue explore them and present the details to the EC at our next meeting at the 2008 Conference.

B. Richard Priebe offered the following recommendations:

1. Taking into account inflationary pressures, paid Life Memberships should be discontinued. Current Life Memberships should be grandfathered.
2. Paid members in good standing for twenty or more years will automatically become Life Members at retirement and should be encouraged to pay what they can afford.
3. Money drawn from the Endowment, for whatever purpose, should not, in any given year, exceed the profits from dividends and capital gains of the preceding two calendar years. Any exception to this requirement should be made only through written ballot approval of two-thirds of the paid membership at an annual meeting or by mail or electronic ballot.

Discussion:

- Such a change would require written ballot approval of two-thirds of the paid membership present at the annual Business Meeting or voting by mail or electronically.

11. Committee Reports, Continued

I. Employment: Huma Ibrahim

Huma was not present but sent a report to Eustace.

- Huma recommends the development of an archive of stories and statistics shared by our colleagues about various kinds of discriminations they've faced in the academy due to:
 1. what they teach
 2. whom they are, particularly where they are from
 3. gender bias
 She would like to hear how all the above, as well as hiring and firing events, were negotiated.
- The ALA should set up a panel of advocates who are supportive of those with employment problems and who have contacts and suggestions.
- There should be information regularly in the *Newsletter* to provide advocacy for job searches as well as for tenure battles.
- Every year at the ALA Conference, there should be a roundtable or panel discussing some aspect of employment in the field.
- Committee Members' additional suggestions: a survey on employment issues should be sent to the ALA membership; the ALA seems far less interested in political issues than at earlier times, but discussions of US actions in Iraq and Lebanon is appropriate for the organization; therefore, we need a roundtable on the impact of US anti-terrorism/anti-immigrant policies on visas for students, writers, and scholars of African literature

and some of the accompanying xenophobic responses of students to representations of “the other” in the texts we teach.

J. Heritage Project: Debra Boyd

- Debra commented that she has run into difficulties securing materials for the visual component of the project because of members’ issues with artistic property rights.
- Her goal is to have a written history in time for the organization’s 35th anniversary meeting.
- She requested JoAnne to supply her with a copy of the inventory of the Headquarter’s Archives. JoAnne replied that she has an inventory, but it contains only photos from the Guadalupe Conference and old *Bulletins*, letters, and e-mail messages.

Discussion:

- Anthonia recommended Debra place an announcement of the Heritage Project in the 2008 Conference Program, asking members to submit materials for the project.

12. Caucus Reports:

A. WOCALA: Anthonia Kalu

- At its Business Meeting, the membership elected Helen Chukwuma as the new Vice-Chair and Catherine Kroll as the new Secretary.
- The 2007 WOCALA Luncheon was a great success and completely sold-out.
- Anthonia commented on WOCALA’s visibility concerns that were discussed at the Business Meeting. It was decided to request the Conveners of the annual conferences that the WOCALA Business Meeting be announced in the body of the Program along with the panels listed for that date and time. Also, the *Newsletter* and the ALA Website should publish information about the Caucus.

Discussion:

- Eustace pointed out that the Chairs of each Caucus have a direct line to the conference conveners through the ALA Vice-President and should be proactive and meet with her. He recommended that the current Webmaster get in touch with each Caucus to see what information each wants publicized. Abioseh said it would be done.

Abioseh thanked all those who brought graduate students to the Conference, and Debra suggested we include undergraduates as well.

B. Graduate Student: Mark Lilleleht

Postponed.

C. TRACALA: Wangui wa Goro

Wangui was not present. The report is postponed.

D. Francophone: Anne Carlson

- Anne reported that the Caucus held its first Francophone Luncheon at the 2007 Conference. The purpose of the Luncheon, besides collegiality, was to publicize the work of lesser-known Francophone writers, and their speaker was Côte d'Ivoire popular novelist, Regina Yaou. The Caucus intends this Luncheon to be a continuing tradition.

13. Reports on Present and Upcoming ALA Conferences**A. 2007: Janice Spleth**

Postponed.

B. 2008: Igolima Amachree and Abdul-Rasheed Na'Allah

- Rasheed was not present; the report was presented by Igolima, who distributed a detailed handout about the Conference
- Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL will host the Conference from March 18-23, 2008.
- Sefi Atta will be the Keynote Speaker; many other African writers and scholars have been invited.
- She promised updates to the EC as invitations are responded to and plans are finalized.

Discussion:

- Since many questions were raised about transportation to Macomb, IL, the Conveners were requested to send out detailed travel information.
- More discussion ensued about making the date for the paper proposal earlier than December; it was decided to do so.

C. 2009: Debra Boyd/Eustace Palmer

- Debra and Eustace said that there is no bid at this time for 2009, but that Lokangaka Losembe is exploring the possibility of the University of Vermont hosting the Conference.

D. 2010: Thelma Pinto and George Joseph

- Thelma and George will explore the possibility of holding the 2010 Conference at the University of Cape Town, the University of the Western Cape, or the University of Durban.

Discussion:

- Tony suggested putting out a call for future locales and Conveners at the upcoming ALA Business Meeting.
- A request was made to the all Conveners to avoid placing EC members on 8:00 panels, since this time slot conflicts with regular EC Meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Saturday, March 17, 2007

The meeting began at 7:20 a.m.

Present: Tomi Adeaga (for Becky Clarke), Folabo Ajayi-Soyinka, Debra Boyd, Fahamisha Patricia Brown, Ngwarsungu Chiwengo, Amy Elder, Tony Hurley, George Joseph, Anthonia Kalu, Keiko Kusunose, Mark Lilleleht, Soraya Mekerta, Eustace Palmer (President), Thelma Pinto, Abioseh Porter, Emmanuel Yewah

14. Continuation of Leftover Business from 3/16

There is none.

15. Report on Elections: Chiwengo

Postponed.

16. ALA Panels at ASA: Chiwengo

Postponed.

17. Financial State of ALA (Revenue Enhancement Committee)

Postponed until the non-filing, tax-free status of the organization is determined.

18. Agenda for the Annual Business Meeting

Discussion:

- Debra proposed that the role of the Deputy Vice-President be rewritten to say that the DV-P may continue as Acting Vice-President and even Acting President in the case of necessity. This substitution would continue as long as required by the circumstances.
- Folabo moved Debra's wording above.
The motion passed.

19. Other Business

A. Report of the Finance Committee: Folabo

- The Committee wishes to encourage the Membership Committee to work for substantial growth in ALA membership.
- We should find a way to encourage African scholars on the continent to publish in *JALA*
- Folabo stated that no decision was made on whether to add the Annuals' cost to membership dues or to place them as part of the Conference registration fee because the Committee needs to hear from Chicole Kassahun first about how much the Annuals actually cost to produce.
- Concerning Richard Priebe's recommendations:
 1. The Committee decided that the ALA Life Membership should not be eliminated but, rather, increased to reflect inflation.
 2. There should be some sort of recognition for members with 20-year consecutive membership or with 25 years of total membership.
 3. There should be a reserve fund for the ALA that is comprised of three years operating expenses; after determining the amount that accumulates in this fund, the ALA will have an understanding of the amount of money under which its funding should not fall.

Discussion:

- It was agreed that we need information from Chicole before we can decide on adding the cost of the Annuals to the membership dues.
- There was a suggestion to amend point #1 to make the cost of a Life Membership \$1,500 to be paid over five years, with an every five-year review of this amount. Folabo agreed.
- As an amendment to #3, it was proposed that Emeritus members (not called "Retirees") be give something other than financial recognition or Life Membership. The Awards Committee will discuss how these members should be recognized. Folabo acceded to this decision.

B. Report of the 2007 Conference Convener: Janice Spleth

- The 2007 Conference received very generous funding from the University of West Virginia and the West Virginia Humanities Council.
- There were 240 participants listed in the Program and 220 participants actually attended.
- There were more attendees from Africa, Canada, and Asia than at previous U.S. ALA Conferences. Because of their desire to attend, visa issues became more difficult and the entire question of the problem of obtaining visas for African literature scholars from other countries. Another point in this regard, Janice recommended the ALA help organize regional groups to guarantee representation from all parts of Africa.
- Ghanaian visitors asked for handouts for the 2008 Conference; Janice will contact the Conveners and, if possible, make copies of their information to provide to the participants from Africa.

C. Issues Committee: Mark Lilleleht, continued

- Mark reported that the Committee is collecting information about possible trouble spots.
- It intends to contact other groups working on such political and social issues to determine if there is a way we can be more effective in our response.
- He requested Eustace to contact Heinemann to get their version of the Ayi Kwei Armah controversy.
- The EC should ask Nawal el Saadawi what we could do to be of the most help to her. We will continue speaking with individual members about providing a temporary place for her for a limited period of time.

D. Election Results: Chiwengo

- Vice-President: Maureen Eke
- Deputy Vice-President: Mimi Mortimer
- New EC Members: Oty Agbajoh-Laoye
Losambe Lokangaka
Anne Carlson

Treasurer Tony Hurley was re-elected by acclamation; since the Secretary's position was not on the ballot, Amy Elder will continue for one more year and then be placed on the ballot for the remainder of the two-year term.

E. TRACALA: Abioseh

- There were no panels this year.

- A membership drive is planned.
- The official launching of the Caucus and election of officers will be held at the 2008 Conference.

F. Travel Awards: Anthonia, continued

- Anthonia moved that the award of \$1,000 be split among three applicants henceforth.

The motion passed.

G. Abioseh read the list of those to be memorialized at the ALA Business Meeting:

Those who passed in 2006

- *Prof Hansel Ndumbe Eyoh
- *Edward Rice, spouse of Micheline Rice-Maximin
- *Gay Wilentz
- *Taddesse Adera
- *Wanjiru Kihoro (Kenyan Theater Performer and Human Rights Activist)
- *Naguib Mahfouz
- *Mazisi Kunene
- *Tsegaye Gabre-Medhin, acclaimed Ethiopian playwright
- *Octavia Butler
- *Ali Farka Touré
- *Gordon Parks (photographer)
- *Ellen Kuzwayo, *Call me Woman*
- *Drs. Bate Besong and Hilarious Ambe
- *Eritrean poet and playwright Fessehaye "Joshua" Yohannes, who was a journalist with the now-banned weekly, *Setit*, died in detention on 11 January 2007

Chiwengo reported that ALA will have two panels at the 2007 ASA, both on cinema.

Eustace thanked the members of the EC whose terms are expiring: Chiwengo, Emmanuel, Folabo, and Soraya

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 am.

Sunday, March 18, 2007

The meeting began at 7:15 am.

Present: Oty Agbayoh-Laoye, Ada Azodo, Fahamisha Patricia Brown, Anne Carlson, Maureen Eke, Amy Elder, Tony Hurley, George Joseph, Anthonia Kalu, Lokangaka Losambe, Mark Lilleleht, Mimi Mortimer, Eustace Palmer, Abioseh Porter, Thelma Pinto (President)

1. Ratification of the Agenda

The Agenda was ratified.

2. Ratification of any Unratified EC Minutes

There were none.

3. Remarks by the new President and Assignment of Tasks Resulting from the Annual Business Meeting Decisions

Thelma raised the question of membership fees.

Discussion: It was decided to refer this issue to the Finance and Awards Committee.

4. Review of Committee Chairs and Memberships

The Secretary will get in touch with all current Committee Chairs to determine if they are willing to continue and to ask them to verify their membership. She will send this information to the EC.

5. Review of 2007 Conference and Recommendations for 2008 Conveners

- Because of weather concerns, it was agreed to instruct the 2008 Conveners to change the Conference dates from March to April.
- The Vice-President will check with the Conveners to see if a student assistant can be employed to provide detailed travel information to the ALA membership well in advance of the Conference.
- The EC will request that a tentative Program be posted as early as possible to facilitate travel arrangements.
- The Vice-President will encourage the Conveners to contact previous conference organizers for advice; they should also acquaint themselves with the information about hosting conferences that is in the *ALA Handbook*.
- To avoid conflicts with regular EC meetings, EC members giving

papers should not be scheduled on 8:00 am panels.

- The Vice-President should introduce Caucus Chairs to the Conveners to facilitate the scheduling of their meetings and events.

6. Details for new Letterhead

- EC Members will send their contact information to the Secretary for transmission to ALA Headquarters.

7. Nominations for Next ALA Elections

- Vice-President:
Fahamisha Patricia Brown
Anthonia Kalu
Mimi Mortimer
Becky Clarke
- EC Members:
Adetayo Alabi
Gregory Thomas
Roberta Hatcher
Abdul-Rasheed Na'Allah
Tejwamolina [Is this name correct?]

A call for nominations will go out on the ALA Website.

8. Motion to Destroy the 2007 Election Ballots

The motion passed.

9. Other Business

- A letter from Lee Nichols was read in which he proposed the need for more comprehensive reporting on AIA conferences.

Discussion:

- Abioseh responded that he assigns three people to cover different aspects of each ALA but doesn't intend to tell them what to report. Their commentaries are published on the ALA Website.
- A question arose about a new member who intends to report on the ALA conferences to Voice of America. Mark will contact him to determine what his plans are.

- The Secretary will request that JoAnne forward copies of the old *Handbook* to new EC members until the revised version is available to everyone.
- Anthonia recommended that the President write a letter to the institutions of new EC Members to inform them about their election and to request needed institutional support. Thelma agreed.
- There is an urgent need to find a new Headquarters for the ALA. The President was asked to contact JoAnne for detailed information about the requirements for the job of Headquarters Director, including space requirements, student assistance, etc.
- Dennis Brutus entered and requested that the ALA sign the statement of support for Nawal el Saadawi and informing the EC that he has a message of agreement from a colleague at the University of Toronto to host the 2009 Conference.

Discussion:

- The EC has not received a copy of the statement supporting el Saadawi.
- We will need a complete proposal from Dennis' colleague, following the guidelines in the *ALA Handbook*.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,
March 24, 2007
Amy Elder, Secretary
University of Cincinnati

