

**MINUTES OF THE ALA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS  
AFRICAN LITERATURE ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE  
MACOMB, ILLINOIS, APRIL 22-27, 2008**

**Wednesday, April 23, 2008**

The meeting began at 7:14 a.m.

**Present:** Niyi Afolabi, Oty Agbayoh-Laoye, Folabo Ajayi, Ada U. Azodo, Nana Ayebia Clarke, Amy Elder, Maureen N. Eke, Tony Hurley, Anthonia Kalu, Keiko Kusonose, Mark L. Lilleht, Lokangaka Losambe, Eustace Palmer, Thelma Pinto, President.

**1. Ratification of the Agenda:**

The Agenda was ratified.

**2. President's Opening Remarks:**

Thelma greeted the EC, welcomed it to the 34<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ALA, and thanked all for their help this past year. She said that the main difference between this year's Conference and others is the presence of undergraduate presenters on panels.

**3. Ratification of the EC Minutes from meetings at the ASA in NYC, November, 2007:**

The 2007 EC/ASA Minutes were approved.

**4. Matters arising from the EC/ASA 2007 Minutes:**

- A. The EC agreed to accept the offer from William & Smith College to house the ALA Headquarters. This recommendation will be offered at the ALA Business Meeting for a vote.
- B. It was agreed that the Past President be made a member of the Awards Committee.
- C. Discussion of future plans for ALA meetings at ASA, a necessary conversation due to the treatment this year of affiliate organizations during the ASA Conference in NYC.
  - One idea is that the EC no longer meet at the ASA but, instead, at Headquarters. Abioseh suggested that before we take this action, we ask the President to draft a letter to the ASA EC expressing our views of being excluded from presentation of panels at the 2008 ASA.
  - Thelma suggested, and it was agreed to, that an ALA Committee consisting of the Past and present Presidents, and the Heads of the Media/Publicity and Awards Committees be formed as a liaison to the ASA EC to discuss these issues. Once this meeting takes

place, we could decide whether to substitute a meeting at ALA Headquarters for one at ASA.

- Motion: The fall ALA EC meetings should be held for one day at some location outside the ASA location as soon as such a meeting is practically possible, but not conflicting with the ASA meeting.

The Motion passed unanimously.

## 5. EC Officers' Reports:

### A. Treasurer's Report: Tony Hurley; Auditors' Reports: George Joseph and Ben Lindfors

- Tony passed around copies of the "ALA Combined Financial Statement, February 28, 2007 – March 31, 2008" and pointed out its salient features. In summary, ALA revenues for this period amounted to \$54,209.71; expenditures to \$29, 526.84; assets as of March 31, 2008 (Wachovia checking, account activity not yet cleared, Wachovia Money Market, and PAX World Funds Balance): \$97,482.79. Total assets amounted to \$127,165.66. Membership numbers, including those received after March 31, 2007: 207: 365; 208:261; Lifetime: 23; Institutional 2007: 30; Institutional 2008: 47. The full "Financial Statement" itemizes these categories and provides explanations.
- Tony informed the ALA that the IRS contacted us to file a tax return; his accountant will take care of this issue; he reminded us that we need to identify new Auditors as soon as possible; because of budget cuts at SUNY Stonybrook, all of his institutional support will be eliminated after this school year; therefore, he is asking the EC to provide \$1,000 to support the remaining Treasurer's expenses for miscellaneous office costs and student intern help; Tony also reminded us that his term is over at the end of 2010, so the EC needs to be considering nominees for the position.

#### Discussion:

- The ALA voted to grant Tony a one-time amount of \$1,000 to cover the rest of his Treasurer's expenses.
- George Joseph and Ben Lindfors were nominated to be new Auditors; Joseph McLaren would be backup.

The Motion passed.

- Eustace raised a question about the purpose of the PAX World Fund account; Fahamisha explained that the account was established to maintain our status as a non-profit organization; Tony concurred and reminded us that the IRS requires ALA to file as a non-profit, which is no problem as long as we do not exceed a profit of \$25,000.
- Folabo volunteered to find out why the 2006 Fonlon Nichols Award check to Femi Osofisan has not been cashed.

The EC thanked Tony for his financial report.

- George announced that the Treasurer’s Report appears to be in good order. There are only two matters that the EC should consider:
  1. a more efficient method of collecting dues *before* the annual conference (with allowance made for members coming from Africa).
  2. an examination of the interest rate on funds held in the ALA’s bank account; those funds should be earning more.

The EC thanked George and Ben for their work as auditors.

**B. JALA Editor’s Report: Abioseh Porter**

- Abioseh requested that the Conference Convener guarantee that copies of *JALA* be included in the registration packet.
- *JALA* is on track; the early technical problems have been resolved.
- He asked for a volunteer to be the new Web Master for *JALA*

Discussion ensued.

- Mark expressed interest in making the ALA electronic presence more attractive but couldn’t help until the fall.
- Anthonia suggested forming an Electronic Committee to come up with a solution.
- Tony objected to paying any ALA member as the Web Master because doing so creates a “two-tier possible conflict of interest” among members.
- Fahamisha suggested the Web Master be made a member of the Publicity Committee.
- Eustace moved that the Publicity Committee be expanded to include Mark as the new *JALA* Web Master; the Motion passed.

The EC thanked Abioseh for his Report.

**6. Standing Committee Reports:**

**A. Finance: Folabo Ajayi-Soyinka**  
(Postponed)

**B. Issues: Mark Lilleht**  
Postponed; Mark invited all to attend the Issues Committee meeting on Thursday.

**C. Awards: Oty Agbajoh-Laoye**

- Oty thanked the EC for its prompt response to her questions concerning the awards.
- This year's Fonlon/Nichols Award winner is Chuwuemeka Ike of Nigeria; the Distinguished Member Award winner is Kofi Anyidoho; there was no Student Award this year. At the Awards Ceremony, we will recognize Kassahun Chicole for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Africa World Press.
- She expressed the need for early nominations for the Distinguished Member Award and that members understand the award was set up to honor African writers who are known as social activists.

#### **Discussion:**

- Fahamisha suggested the creation of an African prize to complement the Fonlon-Nichols Award. It was decided that the Awards Committee will discuss and decide on this possibility.
- Oty expressed the problem of creating appropriate times in the Conference schedule for our Awards Ceremony. She explained the difficulty she had attempting to secure such time by attempting to contact this year's Convener.

Tony responded that dealing with conference Conveners is solely the responsibility of the Past President, one of whose duties is to serve as liaison with conference hosts. There was agreement from the EC on this point.

Fahamisha recommended that the Past President also create a checklist for future Conveners of their necessary responsibilities.

- Maureen suggested that this year's letters sent to the Awardees should be saved to serve as templates for such letters in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

#### **Thursday, April 24, 2008**

The meeting began at 7:15 a.m.

**Present:** Niyi Afolabi, Oty Agbayoh-Laoye, Folabo Ajayi, Ada U. Azodo, Debra Boyd, Fahamisha P. Brown, Maureen N. Eke, Amy Elder, Tony Hurley, Anthonia Kalu, Keiko Kusunose, Mark Lilleleht, Lokangaka Losambe, Mimi Mortimer, Eustace Palmer, Abioseh Porter, Thelma Ravell-Pinto, President

### **7. Continuation of Leftover Business from April 23**

#### **A. Finance: Folabo Ajayi-Soyinka**

- Folabo reported on a letter from Kassahun saying that the ALA Annuals are not self-supporting and that he needs \$4,000 per issue

to publish them. The Finance Committee met and recommends instead a \$2,000 subsidy per issue, dependent on Kassahun's giving the ALA a breakdown of exact costs and sales figures. Another recommendation is that we add the Annual as an option on the membership form for a cost of \$30.

- The Committee also recommends an incremental rise in membership dues to be reviewed every five years:

0-\$20	\$20
\$20-\$45	\$50
\$45-\$75	\$75
\$75	\$100
Institutional	\$100

#### Discussion:

- Abioseh suggested adding \$5 to the registration fee for future conferences to provide an Annual for everyone who registers.
- Thelma commented that we should invite Kassahun to an upcoming EC meeting to speak with him in person.
- Eustace recommended we give Kassahun \$2,000 up front, then an additional \$2,000 once the Annual is published.
- Mimi reported that she has received only five papers from the Boulder Conference; therefore a solution to this situation needs to be reached.
- On a somewhat different topic, it was determined that there is no mechanism in place for distributing the funds contributed by Ada's students to support ALA conference attendance by undergraduates.
- Tony requested that the Finance Committee come up with a specific plan for distributing funds, including awards. It was agreed that the Committee needs to develop a standard form for our different Committees to use when requesting funding.
- Eustace asked about the state of the long-discussed Revenue Enhancement plan. He then moved that the ALA grant a subvention to Africa World Press for up to \$4,000 for publication costs of each Annual upon receipt of an itemized accounting.

The Motion passed.

- Eustace then moved to increase the ALA membership fee as suggested by the Finance Committee.

The Motion passed.

#### **B. Electronic Voting: Maureen**

- Maureen recommended that we move to electronic voting to reach more members and to cut costs.

Discussion: Debra suggested someone put together a package that guarantees our electronic voting would be secure. Eustace urged that Mark and Abioseh investigate this possibility and present their conclusions as an Agenda item at our fall meeting.

## 7. Continuation of Standing Committee Reports:

### D. Travel Grants: Anthonia Kalu

- Anthonia reported that the Committee's work for the year is finished; Tony has written checks for the Awardees. All three Awardees are present at the Macomb Conference and are presenting on the program.

The EC thanked Anthonia and the Awards Committee for their work.

### (Out of Place): Heritage Project: Debra Boyd

- Debra announced that she has created collages for sale of pictures from past ALA Conferences: Egypt (\$6); Morgantown (\$10). She requested a reimbursement of the \$200 production cost and said the ALA could recover these funds from the sales of the collages.

Discussion:

- Tony moved that the ALA purchase the photographic copy of the collages and provide them to the Conveners of future conferences for display.
- Debra commented that Donald Morales and Joseph McLaren have promised to provide video taken at past conferences for showing at next year's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference. A slide show at that conference would also be welcome. In addition, she is asking ALA founders to contribute to a history of the organization.
- Debra agreed that she would give a CD of the collages and a hard copy in exchange for the \$200 production costs.

The EC thanked Debra for her report and her work on the Heritage Project.

### E. Publications: Anthonia Kalu

- She reminded the EC that Janis Mayes is Co-Chair of this Committee.
- The Committee has nothing to report; she requested that it be reviewed at a future meeting.

The EC thanked Anthonia for her work and asked if she would be willing to be Chair of the Publications Committee. She said that she would.

**F. Teaching and Research: Ngwarsungu Chiwengo**

- Chiwengo was not present, and there was no report.

**G. Publicity and Media Relations: Fahamisha P. Brown**

- Fahamisha announced she will have a full report at the fall meeting.
- She proposed a packet for this year's Conference Conveners.
- The Committee will work with the Heritage Project for the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary meeting.
- Fahamisha regularly sends out information to scholarly journals and other appropriate sites.

Discussion:

- Anthonia raised the problem of this year's Program, which did not publicize the invited speakers properly.
- It was agreed that there exist other issues with the Program, as well, and with the way in which the Conference was run.

The EC thanked Fahamisha for her work and her report.

**H. Revenue Enhancement Committee: no presenter**

- Anthonia volunteered to chair this Committee and to write a grant proposal to help fund ALA projects. She was reminded to submit any such proposal to the EC for approval.
- Mark suggested a 'wish list' of funding for EC projects for future committee chairs.
- Anthonia wished to place support of African universities on this 'wish list.'

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

**Friday, April 25, 2008**

The meeting began at 7:15 a.m.

**Present:** Niyi Afolabi, Oty Agbayoh-Laoye, Folabo Ajayi, Irene D'Almeida, Ada Azodo, Fahamisha P. Brown, Anne Carlson, Nana Ayebia Clarke, JoAnne Cornwell, Maureen Eke, Amy Elder, Wangui wa Goro, Tony Hurley, George Joseph, Anthonia Kalu, Keiko Kusunose, Mark Lilleleht, Lokangaka Losambe, Eustace Palmer, Thelma Pinto, President, Abioseh Porter, Pam Smith,

Thelma recognized Abioseh, Ada, and Eustace, all of whom published books this past year.

**9. Leftover Business from Thursday, April 24**

No leftover business.

**10. Ad Hoc Committee Reports:**

**A. Employment: Huma Ibrahim**

Postponed.

**B. Heritage Project: Debra Boyd**

Already reported.

**11. Caucus Reports:**

**A. WOCALA: Ada Azodo**

- The Women's Caucus Luncheon was a huge success
- WOCALA has seen a significant increase in membership this year.

**B. Graduate Student: Laura Murphy**

Postponed.

**C. TRACALA: Wangui wa Goro and Pamela Smith**

- TRACALA was launched at a luncheon meeting at this 2008 ALA Conference. Daniel Kunene was honored as the 'father' of ALA's understanding of translation as a serious interest at its conferences.
- On the Conference Program, the caucus presented two panels, a roundtable, and a reading of *Things Fall Apart* in a number of different languages.
- TRACALA would like an expanded presence on the ALA website.
- The Caucus would like a special edition of *JALA*, an inaugural issue to publish papers presented by TRACALA at this Conference.

Discussion:

- Maureen raised the question of whether the special TRACALA edition of *JALA* would affect the ALA Annuals. This issue will have to be discussed further. It was recommended that the TRACALA papers be included in the Annuals, since all papers presented at conferences are, technically, ALA papers.

The EC thanked Wangui and Pamela for their report and for the successful launching of TRACALA.

**D. Francophone: Anne Carlson**

- The Francophone Caucus held a well-attended Luncheon. Alek Baylee Toumi was the Keynote Speaker, and a panel was organized on his work., however, the Francophone panels were not included in the Program.



- The Francophone Caucus coordinated with TRACALA to present a public reading of Toumi's work in French and English.

## 12. Present and Upcoming ALA Conferences:

### A. 2008: Igolima Amachree and Abdul-Rasheed Na'Allah: Conveners not present.

### B. 2009: Lokangaka Losambe:

- Lokangaka handed out flyers advertising the 2009 Conference at the University of Vermont, Burlington in 2009.
- He announced that the Conference is well-funded, with confirmed speakers; accommodations are at the Conference hotel, the Sheraton, five minutes from the airport.

The EC thanked Lokangaka for his report and expressed its anticipation of a successful 2009 Conference in Vermont.

### C. 2010: Irene D'Almeida

- Irene proposed the University of Arizona, Tucson as the site for the 2010 ALA Conference, with a tentative date of April 7-11, 2010; she presented a letter to the EC providing details about Tucson as an appropriate locale; she also offered a letter of support from Chuck Tatum, Dean of the College of Humanities.
- The theme of the Conference will be "Eco-Imagination: Africa and Diasporan Literature and Sustainability."
- She is working on a financial commitment, which she believes will be forthcoming.

The EC thanked Irene for her presentation and her continuing work to secure the 2010 Conference at the University of Arizona.

### C. 2011:

- Eustace announced that there has been interest expressed in holding the 2011 Conference by the following universities: the University of Mississippi, Ohio University, the University of South Africa, and the University of Toronto.

### E 2012:

- Oty announced that she and Abeya will be working this summer to hold an ALA conference in Nigeria, possibly in 2012

Discussion:

- Maureen updated us on the possibility of a conference at the University of Durban in South Africa. She reported that South Africa is not yet ready; there is no institutional support at this time.

She further explained that many of the formerly segregated institutions in Durban have recently merged, and they are preoccupied with working out problems of this transition.

- She said that the EC is also conferring with the University of Cape Town.

### 13. Leftover Business:

#### A. Graduate Student Caucus: Laura Murphy

- Laura reported that the Caucus presented two panels at this Conference and held its Business Meeting today.
- Tony has provided her with a list of paid-up ALA graduate student members, and she has created a list-serve from the list.
- She is working with the Awards Committee to present a graduate student paper prize; the winning paper will be published in *JALA*.

The EC thanked Laura for her report and congratulated her for successfully defending her dissertation and acquiring a teaching position at Ithaca College.

#### B. Headquarters Report: JoAnne Cornwell

- JoAnne distributed copies of the most recent *ALA Handbook*.
- She suggested that it would be good to publish the *Newsletter* on the web, rather than absorb the expense necessary to produce hard copies. She would like feedback on this possibility.
- She informed the EC that, as she had mentioned earlier, she would like to phase out of her position as Headquarters Director; her institutional support is drying up.

Discussion:

- George Joseph informed the EC that William & Hobart College has bid for the ALA Headquarters. Joanne will confer with Thelma and George about the details.

The EC thanked JoAnne for her report and work as Headquarters Director.

#### C. Employment: Huma Ibrahim

- Huma reported that for the last three years, the Committee has held panels at the annual ALA Conferences.
- She has not been able to acquire materials for the projected archives.
- She wishes to step down as Chair, since she is located outside the U.S.

The EC thanked Huma for her report and for chairing the Employment Committee

**13. Leftover Business: Report on the 2008 Macomb Conference**

- Fran Hairtine, 2008 Conference Coordinator, came to the meeting to explain some of the discrepancies in the Conference Program. She requested that the EC let the Conference planners know how they wish the two dinners to go. Also, there will be a luncheon in honor of Chinua Achebe that was not publicized; tickets are being printed now. She will publicize these changes.

Discussion:

- Abioseh requested audio equipment for our business meeting on Saturday.
- The EC thanked Fran for her information and help.

**14. Other Business**

- Anthonia proposed doubling the \$500 travel awards to \$1,000, since the awardees are coming from Africa. Fahamisha made Anthonia's recommendation into a Motion and proposed we give the awards regularly at the Business Meeting. The Motion passed.
- Mark read a draft of a proposed policy for making the ALA mailing list available for purchase for at least \$100. During discussion, it was decided that the ALA President will determine how much to charge in each instance, and members will have the opportunity to opt out of having their names on the list. Fahamisha moved that we approve Mark's proposed policy statement, with the EC's revisions. The Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 a.m.

**Saturday, April 26, 2008**

The meeting began at 7:15.

**Present:** Oty Agbayoh-Laoye, Folabo Ajayi, Ada U. Azodo, Fahamisha Patricia Brown, Anne Carlson, Kassahun Checole, Nana Ayebia Clarke, Carroll Coates, Maureen N. Eke, Amy Elder, Tony Hurley, George Joseph, Anthonia Kalu, Keiko Kusunose, Mark Lilleleht, Lokangaka Losambe, Jean Ouedraogo, Eustace Palmer, Thelma Pinto, President, Abioseh Porter.

**15. ALA Panels at ASA: Maureen Eke**

- Maureen contacted the ASA EC to ask if the ALA is allowed to sponsor panels, if so, how many, etc., but has received no response, except the standard information sent to every ASA member. Consequently, she feels we are still bound by the membership requirements of 10% ALA members being ASA members, as well, to sponsor panels.
- Our current affiliate status does not accord us any particular privileges. If we submit panels, they must be vetted individually; we cannot simply vet

them ourselves and expect them to be accepted automatically because we have approved them.

Discussion:

- The EC decided to designate one member to coordinate our panels and submit them despite this problem of ASA vetting them. Having papers rejected when one must pay to join the ASA before discovering this fact and making travel and hotel arrangements early are a huge financial issues for members. This is a moot point for the upcoming ASA. We will, however, have this conversation again at that conference's EC meeting.

**16. Report on Election Results: Maureen Eke**

- Vice President: Folabo Ajayi Soyinka  
Deputy Vice President: Anthonia Kalu  
EC Members: Greg Thomas  
Mohamed Kamara  
Adeleke Adeeko

**17. Agenda for the Annual Business Meeting:**

To be determined later. There will be some Resolutions from the floor.

**18. List of those who have passed since the last ALA Conference, to be read at the Business Meeting: Abioseh Porter**

- Abioseh read off his list and asked to be notified of others; he also asked for volunteers to offer eulogies at the Business Meeting.

**19. Leftover Business:**

**A. Auditors' Report: George Joseph and Ben Lindfors**

- In general, the ALA books look fine.
- It needs to be reinforced, however, that individuals who present papers must be ALA members.
- Also, the PAX fund is accruing low interest.

Discussion:

- Tony replied that some members pay very late and that membership surges after the annual conference.
- Lokangaka suggested that people be reminded to pay their membership at the Conference registration desk, before they pick up their Conference packets.
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**B. Report of the 2008 Convener cont.: Rasheed d'Allah**

- Rasheed reported that no exact figure for Conference attendance is available yet, but he estimates approximately 350 people have been here.
- Conference housing and food service have gone relatively smoothly, but he acknowledged shuttle problems that had not been anticipated and that

have resulted in inconvenience for participants and unexpected expense for the organizers.

- The University is very grateful for the Conference and feels that its success will enhance its globalization efforts. For example, a liaison has been signed with the University of Ghana.

Discussion:

- Maureen asked that Rasheed supply the EC with an eventual, detailed report of 1) attendance numbers; 2) names of invited speakers; 3) payment arrangements for invited speakers.
- Rasheed replied that because the organizers began so early, most guest speakers were informed early about passport problems, etc. He is hoping that the rest of the speaker payment checks will be sent in a few days; the University Provost has cooperated in the signing of contracts with speaker.
- Eustace asked if all the expected financial commitments from the University have been honored.
- Rasheed answered that the main sponsors have been the President and the former Provost, although small amounts have been obtained from other universities. So far, there have not been problems with funding, and he does not think his expenditures will exceed income. The College has promised to pick up any unfulfilled debts. He has all commitments in writing.
- Oty asked about the particular financial commitment to a guest from Paris who has complained about not receiving funding.
- Rasheed remarked that he has given this speaker the promised accommodation, food, and travel. He will look into giving her a small stipend as well. This individual was invited to interact with other colleagues, not to give particular talks. Others in this position who have not been paid already will have checks mailed to them. He suggested that the ALA should have a policy not to pay regular members to come to conferences.
- It was explained that ALA never pays members to appear on panels.
- Folabo stated that it is the responsibility of the Convener to determine the honoraria for everyone invited to a conference.
- Eustace asked if there were problems with the website, since it was extremely hard to access.
- Rasheed commented that the only problem of which he was aware was the size of the font.
- Maureen ascertained that Rasheed will serve as Editor of the 2008 Annual and informed him that a volunteer would be called for from the floor at the Business Meeting to assist him.
- The motion was made that the EC thank and congratulate Rasheed for his work on the Conference. The motion passed.

### **C. Future Conferences, cont.: Harry Garuba**

- He reported on the possibility of the University of Cape Town, South Africa hosting a conference in 2012. He will inform the Vice President of the University of Cape town that the ALA EC is encouraging.
- He was informed that before the EC can accept the bid, we will need to see a specific commitment in writing. Also, he was advised to consider a figure in the region of \$75,000 for a conference cost.
- The EC thanked him for his proposed bid.

**D. Annuals:** Carroll Coates, Annuals Editor:

- reported that he has received no information from the past Editor. He suggested that changing to electronic files plus one hard copy of authors' manuscripts would mean that there would be no need for six copies, as before. He will report on the benefit of this change to the Business Meeting.

**20. Other Business:**

**A. Discussion with Kassahun Chicole**

- Folabo, on behalf of the Finance Committee, informed Kassahun of the EC decision to ask for an itemized cost of production of each Annual.
- Kassahun agreed to provide such an inventory and thanked the EC for its support. He reminded the EC that it made a commitment that we haven't been fulfilling to send copies of the Annuals to African libraries. He had agreed to give us a 50% discount, and the ALA would pay for shipping. This agreement was to begin with Volume 11 and continue.

Discussion:

- Maureen suggested, and it was agreed, that the EC have regular meetings with Kassahun at each ALA in order to obtain a progress report. This meeting will be a regular Agenda item.

**B. Awards**

- It was agreed that all awards should be passed through the Awards Committee.
- It is also important that the awardees be kept confidential. In this regard, it should be kept in mind that everything at an ALA conference is sponsored by the organization, not the conveners or different caucuses; therefore, it is the EC and members who will make essential decisions.

**C. Ayebia Press**

- Becky Clarke thanked the EC for its continuing support of Abeya Press.

**D. Life Memberships**

- A letter from Steven Arnold, with a proposal about changes to Life Memberships, to be presented at the Business Meeting for discussion and a vote was passed around to the EC. The primary point of the proposal was to honor retirees with Life Memberships in the ALA.

## Discussion:

- Abioseh suggested a modification to the letter that would require a retiree who so wished to indicate in writing a desire to remain an ALA member in good standing but an inability to pay the dues for his/her salary range. This person, then, would automatically become an Emeritus Member.
- Maureen noted that there is a situation now where young faculty are threatened with job insecurity and might have difficulty joining organizations.
- Ben Lindfors suggested forming an Emeritus group to aid, through its experience, in guiding the EC; he said that this group could hold workshops and panels about faculty issues at ALA conferences, specifically, covering two employment areas: 1) graduating Ph.Ds; 2) untenured African literature faculty.
- The EC agreed to this modification. It was proposed that both Stephen Arnold's proposal and the amendment be presented at the Business Meeting.
- The Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

**Sunday, April 27, 2008**

The meeting began at 7:25 a.m.

**Present:** Folabo Ajayi, Ada U. Azodo, Anne Carlson, Maureen Eke, President, Amy Elder, George Joseph, Thelma Pinto.

**21. Ratification of the Agenda:**

Agenda ratified.

**22. Ratification of any Unratified EC Minutes**

No Minutes to ratify.

**23. Remarks by the New President: Maureen Eke**

- Maureen welcomed Folabo as the new Vice President.
- Her immediate plan is to set up a data base of research resources for the ALA. This accomplishment would be especially helpful for our overseas colleagues, as she discovered from personal experience.

Discussion:

- Folabo suggested that we investigate a “sister library” exchange.
- Maureen will expand on this idea and send a proposal out to the EC for suggestions.

**24. Assignment of Tasks Resulting from the Annual Business Meeting Decisions**

- Issues Committee proposal to investigate civil rights issues around the Macomb region: The Committee needs to investigate these issues now that the Conference is completed.

**25. Review of Committee Chairs:**

- Issues: Mark Lilleleht  
Finance: Folabo  
Awards: Oty  
Travel Grants: Ada  
Publications: Anthonia  
Teaching and Research: Chiwengo  
Media Relations: Fahamisha  
Constitution and Policy: the Vice President (Folabo)
- Maureen will write to the Chairs to ask them to identify members.
- We may have to reactivate the Revenue Enhancement Committee when we get to the point of grant writing to initiate the electronic data base of resources.
- The EC agreed that, from here on, the Committee Chairs will rotate every two years.
- The following appointments as Members of Standing Committees were made:  
Adeleke: Finance Committee  
Kamara: Travel Grants  
Greg: Publicity  
Eustace: Publications
- Discussion arose about Debra selling the pictures from which she makes her collages of ALA Conferences. We will discuss this issue further at the EC meeting at the ASA.

**26. Review of the 2008 Conference and Recommendations for the one in 2009**

- The Past President is the liaison with conference conveners and should be informed of any problems that seem to be occurring.
- Coordination of activities: EC members’ panels should not be scheduled at the same time as the daily EC meetings; Business Meetings, also, should not be scheduled at the same time as panels; conveners should be careful not to call all hotels booked for attendees “conference hotels”; the readings of invited writers should not be placed in competition with each other.
- The Publicity Committee should look at past conference programs in order to create a template to send to future conveners.



- The EC wishes to review a draft program early to check on the times and dates of major ALA events.
- The long standing rule that members should be a Chair of only one panel and a member of only one panel must be upheld; so must the requirement that caucuses can have only two panels.

**27. New Business:**

- **Nominations for next ALA Elections:**

- **Positions on the EC (4 seats)**

Michele Vialet

Moradewun Adejunmobi

Tomi Adeaga

Jane Bryce

Aaron Eastly

Cilas Kemedjio

Renée Larrier

Vincent Odamtten

- **Treasurer**

Fahamisha Patricia Brown

- **Secretary**

Arlene (Amy) Elder

- **Vice President**

Ngwarsungu Chiwengo

Mimi Mortimer

Anthonia Kalu

- Beginning in 2009, the Awards Committee will be permanently chaired by the Deputy Vice President.

The meeting adjourned at 9:56 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Amy Elder  
University of Cincinnati