**AHS Mid-Year Board Meeting**

**June 6-8 2012, Evanston, Illinois**

Present: Deborah Burris-Kitchen, Dennis Kalob, Alan Spector, David Embrick, Chuck Koeber, Stephen Adair, Saher Selod, Jason Smith,

Board actions:

**The Board ratified the election results.** 37 votes were cast. Stephen Adair was elected as President of AHS for 2014 (will become President Elect at the close of the 2013 meeting). Adair received 36 votes. . Ray Mueller and Jeff Torlina were elected to the nominating committee (subject to Torlina renewing his membership for 2012). Mueller received 24 votes and Torlina received 25. The changes to the AHS constitution were accepted (35 voted to accept with 2 abstentions).

**The status of the Lindenfeld award was reviewed**. Currently there are 4 submissions for the award. David will organize the presentation of a plaque for the winner. The Board agreed to provide $250 for winners of the award to attend the conference. Rick Eckstein should send an announcement of the award to Kathryn Lindenfeld.

**Projectors.**  The Board decided to purchase two digital projectors for use at the annual meeting.

**Registration Fee.**  The Board decided that the President and the Program Chair would not be expected to pay registration fees for the annual meeting. The waving of the fee is viewed as partial compensation for the work in putting together the annual meeting as well as the ongoing out-of –pocket expenses that are incurred in preparing for the meeting.

**Date to switch membership forms**. The Board decided that on September 1 each year, the membership form available on-line will switch to the new year, i.e. on 9/1/12 the membership form will switch from 2012 to 2013.

**Board discussion items**

**AHS will need a new secretary.** With Stephen Adair becoming President-Elect at the end of this three-year term in 2014, a new secretary will need to be named by the close of the 2012. The Board gave some consideration to Rebecca Hensley and Kathleen Fitzgerald as possible people to recruit into the position. Alan agreed to see if Rebecca would be interested.

**Update on finances.** Chuck reported that currently AHS has about $54,000 in available funds, which is about the same as last year. The Board briefly discussed the dues structure, and decided not to recommend any changes at the present time.

**The status of Humanity and Society was reviewed.** Overall, the Board is pleased with the transition to Sage and the work of the editors, Janine Schipper and Shawn Bingham. Kathleen Fitzgerald is the new book review editor. The Board reviewed favorably the possibility of having podcasts with authors. Janine needs to resolve storage of back copies of the journal. David agreed to review possibilities for the storage and the volume of space needed. Some concern was expressed about a decline in the number of submissions. Alan suggested using an e-mail list of members for the President to encourage submissions.

**Update on AHS webpage.**  In general, the Board viewed the new webpage favorably. David agreed to assist in editing and providing content for the webpage. After some discussion, the Board agreed to pursue receiving credit-card payments through Bank of America. Having a national bank (as opposed to a local bank) was viewed as a key advantage for AHS that has shifting officers. The Board requested that the website not continue to offer an open forum to which non-members could post. Terms and conditions of web payments will need to be established for credit-card payments. The Board agreed that refunds would not generally be offered for meeting registration or membership payments. Output lists from the forms for membership and meeting registration should go to Chuck, David and Erin.

**Annual Meeting discussion**.

1. Dennis reviewed a document that he had composed regarding planning for the annual meeting. The document includes a time-line, site selection, hotel selection, hotel negotiations, use of the local tourism bureau, and other items. The Board suggested that Dennis include this document in the AHS handbook.

2. Deborah reviewed planning for Nashville, including guest speakers, accommodations, local tourism information, association lunches and other items regarding meeting preparation. The Board discussed the need for continuing publicity for the meeting, especially because there was no spring issue of THS. Adair agreed to send a list of mailing labels to Kathleen Fitzgerald for a mailing to members.

3. Alan reviewed plans for 2013. The meeting will be held in Washington DC of in the immediate vicinity. He is still checking out hotels. He is considering a trip to Harper’s Ferry. The theme if Racism, Capitalism, Crisis and Resistance (RCCR).

4. Discussion of negotiating extra rooms and providing rooms for students or discounts for student rooms.

**Membership.**  In Ottis’s absence, Dennis led a discussion of membership issues. The current membership was about 120 and about 80 percent of members in 2011 renewed in 2012, which is a good rate. Over the last decade or so, membership has been as low as 70 and as many as 160. The Board discussed at some length the awkward timing of the annual meeting with the membership year, and the problem that most members do not renew their membership at the annual meeting. The Board discussed the possibility of incentives or discounts to encourage members to renew their membership for the next year at the meeting, but elected not to recommend these changes at the present time. The Board reviewed the names of previous members that have not renewed for 2012 and designated the people present to follow up politely regarding their lapse. The Board thanked Jason Smith for his recent, successful efforts to recruit graduate students as AHS members.

**Dues structure.** The Board reviewed the dues structure for membership and elected to not make any recommendations for changes at this time.

**Employment Service.**  The Board agreed to provide a Bulletin Board at the annual meeting for job postings and for prospective candidates.

**One-day regional conferences.**  Alan proposed that AHS consider sponsoring one-day, regional, teaching conferences or workshops. The Board viewed the proposal favorably and thought these sponsored conferences might help support additional members. In general, the Board thought that such conferences might be a more cost-effective strategy for recruiting members than sponsoring a session at regional meetings. Dennis was considering a session on the subject at Nashville. Alan agreed to write-up a proposal and set up a session at the meeting.

***The Humanist Sociologist.***  The new THS editor, Saher Selod, led a discussion about the newsletter and the board brainstormed ideas regarding content for the newsletter. Jason agreed to write a short column regarding grad student participation at the annual meeting.