

President Dorry Noyes called the Fall 2018 meeting of the American Folklore Society Executive Board to order at 8:30 am on October 17, 2018, in the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center, Room 105.

Members present: President Dorothy Noyes, Past-President Kay Turner, Wanda Addison, Barry Bergey, Olivia Cadaval, Guillermo de los Reyes, Michael Dylan Foster, Jim Leary, Phyllis May-Machunda, Patricia Sawin, and Debra Lattanzi Shutika. Staff members Lorraine Walsh Cashman (Associate Director), Meredith McGriff (Membership Director), and Jessica Turner (Executive Director), were also present. Katey Borland was in Finland and not able to attend the meeting.

Executive Director Jessica Turner briefly outlined the voting procedures that would be used during the meeting. Every Board vote taken at in-person meetings will be conducted orally, and immediately after each vote the Executive Director (or other staff member) will confirm the vote tally orally with the Board. On any vote that is not unanimous, or for which any member is absent, the minutes will list all members who vote for and against the motion, abstain from voting, or are not present.

As per the Executive Board directive of October 17, 1991, the proceedings of this meeting were recorded.

Dorry Noyes began the meeting by welcoming Board members to Buffalo and by thanking the Board's four members who will be departing at the end of the year—Barry Bergey, Katey Borland, Jim Leary, and Kay Turner—for their leadership and service. Jessica Turner distributed gifts from the Board—Tuscarora decorative beadwork handmade by Mary Clause, Rosemary Hill, and Bryan Printup—to the departing members.

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After discussion, **Jim Leary moved that the minutes of the Board's April 2018, meeting be approved as presented. Barry Bergey seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, with 10 votes in favor and two Board members (Katey Borland and Guillermo de los Reyes) absent for the vote.**

Dorry Noyes then delivered the President's report, highlighting important moments in the Annual Meeting program and encouraging board members to attend the first-time attendee

reception. Noyes noted the Opening ceremony and reminded everyone to recognize the sensitivity to performers and solemnity of the thanksgiving address (thanks to Jason Jackson for sending a woven blanket from Bloomington as a gift). Report focused on ways to communicate the relevance of our field to broad constituencies in ways to build visibility and membership. She reported that the diversity initiative of building the field through internships and community programs might be focused on community college programs. Other ideas include increasing visibility of our work (across disciplines, through sister organizations like SIEF, in the public sphere) via projects like the Wikipedia project initiative, communicating broad themes and intersections at the Annual Meeting or by requesting that sections continue to curate the program. Post-meeting communication could be a useful tool to engagement; framing what was learned at the meeting, etc. Additionally, Noyes noted that mentorship for mid- and late-career professionals should be built into existing and expanding mentoring frameworks.

Jessica Turner then delivered the Executive Director's report, giving a brief update on the work of the Committee on Contingent Workforce Concerns and the upcoming survey tool; a possible AFS-taught cultural heritage policy course at IU; updates on finances, awards, and special projects including travel to China for the Luce project work and to DC for meetings related to growing need for field-wide advocacy.

Lorraine Walsh Cashman gave the annual meeting update: numbers, attendance, participation. Complications; important highlights of the Buffalo meeting.

Patricia Sawin reported on the work of the AFS Committee on Accessibility, noting the newly-implemented Guidelines for Accessible Presentations and the positive feedback received so far from numerous people. One association has requested to use. Dorry requested that we go back to using softer language like "consider" instead of "you must" for certain parts of the guidelines such as bringing paper copies of presentation to distribute.

Report and Update on the *Journal of American Folklore*. Publications Committee will begin work in late Fall/early Spring toward Call for Proposals for new editors.

Prize committee recommendations were presented for Board approval by Dorry Noyes, Deb Shutika, and Jessica Turner for the *Chicago Folklore Prize*, *AFS Archie Green Prize*, *Benjamin A. Botkin Prize*, *Zora Neale Hurston Prize*, *Américo Paredes Prize*, *Judith McCulloh Prize*, and *Lifetime Scholarly Achievement Award*. *prize committee recommendations for 2018*. Michael Foster moved to approve all prize recommendations. **Kay Turner seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, with 10 votes in favor and two Board members (Katey Borland and Guillermo de los Reyes) absent for the vote.**

A report from the 2018 Nominating Committee was presented by Olivia Cadaval, noting the difficulty of making sure all membership demographics were represented. An additional difficulty is when many

members do not wish to run against one particular candidate. Board discussed how to retain the service and advocacy of good candidates who lose the election. Board discussed the benefits of having a single slate created by nominating committee and board, which is then approved by membership, instead of an open election. Another solution is having more than two presidential candidates, and more than 6 board candidates. Barry Bergey noted the appeal of a single slate: we are a small society without a deep bench, and this extends to the issue of nominating junior members to grow their visibility; Leary agreed. Patricia Sawin suggested that the Board could approve a single slate mechanism for 5 years and then evaluate. Board agreed to revisit discussion in April.

Phyllis May-Machunda then delivered a report from the AFS Cultural Diversity Committee. The committee has been meeting monthly to clarify its mission; working to select dates for retreat. Committee is considering possibility of proposing a section, in addition to the committee. Raised question about CDC budget: could this be a standing request? Discussed needs for more visibility, more legs, etc., broad participation. Committee plans to get CDC chairs in place earlier in the year.

Dorry Noyes and Jessica Turner gave an overview of two meetings that took place in the Fall to discuss board national needs for advocacy and communication of the field. The meetings, held in Washington DC at the American Folklife Center and then in Baltimore as a preconference to the National Association of State Arts Agencies, brainstormed ideas for field-wide needs including communication, advocacy, resource development, health insurance and other services, cross-sector collaboration, and other ideas. How we work together to support these needs remains a topic that this group and others will continue to discuss and share strategies that can benefit the field.

Lunch, board photograph, and introduction of AFS Graduate Assistant Evangeline Mee

Following the lunch hour, a discussion with Folklore Program Heads was programmed for a large portion of the afternoon session. Those present were Doug Blandy, Ian Brodie, Anthony Bak Buccitelli, John Burrison, Ray Cashman, John Laudun, Amy Shuman, Ann Ferrell, Debra Lattanzi Shutika, Patricia Sawin, Gabrielle Berlinger, Lisa Gabbert, Janet Gilmore, and Amy Skillman

Dorry Noyes framed the discussion by focusing on recruiting qualified diverse graduate students, marketing to administrators, keeping track of the field and keeping track of folklore in the policy worlds, staying abreast of our own scholarship as well as being aware internationally and across sectors.

A discussion of general concerns/issues included decreased funding and scarce resources for our programs and students; restructuring; increasing service loads; recruiting diverse faculty; reaching out to general audiences; loss of faculty that make some programs unsustainable; the push to professionalize field; alt-ac PHD.

Opportunities for ways to intervene and how AFS can help included ideas about industry-recognized credentials; certificate programs; partnerships between academic and public-sector institutions for internship credit and/or professional development credit/certificate program (existing certificates in public folklore and archives could be models).

Needs for resources and initiatives include gathering data on job placement and job satisfaction; program advocacy and program evaluation; mapping folklore program strengths so programs can work together; communication metrics, interdisciplinarity, What can Folklore Offer Informatics/Business.....?

AFS will follow up to create listserv of this group and will add other program heads as identified.

In Old Business, the board agreed to forego consideration of signing onto the Fair Hotel Program. Kay Turner discussed ideas and a meeting of the Curriculum Opportunities Working Group on Saturday morning of the annual meeting. Kay Turner gave an update on the internship partnership between SI/AFC and GMU, Chapel-Hill, requesting modest funding for Patricia Sawin and Glenn Hinson to travel to meet with students during a recruitment lunch in 2019.

New Business for future discussion and consideration included:

1. Future of Folkstreams? Can AFC play a role? What would AFS's role be?
2. AFS Website—revamping to make it responsive on certain devices? Can students help rewrite or work on website with Lorraine Internship or practicum project
3. Development committee—ways to grow endowment, ways to grow participation
4. Development communication/PR efforts
5. Mini-conferences and regional meetings

Barry Bergey moved that the Board meeting be adjourned. Guillermo de los Reyes seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, with 11 votes in favor and one Board member (Borland) absent.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

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Respectfully submitted,



Jessica Turner
Executive Director

April 5, 2019

Date

Approved by the American Folklore Society Executive Board:

Dorothy Noyes
President

April 5, 2019

Date