

SOLGA Business Meeting

Saturday, November 18, 2006 (prepared by Marcia Ochoa)
AAA Annual Meetings, San José Convention Center, San José, CA.

1. Current SOLGA Board members

Tom Boellstorff, Payne Prize Chair*
Christa Craven, Chair Ex-officio*
Karen Kelsky, Interim Treasurer
David Houston, AN/Web Editor*
Bill Leap, Transitional SOLGAN Editor*
Galey Modan, Program Chair*
Marcia Ochoa, Interim Secretary*
Diana Pash, Student Representative
Megan Sinnott, Benedict Prize Chair*
Rudi Gaudio, Outgoing Co-Chair*
Mary Gray, Incoming Co-Chair*

** indicates presence at the business meeting*

2. 2006 Business Meeting Agenda

Presented for approval.

Motion for approval.

2006 Business Meeting Agenda was unanimously approved.

3. 2005 Business Meeting Minutes

Presented for approval.

Motion for approval.

2005 Business Meeting Minutes was unanimously approved.

4. Icebreaker

Introduce yourself to someone you don't know, introduce them to someone you do know. Introductions were had all around.

5. 2006 Benedict Prize Award

Megan Sinnott, chair of the Benedict Prize award committee, presented the prize to Tanya Erzen, Assistant Professor of Comparative Studies at the Ohio State University for her book *Straight to Jesus: Sexual and Christian Conversions in the Ex-Gay Movement*

6. 2006 Payne Prize Award

Tom Boellstorff, chair of the Payne Prize award committee, presented the award and an honorable mention. The Payne Prize was awarded to Lucinda Ramberg for the essay entitled "Medicalizing the Sacred Body: Subaltern Religiosity and Postcolonial Reform in South India." The Honorable Mention was awarded to Natasha Sandraya Wilson for "A Queer Situation: Poverty, Prisons, and Performances of Infidelity and Instability in the New Orleans Lesbian Anthem. Rudy Gaudio announced the silent book auction, to be continued during the cash bar.

7. Co-Chair Regime Change

Incoming co-chair Martin Manalansan was welcomed, and outgoing co-chair Rudy Gaudio was thanked for his service. Martin was unable to attend this year's meetings, so the tiara will have to be passed in absentia. SOLGA thanks Karen Nakamura for also running for co-chair. Mary Gray presented Rudy with a fabulous red magic scarf (which turns into an evening gown), and a groovy magic lamp.

8. Nominations for Co-Chair Positions

Nominations were opened for a co-chair identifying as differently gendered from incoming co-chair Martin Manalansan. Vote will be taken on the AAA Spring Ballot. SOLGA is accepting nominations for co-chair until January.

9. Nominations for Treasurer

Karen Kelsky has been nominated for the position of treasurer. Additional nominations were solicited; none emerged. The nomination was seconded. Kelsky was unanimously approved.

10. Nominations for Secretary

Marcia Ochoa has been nominated for the position of Secretary. The nomination was seconded. Ochoa was unanimously approved.

11. Volunteers for additional positions

Margot Weiss volunteered as 2007 Program Chair. Ted Gideonse volunteered as 2007 Student Representative. Tom Boellstorff volunteered as 2007 Payne Prize Chair. Benedict Prize Chair position is still open for 2007.

12. Program Chair Report

Small amount of panels were submitted. All were approved. Margot Weiss and Naisargi Dave will serve as the program co-chairs next year.

13. Treasurer's Report

Mary Gray reported for Karen Kelsky. The financial situation was fine last year, however changes in AnthroSource impacted SOLGA's finances. AnthroSource charges an indeterminate amount yearly. This impact several small sections of AAA. The board decided to continue working with AnthroSource for the next year and re-evaluate SOLGA's participation in AnthroSource at the end of that time. Rudy Gaudio encouraged members to promote membership, since our finances are determined by section dues.

14. SOLGA future/SOLGA publications

Bill Leap reported on the open meeting held earlier in the AAA meetings this year on the topic of the SOLGAN. There are questions about whether or not it continues to be important (given the availability of other forms of communication) to produce a newsletter. If we don't provide a newsletter, what services should we provide to our section members? Several suggestions:

- Increase mentoring activities for undergraduate and graduate students
- Seriously rethink possibilities for website/links with AnthroSource
- Syllabi project
- Support for Editor position – call for volunteers to write articles
- Promoting the SOLGA listserv
- Maintaining dialogue with the national office of AAA

The volunteer position of Communications Editor (SOLGA Zap Queen) has been proposed. Bill will volunteer to organize mentoring initiatives for next year's meeting, and will continue as SOLGAN Editor.

David Houston reported on AAA Section Editors' meeting. AAA website will be changing. The central office has announced that the new website will include 1) a "discipline-based repository"; 2) AAA organizational website; and 3) AnthroSource.

They will be going to a content management system. David will be asking people through the listserv about some of these changes, and changes in the format and purpose of Anthropology News. Mary Gray thanked David and Diana Pash.

Proposed bylaw change: Change the title of current board position of SOLGAN Editor to Communications Editor. Motion was seconded. A web ballot will go out, according to SOLGA's bylaws.

15. Discussion of Governance Commission Recommendations

Christa Craven facilitated the discussion of governance at AAA. Governance commission was established in the wake of the San Francisco "debacle" in order to improve communication between the Executive Board and the Section Assembly, and to improve communication between Executive Board and the membership at large.

A proposal has been circulated to change the ways the Executive Board meetings are held. The current model is that the EB meets early, presents its decisions to the Section Assembly, which then present EB decisions to their membership at the business meetings. It's been proposed that the process be reversed, section meetings would happen first, then Section Assembly, which would bring proposals to the EB from the sections.

Another proposal has circulated that the EB be modified to include representation of the Sections on the EB. Christa encourages everyone to read the recommendations and register their feedback.

16. Other items of business?

None were presented.

17. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.