

**The Thirty-Sixth Annual Byzantine Studies Conference  
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia**

**Governing Board Meeting of the Byzantine Studies Association of North America,  
Inc.**

**Session 1**

**Thursday, October 7, 2010  
Minutes**

1. Claudia Rapp, President of the BSANA, called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm

Present: Elizabeth Fisher (Treasurer), Sharon Gerstel, Linda Jones Hall, Eunice Dauterman Maguire, Kathleen Maxwell (Secretary), Margaret Mullett, Robert Ousterhout, Claudia Rapp (President), Linda Safran, Adam Schor (Vice President), Ida Sinkevic, Nancy Ševčenko, Alicia Walker, and Ann Marie Yasin

Regrets: Stratis Papaioannou, Elena Boeck

2. Agenda: The agenda was approved as submitted.
3. Claudia Rapp thanked Ann Marie Yasin for preparing the minutes from last year's meetings. Approval of Minutes from the previous meetings of the Governing Board in Sarasota, FL (November 5 and 7, 2009).
4. President's Report: In addition to correspondence with various board members and officers, Claudia Rapp described the following activities:

C. Rapp wrote to the Principal and to the Head of the Humanities of King's College, London in order to express BSANA's grave concerns regarding the plans to disband the Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies.

In late March 2010, King's College sent an email indicating that a solution had been reached. They wrote:

King's College London has operated a Centre for Hellenic Studies since 1989. As a research centre it has until now co-ordinated the activities of several departments, but has not had its own dedicated staff or registered students. Under the new arrangements, the Centre for Hellenic Studies will incorporate the Department of Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies, including its staff. Students will be registered in the Centre and it will be able to run its own teaching programmes. The Korae Professor of Modern Greek and Byzantine History, Language

and Literature will be employed wholly in the Centre; other staff will normally hold joint appointments, in the Centre and in other departments with interests in the study of Greek history and culture, as three members of staff already do. In this way existing examples of co-operation in a variety of disciplines will become formalised, making it possible for many more students than at present to take courses in Byzantine and modern Greek studies and to increase the range of Ph D subjects offered.

- C. Rapp also wrote in support of the Chair in Latin Palaeography at King's College. This is one of the most prominent positions in paleography worldwide (and the only such Chair in the UK). Its current holder, Professor David Ganz, enjoys an international reputation as the foremost scholar of Latin manuscript culture, continuing in the distinguished tradition established by his predecessors Julian Brown and Tilly de la Mare. Abolishing the chair would be tantamount to depriving future generations of scholars of access to a crucial component in their toolbox. A temporary solution to secure Latin Palaeography at King's College has now been reached.
  - Further, C. Rapp has also been in communication with Dr. Tousimis. Please see further n. 13 below.
5. Secretary's Report: Kathleen Maxwell reported that as of 5 October 2010, we had 1045 members in our database, 277 of whom had paid dues for 2010. The statistics below indicate that approximately twenty-five per cent of members pay dues at the reduced rate:
- 204 full members (\$20)
  - 53 graduate students (\$10)
  - 18 independent scholars (\$10)

244 dues paying members listed their address in the USA, 10 from Canada, and 5 from the U.K., 15 others were from 13 other countries.

Sixteen members requested *not* to be listed on the BSANA website.

514 members had signed on to the BSANA listserv by early October. 75 messages were sent out on the listserv between January 1 and October 1, 2010. 73 messages had been sent out in 2009 in the same period. Only one member had requested to "unsubscribe" in the past eleven months.

Discussion was raised concerning the necessity of mailing annual dues notices to those members who request it. A motion was made to shift the burden to the member requesting the mailing. They should send two SASE envelopes to the Secretary by January 1 if they would like to receive membership renewal and the annual conference notices by regular mail. The motion passed. An announcement to this effect will be made at the Business Lunch on Saturday. The website will

be edited to reflect this change. [After further research, the Secretary recommended *not* to suspend these mailings since they yield a return of 63%.]

6. Treasurer's Report: Elizabeth Fisher submitted the Treasurer's Report for the period November 1, 2009 – October 5, 2010. Income exceeded expenditures in this period by a total of only \$13.00. This is a concern because income was substantially subsidized by the dissolution of the DO Byzantine Studies Alumni Association (\$1,697) and by the sale of institutional abstracts (new series #8) for a total of (\$2208). Both sources of income are one-time only infusions. Thus, BSANA effectively operated at a loss in excess of \$3,900. The greatest expense was \$9,241.40 for graduate student travel. Most of the students who received travel stipends made presentations at the 2009 BSC conference. Those who presented were eligible for up to \$500 in travel costs and those who did not present papers, but attended the conference, were eligible for up to \$300 in travel reimbursements. Elizabeth Fisher also pointed out various inconsistencies on the BSANA website concerning membership requirements and the submission of abstracts. Alicia Walker said that the website should indicate that you only need to be a member once your abstract has actually been accepted. Ideally, the secretary should send out an email on September 1<sup>st</sup> immediately prior to the BSC to graduate students to remind them to become members of the BSC before the October 1 deadline in order to apply for travel subsidies.

Forty-five percent of members pay at the \$10 rate. Discussion about raising dues was delayed until later in the meeting. Discussion about the possible electronic payment of dues will be taken up again at Governing Board Meeting II on Saturday evening October 9, 2010.

Other financial issues concerning the growing burden assumed by institutions hosting the BSC. Most host institutions require the BSC to work with their conference organizations. The BSC generally must pay to the host institution for every room on campus used during the conference. BSANA needs to think of ways to help underwrite the cost of hosting a BSC.

7. BSC Abstracts. Many thanks to Anna Gonosova who has been maintaining the institutional subscriptions list for the BSC abstracts. Anna Gonosova reported that thirty-five institutions have renewed subscriptions for the next five-year series ending in 2014. The Board agreed that the cost for the series should be \$60 plus \$20 in postage fees. The Board also agreed to ask Anna Gonosova to provide a list of the subscribers to determine regional distribution and to determine if the printing of future series beyond 2014 should be contemplated. Conference abstracts are now posted on-line, but no index is provided. Moreover, Anna Gonosova asked the Board to consider what she should do with extra copies of abstracts from past years. Sharon Gerstel suggested sending them to the next BSC and selling them for \$1 each.

8. Nominating Committee Report: The nominating committee consists of the slate of members who are rotating off the board: Linda Safran, chair, plus Alicia Walker, Adam Schor, and Stratis Papaioannou. The ballot for the new members of the Board lists : Cecily Hilsdale, Kostis Kourelis, Dimitrios Krallis, and Derek Krueger.
  
9. Future BSC venues:
  - 2011 DePaul-confirmed (Elena Boeck)
  - 2012 Cornell?
  - 2013 Yale-confirmed (Robert Nelson) (Dura Europos exhibit)
  - 2014 Berkeley?-under discussion (Maria Mavroudi and Diliانا Angelova)
  
10. Creation of a BSANA-Sponsored Website: Byzantine Archaeology in North America.
 

Sharon Gerstel proposed that this would be a beneficial project for BSANA. She reported that this suggestion originated in a conversation with John Haldon, when it was noted that North American archaeologists lack a website to post reports on their archaeological sites and to make requests for information. Such a website would provide links to projects and related images, as well as information about resources and grants. It would also provide information for internships for graduate students. The Hellenic Center at Princeton might provide \$1000 to get the site up and running. Sharon Gerstel would like BSANA to match those funds so that the groundwork for this website might begin. Discussion followed. Nancy Ševčenko inquired if a model might be provided by Meso-American websites? Linda Safran expressed concerns about the impact of such a site on BSANA's server? Linda Jones Hall has a friend who has an active blog of this nature and Sharon agreed that he would be great resource. Amy Papalexandrou would be an excellent person to coordinate the site, but there are others as well. Alicia Walker says we could put a line item on the membership dues for this item asking people to contribute to such a site. Claudia Rapp wants to put this on the agenda of the Saturday Business Lunch Meeting to see how the membership responds. Elizabeth Fisher wonders if we have the funds for this? We should strive to maintain a \$25,000 cushion in BSANA's account, according to Adam Schor.
  
11. Membership Fee Increase (See Appendix A below below supplied by C. Rapp with the Agenda for this meeting and circulated by email in advance to the Governing Board.). C. Rapp says we need to look at major expenditures and fees and proposes that regular members' dues be raised to \$30 and student membership to \$20. Linda Safran says the dues haven't been raised in a very long time. Adam Schor advised that the majority of people do not consider this their primary academic organization so we need to be careful. After additional discussion, it was decided to raise student dues only to \$15. The Governing Board unanimously approved the following proposed change to the BSANA by-laws III.2, to be voted on by the membership at the Business Lunch:

"All members will pay annual dues of \$20 (suggested: \$30) for regular faculty and \$10 (suggested: \$15) for students, retired faculty, independent scholars, and other professionals. Changes to the dues shall be proposed by a vote of the Governing Board and approved by a simple majority of the membership in attendance at its annual meeting."

Further discussion noted that if we raise dues for members, then non-members should be charged a surcharge for registration at the annual conference. There were also suggestions to amend the annual dues form so that individuals might contribute in specific ways to BSANA:

- To support graduate student travel to the BSC
- To support the archaeology website
- Unrestricted support for BSANA

12. Website secretary (see Appendix B below supplied by C. Rapp with the Agenda for this meeting and circulated by email to the Governing Board.) We need a website secretary to oversee the BSANA website and ensure that information is up to date, correct, and consistent.

13. Tsoumis Graduate Prize Funding: Dr. Tousimis has generously funded annual prizes for graduate students in recent years. C. Rapp proposed that we appoint a committee to meet with Dr. Tousimis annually. The committee membership should *not* change annually. C. Rapp said we will revisit this issue during Governing Board Meeting II on Saturday evening.

Additional Financial Issues: Alicia Walker would like to make a motion that in light of the current economic climate we discontinue stipends for graduate students who do not present papers at the BSC and limit the amount to those who do give papers to up to \$300 upon reception of receipts. The motion passed with 12 in favor and 2 opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 pm by Claudia Rapp.

## **Appendix A: Membership Fees**

Current membership rates: \$20.00/\$10.00

Proposed increase to: \$30.00/\$20.00

Comparison figures:

CAA \$145 (income over \$50,000)/\$50

AHA \$127 (income over \$55,000)/\$40

APA \$102.00 (and up, for salaries above \$50,000)/\$33.00

AIA \$50/\$26

NAPS \$50.00/\$26 (including subscription to JECS)

Action Item: Vote to bring the proposed membership fee increase before the Business Meeting on Saturday.

Change in By-laws III.2: "All members will pay annual dues of \$20 (suggested: \$30) for regular faculty and \$10 (suggested: \$20) for students, retired faculty, independent scholars, and other professionals. Changes to the dues shall be proposed by a vote of the Governing Board and approved by a simple majority of the membership in attendance at its annual meeting."

## **Appendix B: Website Secretary**

Background: By-laws IV. 8: 8. "The Board may elect other officers in the same manner if it finds such officers necessary. It may also appoint administrative officers for specified purposes who are not members of the Board and who serve at its pleasure. No officer receives any salary from the Board; officers may not be reimbursed for administrative and travel expenses except when the Governing Board so directs."

Action Item: Vote to appoint a new officer, the Website Secretary, for an initial trial period of one year.

Rationale: The task of the Website Secretary is to ensure, in collaboration with the other BSANA Officers, that the information on all parts of the BSANA website is current and up-to-date. The Governing Board shall decide whether to make this a permanent office at its 2011 meeting.

## **Appendix C: Honoring Senior Byzantinists**

Discussion Item: Does BSANA want to institute a policy to honor senior Byzantinists, posthumously or otherwise?

Some options:

1. session of papers in honor of..., with honor and present, if possible
2. book discussion
3. master class: scholar reminisces about a text or monument and its significance for her/his understanding of Byzantium; geared towards graduate students

Should any of these sessions be recorded and placed on the website?

Travel subsidy by BSANA for honor and (\$200)?

Invite membership to make a contribution for this specific purpose?

## **Appendix D: Program Committee Issues**

### **1. Panel Proposals**

Action Item: Vote on guidelines for panel proposals, to be included in the annual Call for Papers for the BSC.

Suggested: "Panel proposals consist of two parts: a summary of the panel, and abstracts of the individual papers.

The panel convener (who may also be a speaker in the panel) submits a summary of the overall topic, the format for the panel (such as a debate, papers followed by a discussion, or a traditional session of papers), and the reasons for covering this topic as a prearranged, whole session. This should be no longer than a regular abstract (300 words).

Abstracts of the individual papers should be grouped together and submitted alongside the panel summary. The format is the same as that for individual papers.

Panel proposals will be processed and evaluated according to the regular anonymous evaluation procedure established by the BSC. The Program Committee shall first decide whether to accept or reject each panel proposal in its entirety. The Program Committee will only accept a whole panel if it finds all components acceptable.

If a proposed panel is rejected, the various component abstracts will be placed in the regular pool of paper proposals, to be accepted or rejected as stand-alone presentations (unless otherwise indicated by the persons proposing the original component abstracts).

All participants in the panel (convener as well as speakers) will be notified of the Program Committee's decision in the usual way."

### **Appointment of Program Committee**

By-laws IV.6: Current on BSANA website: "The Program Committee (including a Chair) is selected annually by the Governing Board."

Suggested: "The Program Committee consists of six members, in two staggered slates of three, each member serving a two-year term. Every year, the Governing Board selects three new members to replace the slate of outgoing members, and appoints the Program Committee Chair."

### **Evaluation of Abstracts**

Discussion Item: complete anonymity, or mitigated anonymity?

Identity of the "Anonymizer": Vice President? Program Chair?

Need for Announcement of Program Committee Policy: on the BSANA website? together with the Call for Papers?