

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

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

**Session II: Saturday, October 9, 2010**

**Minutes**

Claudia Rapp, President of BSANA, called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

Present: Elizabeth Fisher, Sharon Gerstel, Linda Jones Hall, Cecily Hilsdale, Kostis Kourelis, Dimitrios Krallis, Derek Krueger, Eunice Dauterman Maguire, Kathleen Maxwell, Margaret Mullett, Robert Ousterhout, Claudia Rapp, Ida Sinkevich, Nancy Ševčenko, Ann Marie Yasin

Regrets: Elena Boeck

Agenda: Claudia Rapp circulated an agenda which included the following items: 1. BSANA Financial Health (especially regarding graduate student travel support, the financial burden of BSC conference hosting institutions, and the proposed hosting of an archaeology website for North America by the BSANA website); 2. appointment of a task force to investigate the feasibility of Online Dues Payments; 3. possible appointment of a website secretary; 4. issues related to the Program Committee; 5. appointment of a Task Force for the Tousimis Fund; 6. election of two new members to the BSC Program Committee as well as a Chair for that committee; and 7. election of BSANA Officers for 2010-2011. The agenda was approved by the Governing Board.

1. Financial Health

- a. Kathleen Maxwell provided data regarding the renewal of memberships by those who requested notification through the U.S. Postal Service. For the last three years, approximately 65 per cent of the 65 members requesting this service renewed their dues. Moreover, 25 of these 65 members renewed their dues for each of the last three years. Given this high yield, we will continue this type of notification to those members who request it on their dues forms.
- b. Claudia Rapp estimated that given the increased membership dues for 2011 approved at the BSC Business Lunch earlier today, if membership renewal continues at this year's rate, we can anticipate an annual income of \$10,000 for 2011 (that is, 222 regular members at \$40 each and 53 reduced memberships at \$20 each).

c. Major expenses for the BSC are:

i. Graduate student travel.

It was recommended that the Governing Board consider setting aside a specified percentage of each year's income for graduate student travel. It should also consider changing the phrasing on the website and in other communications regarding graduate student funding to include "if the annual budget permits." Funding for graduate students is limited to travel costs and accommodation.

In the past, some BSC conferences have generated income (e.g., Toronto); others have incurred a loss which had to be covered by the BSC. The ability of the Local Arrangements Committee to solicit funding from the host institution is reflected in these figures.

Derek Krueger asked: what is an optimal amount of money that the BSC should strive to hold in reserve in its bank account. Is \$25,000 still adequate or should it be higher?

Claudia Rapp negotiated in a phone conversation the previous day with Mr. Tousimis to allocate \$2000 of his original \$6000 Tousimis Prize money for 2010 for graduate student travel. Beginning in 2011, students who attend the conference, but who do not give papers, will not be eligible for BSC travel funds. The BSANA website needs to be changed to reflect this development. The new wording on the website should state that "BSANA intends to support funding for graduate students who give papers, budget permitting." Graduate students should also look to their institutions for additional support.

The Governing Board also agreed that we need to better publicize and clarify its policies concerning the reduced prices for graduate students for the Saturday business lunch and the Saturday evening banquet. We would like to provide up to a 50% discount for both events for graduate students and this should be clearly stated on the annual conference registration form. This policy also needs to be properly enforced so that only those who have registered (and paid in advance) actually attend these meals. Today, at least 30 more individuals attended the Saturday Business Lunch than had actually registered and, as a result, we ran out of food. In the future, the Local Arrangements Committee should appoint an individual to monitor both the Business Lunch and the Saturday Banquet. This information needs to be included in the guidelines for the Local Arrangements Committee.

ii. Costs related to the annual BSC conference

It costs between \$15,000 and \$22,000 to host the annual BSC conference. These costs are over and above those generated by the attendees' registration fees. These funds need to be raised locally by the host institution. Bob Ousterhout, the Chair of this year's Local Arrangements Committee, noted that the only rooms he did not have to pay for were those used for the two Governing Board meetings. Everything else had to be rented from

the University at the regular conference rate. This is now the case for almost all universities and especially those with their own conference centers. Those considering hosting a BSC conference need to be aware of this situation and must be willing to engage in serious fund-raising efforts well in advance of their host date.

### iii. Archaeology website

Claudia Rapp thinks that the hosting of an archaeology website for North America on BSANA's website is an excellent idea and proposed that a one-time payment of \$1000 from BSANA funds be offered in support of this endeavour, particularly since Sharon Gerstel has already procured matching funds from Princeton (in collaboration with John Haldon). Sharon Gerstel has recommended that Amy Papalexandrou would be highly qualified to launch this project. Both suggestions were approved unanimously.

2. Task Force for Online Dues Payments: Dimitrios Krallis has agreed to investigate the feasibility of paying BSANA dues from the website by credit card for current and future years. He was directed to do this through the Bank of America after consultation with Treasurer Elizabeth Fisher.
3. Appointment of a Web Secretary: The need to correct discrepancies on the BSANA website and make sure it is updated regularly has become apparent. Dimitrios Krallis has agreed to take on this office. The Secretary of BSANA should copy Dimitrios Krallis on all communication with Amanda Wagner in Toronto regarding the website.
4. Program Committee Issues
  - a. Honoring Senior Byzantinists at the BSC: Claudia Rapp asked the Governing Board to develop a policy for program chairs as we deal with this generational shift. Many treasured members of BSANA are deserving of this honor, but how do we honor them appropriately? Should we strive to honor them *in memoriam* or should we try to celebrate them as they enter retirement? What are our options? Sharon Gerstel says we need to anticipate honorary sessions well in advance. Derek Krueger wondered why the papers in honor of Ihor Sevcenko at the current BSC weren't grouped into one or more sessions. Linda Jones Hall says it was challenging because the papers were so amazingly diverse. Lively discussion followed about the ways in which these individuals might be honored. We should encourage the Program Chair to consider including sessions honoring senior Byzantinists. Moreover, it was agreed that every annual Governing Board Meeting II should spend a moment brainstorming about appropriate sessions or events related to upcoming BSC programs.
  - b. Procedure for the Call for Papers: Claudia Rapp proposed that we need two or three people to look over the content of the formal call for papers for the BSC. Derek Krueger agreed to Chair this committee. Kostis Kourelis and Nancy Ševčenko will also serve on this committee.

- c. Do we want to invite other organizations to organize panels in our BSC meetings—that is, as long as one panelist is a registered member of the BSC? Kostis Kourelis says he has seen problems with this in the past. If we agree to this, Sharon Gerstel says we should let the guest panel appoint their own chair.
5. Task Force for the Tousimis Fund. Margaret Mullett, Sharon Gerstel (Chair), and Bob Ousterhout were appointed to serve on the task force for the Tousimis Fund. The task force will arrange annual meetings with Mr. Tousimis to discuss funding strategies. There is no term limit to this task force, although its mandate ought to be re-visited and renewed at each year's BSANA Governing Board Meeting.
6. Program Committee Issues:
  - a. We need two new members for the Program Committee for the 2011 BSC. Kostis Kourelis (he owes a year), Sharon Gerstel, Alice Christ, Stratis Papaioannou, Anthony Kaldellis are continuing on the committee. Ann Marie Yasin reminded us that the BSANA by laws urge us to appoint a member of the host institution or someone in the area, if possible. For balance, we should also have someone who specializes in Early Byzantine material. Claudia Rapp is following up on this.
  - b. Program Committee Chair : Anthony Kaldellis was unanimously approved by the Board.
7. Election of BSANA Officers for 2010-2011:  
President: Robert Ousterhout  
Vice President: Ann Marie Yasin  
Secretary: Kathleen Maxwell  
Treasurer: Elizabeth Fisher
8. New Business
  - a. Constantine Hatzidimitriou (1054 Admont Avenue, Franklin Sq., NY 11010), who works for the NYC schools, contacted Claudia Rapp as to whether BSANA would be interested in assisting high school teachers in integrating Byzantine material into the high school curriculum. Some possible subjects include: Age of Justinian, Age of Crusades, The Renaissance, Between Europe and Asia, and Technology and Science. This would involve the creation of prepackaged lectures and images. Dimitrios Krallis of Simon Fraser University already has some funding that might complement this effort as well. Discussion followed and Claudia Rapp said that the Age of Procopius volume that was circulated years ago could be mined for some material. Sharon Gerstel noted that the Metropolitan Museum also has developed extensive materials for teachers. Derek Krueger observed that there are intellectual property issues and business-related issues to any project of this nature. Claudia Rapp would like to see two or three Board members get together and talk to Constantine Hatzidimitriou. Sharon Gerstel remarked that there was a similar committee years ago and that Ellen Schwartz had collected

some materials already and should be contacted. Ann Marie Yasin reminds us that this is an investment in the future of our field. The Committee is comprised of Ann Marie Yasin (Chair), Eunice Dauterman Maguire, and Dimitrios Krallis. They should contact Ellen Schwartz and also consult with Timothy Gregory (Ohio State University) who has a successful history of teaching on-line courses with Byzantine content. Their charge is to decide how we should move forward in this effort.

- b. How can we make better use of the BSANA website? Ann Marie Yasin reminded us that there was an amendment to the Program Committee that needed to be posted to the by laws (i.e., that the membership of the Program Committee should include a scholar from the area in which the next BSC will be located.)

The meeting was adjourned by Claudia Rapp at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Maxwell  
Secretary, BSANA