

**XLIII Annual Byzantine Studies Conference
University of Minnesota Twin Cities, Minneapolis**

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

Thursday, October 5, 2017

7:00-9:00pm

Marriott Courtyard Minneapolis Downtown
Boardroom, 3rd Floor

Approved Minutes

Attendance: Jennifer Ball, Betsy Bolman, Emanuel Bourbouhakis, Elena Boeck, Marica Cassis (Minutes), Georgia Frank, Dar Brooks Hedstrom, Young Kim, Amy Papalexandrou, Glenn Peers, Christian Raffensperger, Galina Tirnanic, Betsy Williams

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved: Glenn Peers

Seconded: Elena Boeck

Approved

3. Approval of Minutes

Thursday Governing Board Meeting at 42nd BSC, Ithaca, NY

Moved: Jennifer Ball

Seconded: Glenn Peers

Approved

Saturday Governing Board meeting at 42nd BSC, Ithaca, NY

Moved: Jennifer Ball

Seconded: Betsy Williams

Approved

4. President's Report (Emmanuel C. Bourbouhakis)

Necrology: Paul Canart (1927-2017)
Kenneth Holum (1935-2017)
Demetrios Constantelos (1927-2017)

Advocacy:

Petition to the Musée d'art et d'histoire de Genève

Discussion: Reasons why we were not asked earlier – need to encourage visibility of organization.

Petition to Hungarian Parliament on proposed legislation affecting the CEU (and Byzantine Studies Programme)

Joined signatories of the Medieval Academy of America's petition on events Charlottesville, VA.

OUP Initiative: Discounts to membership on select series

Discussion: Important because it encourages maintenance of interest in Byzantine studies. Suggestions that this might be something to involve graduate students with, perhaps through one of the workshops. This led to further discussion of the publishers, many of whom need more notice of where conference will be held. As well, late October would be better for many of them, and the Board needs to work with local organizing committees to find the best dates and discover under what circumstances they can be present on campus.

5. **Secretary's Report** (Marica Cassis)

Listserv is a problem. Numbers are up on both FB and listserv, but the latter does not work very well.

6. **Treasurer's Report** (Christian Raffensperger)

Attached.

Numbers of members are down, and we need to think about how to get people to pay their dues. The organization is not doing particularly well financially because of this. Motion by Christian Raffensperger, Seconded by Elena Boeck to create a set of committees at the second Board meeting to work on the various problems that need to be addressed.

7. **Future BSCs**

BSC 2018	University of Texas at San Antonio (A. Labbatt) October 4-7, 2018 (Keynote Speaker: Helen Evans, Thu. Oct. 4*)
BSC 2019	University of Wisconsin at Madison (L. Neville, T. Dale)
BSC 2020	Case Western Reserve (B. Bolman)
BSC 2021	[Tentative] University of California at Berkeley (D. Angelova, M. Mavroudi)

Galina Tirnanic suggested having it in Detroit, possibly in 2022.

8. **Abstract Submissions**

BSC will continue to use EasyChair for submission, and go with the February 15th deadline, as this will allow Europeans to plan to attend.

9. **Proposal for BSC 2018 Program Committee Chair**

Information to come from Sarah Brooks. Discussion of the importance of keeping two people consistent on the committee from year to year. Sarah will need to make a proposal to the board.

10. **a) Nominating Committee Report (Georgia Frank)**

Nominees to join board for 2017-2021:

Benjamin Anderson, Cornell University [art history]
Hannah Ewing, Rollins College [history]
Meredith Riedel, Duke University [history of Christianity]
Alexander Riehle, Harvard University [classics]
Edward Watts, UC San Diego [history]
Jeffrey Wickes, Saint Louis University [theological studies]

**b) Proposal from Georgia Frank, Chair of Nominating Committee
to revise nominations process in order to implement a public call for
nominations, including self-nominations (see Appendix I)**

Seconded: Marica Cassis

Approved

11. **Website redesign; Listserv (Bourbouhakis)**

(see Appendix II)

Strong feeling that this needs to be done as the website represents the field in North America, and that the redesign will be announced at Business lunch. IT committee needs to be formed, made up of volunteers from the membership. We will send out a questionnaire on the website. Discussion of money: \$7000-8000. We will have to do a fundraising pitch for this, as the organization does not have the money.

12. **New Business:**

Thanks to Christian Raffensperger and board members rotating off:

Elizabeth Bolman (Case Western University)
Georgia Frank (Colgate University)
Straits Papaioannou (Brown University)
Glenn Peers (The University of Texas)

13. **Adjournment**

Moved: Glenn Peers

Seconded: Georgia Frank

Approved

Appendix I

Memo

27 September 2017

To: Members of the BSANA Governing Board

From: Georgia Frank (Class of 2017 member of the Governing Board)

Proposal:

To support the work of the nominating committee by implementing a public call for nominations (and self-nominations) process, starting in 2018. One idea might be to send an email would be sent out in late spring and late summer soliciting nominations.

Rationale:

The BSANA by-laws states that “9. The Nominating Committee . . . is responsible for providing a slate of Governing Board candidates at the next annual BSANA Business Meeting, and **it will consult the membership** in its effort to maintain a balanced representation on the Board of different scholarly specialties and of different North American regions. “Currently, the Governing Board does not have a mechanism by which to gather nominations for future leadership. We propose an annual call for nominations email be sent out to BSANA membership, as a way to provide the nominating committee with more nominees to consider and recruit.

A call-for-nominations (and self-nominations) process would have the advantages of:

- 1) providing continuity between nominating committees (e.g., to remember those who declined but would like to be re-invited to the ballot),
- 2) give members a voice in shaping leadership and the field of Byzantine Studies
- 3) to help future nominating committees identify scholars interested in getting more involved in the organization
- 4) to generate a more inclusive pool reflective of BSANA’s increasingly diverse membership.
- 5)

To this end, I propose the call be emailed to BSANA membership (or listserv) in May and again August and posted on the the association’s webpage.

SAMPLE DRAFT (adapted from the email sent to members of the North American Patristic Society)

We write with a call for nominations for the BSANA’s new slate of board members to serve until 20XX. The slate of nominees will be presented for your approval at our 20XX annual business meeting, to be held Saturday, DATE. Self-nominations and multiple nominations are welcome. Please send us your nominations by September 1, 20XX along with contact information and a couple of sentences detailing the reasons for your support of each nominee, including some mention of the nominee’s involvement with the BSC.

For a description of the Governing Board's responsibilities, please visit the BSANA by-laws (<http://bsana.net/documents/bylaws.html> esp. section IV). You may forward your nominations to any one of the following members of the Nominating Committee:

Your BSANA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (names and emails listed)

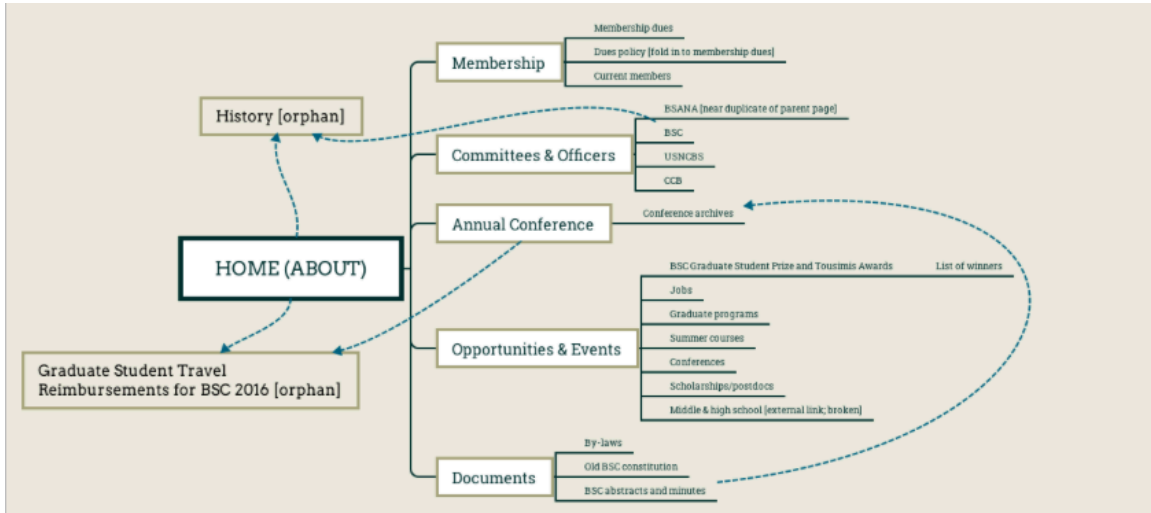
Appendix II

Website:

A two-phase approach to revamping the BSANA website. The first phase involves necessary infrastructure work:

- Create a Wordpress site. Wordpress.com's premium tier hosting at \$100/year gives you a lot of value for the money. This is better than having a university server host the site.
- Choose one of the many decent free themes available, or buy one for ~\$100.
- Port all existing content to the new Wordpress (Approx.10 hours)
- Light editing: combine/eliminate pages where warranted, fix orphan pages, fix broken links (approx. 6 hours). *[Our IT coordinator in Princeton Classics, Kai Laidlaw, has identified all the broken links currently attached to the site].
- See attached sitemap with notes.
- When ready, switch the bsana.net DNS record (host name registry) to point to the new Wordpress site.

The second phase: identify target audience(s) and consider what purposes the site should and/or could serve, then develop new content and reorganize as needed. More attention should be paid to adding photos, forms, etc.



Listserv:

I found a commercial service called phpList that would seem to fit the bill. They offer a \$1 per month per list plan, and I think that would be your best bet. You want the “Plus” tier, which avoids ads. Please see: <https://www.phplist.com/pricing>