

**XLIV Annual Byzantine Studies Conference
San Antonio, Texas**

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

Thursday, October 4, 2017
8:00-10:00pm
Paloma Blanca
5800 Broadway St #300, San Antonio, TX 78209

Attendance: Benjamin Anderson, Jennifer Ball, Elena Boeck, Emmanuel Bourbouhakis, Marica Cassis (minutes), Darlene Brooks Hedstrom, Hannah Ewing, Young Kim, Christian Raffensperger, Steve Rapp, Meredith Riedel, Alexander Riehle, Galina Tirnanic, Betsy Williams

Regrets: Amy Papalexandrou

Minutes

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved: Jennifer Ball

Seconded: Ben Anderson

3. Approval of Minutes of Governing Board Meetings at 43rd BSC, University of Minnesota Twin Cities, Minneapolis (to be finalized on Saturday)

Moved: Jennifer Ball

Seconded: Darlene Brooks Hedstrom

4. Election of New Executive among Board Members

President: Benjamin Anderson

Secretary: Hannah Ewing

Vice-President: Galina Tirnanic

Treasurer: Betsy Williams

Seconded: Benjamin Anderson

5. President's Report* (Emmanuel C. Bourbouhakis)

a) Necrology:

Claudia Barsanti

Charles Brand

Slobodan Curcic

Semavi Eyice

Vasso Penna

David Jacobi
Peter E. Pieler
MaryAnne Saggi
Mark Whittow
David Wright

b) Website

There is a plan to move forward, but need a design firm that BSANA can afford.
Concrete steps suggested: ask for a minimum of three bids

c) Advocacy* (See final item on the agenda)

6. Program Committee

a) **Proposal for BSC 2019 Program Committee Chair**

To be done on Saturday

b) **Program Committee Report** (Sarah Brooks, *ex officio*)*
(See Appendix I)

c) Program Committee Report:

- a. Why no Sunday sessions – decision made from survey in the past
- b. 91 papers accepted; in keeping with other conferences
- c. 11 people dropped out after acceptance
- d. Easychair – VP (who is not on program committee) is administrator.
Costs \$270
- e. Second call for proposals was a special thing this year.
- f. Request to put a person in charge who has done it before
- g. Jaharis money – 3 year grant for grad students. We need to apply for it again.
Question: Would you like to do this, and if so, who will do it? Yes, and Betsy Williams suggested this becomes part of the Treasurer's duties.

7. Secretary's Report (Marica Cassis)

a) Overall still problems with the listserv

b) The FB page is doing really well.

8. Treasurer's Report (Betsy Williams)

Attached

Overall, membership is down and we are in the red by \$1000.

9. Future BSCs

a) Currently scheduled BSCs

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)
BSC 2022	?

- b) Request by U. of Wisconsin BSC organizers for loan from BSANA in order to make down payment on venue and conference booking, in the amount of \$5000.00*

* from Leonora Neville: " The conference manager for the student union will set up an account for our conference, manage credits and debits, and cut a check for BSANA at the end of the conference. She said they are adept at monitoring pledged donations and conference fee income and adjusting the lavishness of the catering so to be sure to come out in the black. I will be sure to clarify that we have to end up with at least 5K going back to BSANA."

]

Tabled until Saturday meeting

- c) Need for clearer guidelines to local organizers about BSC fund raising.

10.

a) Nominating Committee Report (C. Raffensperger)

Nominees for election to the board for 2017-2021:

Cecily Hilsdale (McGill University)
 Brad Hostetler (Kenyon College)
 Tia Kolbaba (Rutgers University)
 Leonora Neville (U. of Wisc. at Madison)
 Shaun Tougher (Cardiff University)
 Edward Watts (UCSD)

Moved by Christian Raffensperger
 Seconded by Elena Boeck

b) Reminder to institute the new nomination protocols agreed to by the board last year (see Appendix II)

12. **Proposed Statement of Inclusion from ad hoc committee (D. Brooks Hedstrom & Y. Kim) (See Appendix III)**

Motion to bring it to Business Lunch:
 Moved: Jennifer Ball
 Seconded Christian Raffensperger

13. **New Business**

Request to consider Canadian Thanksgiving in scheduling conference.

13. ***Addendum to President's Report on Advocacy**
General discussion about the importance of maintaining the Director of Byzantine Studies at DO. Concern expressed by the USNCBS and the AIEB, as well as many of the former senior fellows.
14. **Motion to Ajourn**
Moved: Hannah Ewing
Seconded: Galina Tirnanic

Appendix I

* Program Committee, Launching 2018 BSC

The abstract book is almost ready to print.

Here's a beginning report on program committee data re. conferences for the last 3 years, that I have from being president 2016/Cornell, program chair in 2017/Minn. and now program committee member in 2018/San Antonio.

* 91 papers [accepted for presentation] San Antonio 2018 in 3 concurrent sessions, 91/120 submissions [CFP revised March 15 deadline, from original February 15 deadline]

* 72 papers presented Minnesota 2017 in 3 concurrent sessions, 72/106 submissions [March 1 deadline]

* 60 papers presented Cornell 2016 in 2 concurrent sessions, 60/___ submissions [April 1 deadline; I have written to 2016 BSC Chair Brenda Llewelyn and have asked on stats]

* 93 papers presented NYC 2015 in 3 concurrent sessions, 93/___ submissions [April 1 deadline; Jenn/a NYC members might be able to gather stats]

In Minnesota we tried for the first time the new session format and directions to speakers/chairs that we are using this year again [full directions attached]. Before 2017, there were no uniform standards or protocols.

Timing

1. Each Speaker is allotted 20 minutes to deliver her/his spoken paper. Papers longer than 20 minutes will be cut off by the Session Chair, who will strictly monitor and enforce these parameters. Each 20-minute paper will

be followed by 10 minutes of questions and audience discussion, guided by the Session Chair. This final 10 minutes is not to be used for further reading of a paper that is too long. It is a time for dialogue and intellectual exchange between the audience and the speaker.

re. CFP 2019-submission date, criteria for reviewing abstracts

Jenn has told me that at Board meeting/s she will weigh in on easychair use into future.

In 2018, the first CFP date I suggested and we first ran, February 15, was a failure. Your revised CFP date of March 15 was successful. To consider: does the Board want to go with March 15 as the submission due date for 2019? In 2017 the deadline was March 1, stats above.

The attached 2018 CFP document describes the criteria used by committee members for their reviews. Along with the rejection email, this language can be reviewed if the Board wishes to reframe/redefine what makes a successful abstract.

re. accepted papers dropping out

In 2017 at Minnesota I saw at least 5 people drop out for various reasons right before the 2017 BSC; I will try to determine whether closer to 10, the 2018 number Jenn is tallying.

re. BSC online survey and feedback on no Sunday

I will draft 2018 online survey tonight for you to share with Board ahead of time--I can tweak at conference and we can distribute Sunday. Attached is 2016 survey/results you can review in the meantime.

re. Jaharis funding for graduate student development

For the Board: Does BSANA want to continue the \$5200 annual Jaharis grant funding for graduate student development? Brandie said Jaharis happy to renew [original 3 yr agreement attached.] The two past annual reports are also included for 2016 and 2017.

Appendix II

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.

Appendix III

BSANA Statement on Diversity and Inclusion*

The Byzantine Studies Association of North America (BSANA) is dedicated to the **promotion** of all aspects of **Byzantine studies and associated fields in all disciplines**. BSANA is deeply committed to fostering an equitable, diverse, and inclusive community of students, scholars, and interested members. As a **non-profit, apolitical, academic organization**, it resists any (mis-)appropriation of Byzantine studies to further nationalist, racist, and/or sectarian ideologies. Therefore, it is our policy to welcome, mentor, and include all scholars and students in Byzantine studies without regard to **academic status, race, color, national or ethnic origin, age, religion, disability**, perceived or actual health status, marital or family status, **sex, sexual orientation**, gender identity and expression, veteran status, criminal record, and all characteristics protected under applicable federal and/or state law. We affirm that our academic community is strengthened through diversity and inclusion, and we strive for our governance, policies, use of resources, and programming to reflect our commitment to both.

* "We would like to propose that you share this draft statement with the Board for discussion, at which point we would open it up for any edits, corrections, amendments, etc. If the Board is able to approve the statement, then we envision two possibilities for next steps. Either, we could present the statement to the society for comment, amendment, etc., and then vote on it at the business meeting. Or, we could present it at the business meeting, and give the society a year to comment, edit, etc., and then accept/reject it next year."

—Young Kim and Darlene Brooks Headstrom, *Ad hoc* Committee charged by board with drafting statement of inclusion