

**47th Annual Byzantine Studies Conference
Cleveland, Ohio**

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

Thursday, December 9, 2021

8:00-10:00 PM (EST)

Hybrid, "Senior Classroom," first floor, Tinkham Veale University Center AND via Zoom

Minutes

Present (in person): Lynn Jones, Tia Kolbaba, Brad Hostetler, Byron MacDougall, Ben Anderson, Fotini Kondyli, Leonora Neville, Ruma N. Salhi, Roland Betancourt

Present (virtual): Hannah Ewing, Cecily Hilsdale, George Demacopoulos, Alex Riehle, Alice I. Sullivan (minutes).

Not present: Felege-Selam Yirga, Meredith Riedel

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Approval of Agenda**
Motion to approve: Ben Anderson; seconded, Tia Kolbaba. Motion passes.
3. **Approval of Minutes of Governing Board Meetings held at the 46th BSC (virtual) + January meeting**
Motion to approve: Ben Anderson; seconded, Tia Kolbaba. Motion passes.
4. **Election of New Executive Board**
Thanks expressed to the slate of candidates for election at Saturday's board meeting. Except for the Treasurer, the Board members have agreed to serve another term in their respective roles. Thanks expressed to Tia Kolbaba as departing Treasurer.

Candidates: Lynn Jones – President
 Byron MacDougall – Vice President
 Ruma Salhi – Treasurer
 Alice Isabella Sullivan – Secretary
 Brad Hostetler – Communications Officer
Motion to approve slate: Bran Hostetler; seconded, Cecily Hilsdale. Motion passes.

Officers' Reports

5. **President's Report** (Lynn Jones)

APPROVED MINUTES, Thursday BSANA Board Meeting

- Necrology: Giles Constable (1929-2021)
Wolfram Hörandner (1942-2021)
Constantin Rezachevici (1943-2021)
Cyril Mango (1928-2021)
Pierre Maraval (1936-2021)
Bariša Krekić (1928-2021)
Boris L’vovich Fonkich (1938-2021)
Peter Grossmann (1933-2021)
George P. Majeska (1936-2021)
Sorin Iftimi (1965-2021)
- Advocacy: BSANA-DO Liaison update
Statement from Holger Klein to be read at the Business Lunch Meeting
- Future BSCs: Los Angeles 2022
Whither 2023
Suggestions for future conference venues: Georgia and Michigan.

5. **Secretary’s and Communication Officer’s Report** (Alice Isabella Sullivan and Brad Hostetler)

Report attached, see Appendix A.

This year, the Secretary and Communication Office submitted a joint report in order to outline responsibilities and more clearly define the positions.

The Communication Officer oversees the BSANA listserv, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, as well as website updates together with the Secretary.

The website archive has been streamlined and organized to include past abstracts, programs, and minutes organized by year. The Board has agreed that it would also be a good idea to include the CFPs in the archive.

The Secretary is in the process of updated the “Graduate Programs in North America” page of the new BSANA website. The Board has agreed to include only institutions from North America on the list.

The Secretary has also coordinated with the Treasurer the new membership recording system that involves the completion of a Google Form for the appropriate membership tier, followed by the submission of the appropriate payment amount via PayPal. The Google Form now includes a “Thank you” message at the end that encourages all new members to join the listserv.

6. **Treasurer's Report** (Tia Kolbaba)

Report attached, see Appendix B.

Discussion of those members who pay 3-year memberships. Those memberships will also run on the calendar year.

7. **Vice-President's Report** (Byron MacDougall)

Report attached, see Appendix C.

The VP role and areas of responsibility are being formalized. This year, the VP has assisted the Chair of the Program Committee, will coordinate the post-conference survey, and is overseeing funding for the Byzantinist of Color grants for the BSC and the \$5,000 support allocated to graduate participation in the AIEB.

The VP has also served in a liaison role for the MJC-sponsored events at BSC. The Board agreed that there should always be a point person to assist with MJC-sponsored efforts.

Committee Reports

8. **Nominating Committee Report** (Ben Anderson)

Nominees for election to the Board for 2021-2025:

Christina Christoforatu, Literature, Baruch College, CUNY
Holger Klein, Art History, Columbia University
Alice Lynn McMichael, Digital Humanities, Michigan State
Jordan Pickett, Classics, University of Georgia
Shaun Tougher, History, Cardiff University
Vessela Valiavitcharska, Rhetoric & Education, University of Maryland, College Park

Four new Board members will be nominated at the Saturday Business Lunch. In the future, the Committee will aim to recruit more diverse scholars from different background and institutional affiliations.

9. **Future Program Committees**

Galina Tirnanic has agreed to continue as Program Chair for Los Angeles 2022.

10. **Diversity & Inclusion Committee Report** (Byron MacDougall)

Report attached, see Appendix D.

The Committee presented its new mission statement with emphasis on greater diversity in individual and institutional membership and outreach, the need to foster a culture of inclusivity, support for Byzantinists of Color, and the possible formation of an Advocacy Committee.

Need for more visibility for Byzantinists of Color support so that we receive more applications. Discussion of whether past recipients can apply again for support. The Board was in agreement that there should be no restrictions in this regard (as there are no restrictions on the Graduate Travel Grant).

Need for more fundraising as we have good momentum and should build into this grant. The Board agreed to replenish the fund with what was spent this year (\$4,000 for 2021).

Suggestion to establish more substantial research grants and other smaller grants. Perhaps developing several smaller grants geared toward undergraduate initiatives, study trips, etc. Need to diversify our centers of interaction.

11. **Graduate Student Committee Report** (Jake Ransohoff)

Report attached, see Appendix E.

This year, BSANA formed a Graduate Student Committee of 8 members that reflect diversity in race, gender, geographic distribution, public/private institutions, and MA/PhD membership.

The Committee formulated a mission statement and drafted bylaws.

The Committee will have a dedicated session at the BSC, with the inaugural session at the 2021 conference.

Future nominations to the Graduate Student Committee will be accomplished by each member who will find his/her replacement so that the committee retains geographic distribution and MA/PhD-level representation.

12. **Mary Jaharis Center Liaison Report** (Dar Brooks Hedstrom and Betsy Williams)

Report attached, see Appendix F.

The two virtual events at the 2020 BSC were well attended: 23 students and recent PhDs for the first panel on “From the Dissertation to Grant and Book Proposals: Strategies for Different Types of Academic Writing,” and 20 students and recent PhDs for the second panel on “Interviewing Skills: Online and In Person.”

The MJC-sponsored panels will continue, and the MJC will coordinate its own feedback questionnaire after future events in conversation with the Communications Officer.

New Business

13. **Movement of Adjunct faculty from Regular membership category to Emeritus/Independent Scholar category**

The issue was discussed and unanimously agreed upon.

Motion to approve: Ben Anderson; seconded, Leonora Neville. Motion passes.

14. **Subcommittee to Evaluate Updating By-Laws**

The Board decided to leave this item for next year.

15. **Advocacy Committee: Continuation of Discussion**

The Board addressed again possible future venues for the BSC, including Princeton, Michigan, Georgia. Also, the Board has been tasked with thinking bigger about the future of the organization given the current strong organization, leadership, and funding. Other initiatives will be discussed in future meetings.

16. **Adjournment 9:40 PM**

Motion to adjourn: Cecily Hilsdale; seconded, George Demacopoulos. Motion passes.

Appendix A

Communications Officer and Secretary Annual Report

December 1, 2021

This report is submitted jointly by the Communication Officer (Brad Hostetler) and the Secretary (Alice Sullivan) for the 2021 BSC.

- **BSANA listserv** (bsana-listserv@googlegroups.com)
 - With the closure of Yahoo Groups, our previous listserv host, on December 15, 2020, a new listserv was created with Google Groups. All previous subscribers were required to opt-in to continue receiving messages, and this resulted in a drop in subscribers.
 - As of December 1, 2021 we have 494 subscribers, and have posted 208 messages. Reported numbers from previous years:
 - 2019 - approximately 900 subscribers and 140 messages
 - 2016 - 882 subscribers
 - 2013 - 737 subscribers
 - 2012 - 663 subscribers and 103 messages
- **Facebook** (@bsanabsc)
 - As of December 1, 2021 we have 8,969 followers. Messages from the listserv are crossposted here. Reported numbers from previous years:
 - 2019 - approximately 7,000 followers
 - 2016 - 3,758 followers
 - 2013 - 570 followers
 - October 2011 - account created
- **Twitter** (@bsanabsc)
 - The Twitter account was created in November 2020, and replaced an old account (@ByzStudNA) that we were unable to revive.
 - As of December 1, 2021 we have 1,229 followers. Messages from the listserv are crossposted here.
- **Instagram** (@bsanabsc)
 - The Instagram account was created in November 2020. This platform is used only to communicate BSANA and BSC announcements.
 - As of December 1, 2021 we have 208 followers, and have made 29 posts.
- **New website** (bsana.net)
 - The new BSANA website launched February 9, 2021. We would like to recognize the work of Amanda Wagner, from the University of Toronto, who had been updating the old site since its creation. The new site can now be modified by us at any time with Inforest providing technical support, when needed. Please send us updates and corrections. Notable new features:
 - Announcements: Listserv announcements are crossposted to the “Announcements” section of our website.
 - Archives: We have streamlined this section of the site to include past abstracts, programs, and minutes, organized by year.
 - Abstracts / Program
 - Officers
 - Business Meeting Minutes

- Governing Board Minutes 1
 - Governing Board Minutes 2
 - *Point of discussion*: It would be ideal to add our annual CFP to the archive.
- **Graduate Programs**
 - In May 2021, a message was sent out to our members asking for updates to our “Graduate Programs in North America” website page via a Google Form. The initial response period extended through June 30, although some responses came in later in the summer. The webpage is in the process of being fully updated. Members can expect yearly requests for updates to this information around June.
 - *Point of discussion*: It would be ideal if we could add non-North American accredited institutions as well, either at the end of the list or on a separate page.
- **Number of members and breakdown**
 - As of December 1, 2021, this is the membership breakdown:
 - Regular members: 51
 - Supporters: 16
 - Emeritus or Independent Scholars: 25
 - No-Fee members: 137
 - Membership runs yearly and is due by January 31. Members have to complete the Google Form for the appropriate membership tier, and then submit the payment via PayPal.
 - Thank you note added after form submission that includes details on how to join the listserv.
 - Thank you for confirming your BSANA membership! Please return to the BSANA website and submit the appropriate membership payment via PayPal. If you have any further questions, please write to bsana.secretary@gmail.com. Receive announcements and learn about opportunities in the field of Byzantine Studies by subscribing to our listserv. For more information, visit our website: <https://bsana.net/communications/>.
- **Compile Necrology**
 - Giles Constable (1929-2021)
 - Wolfram Hörandner (1942-2021)
 - Constantin Rezachevici (1943-2021)
 - Cyril Mango (1928-2021)
 - Pierre Maraval (1936-2021)
 - Bariša Krekić (1928-2021)
 - Boris L’vovich Fonkich (1938-2021)
 - Peter Grossmann (1933-2021)
 - George P. Majeska (1936-2021)
 - Sorin Iftimi (1965-2021)
- **Organize files**
 - Keep minutes at all the meetings
 - Coordinate the voting during the Business Lunch (via Google Forms in 2021).

Appendix B

Byzantine Studies Association of North America 2021 Treasurer's Report

Covering October 1, 2020 to November 15, 2021

Prepared by Tia Kolbaba (kolbaba@religion.rutgers.edu)

Accounts as of November 15, 2021

Bank of America "Business Advantage" Checking:	4,178.88
Bank of America "Business Advantage" Savings (earning 0.04% interest):	47,921.39
CityFirst Bank, Certificate of Deposit maturing 4/13/2022 (.05% interest):	25,005.34
CityFirst Bank, Certificate of Deposit maturing 4/13/2022 (.1% interest):	20,003.50
CityFirst Bank, Certificate of Deposit maturing 4/13/2024 (.15% interest):	20,005.26
PayPal NonProfit Business Account:	1,783.60
Total Accounts:	118,897.97

2020-21 Income (Oct. 1, 2020-November 15, 2021)

Donations (all)	381.12
General donations	33.38
Donations to Byzantinists of Color Fund	314.06
2020: 9728.36 (inception of Byzantinists of Color Fund)	
2019: 1650.00	
2018: 905.00	
Membership dues from 147 fee-paying members (see notes below)	9489.10
2020: 138 members	
2019: 140 members	
2018: 183 Members	
Interest on Savings Account	24.33
Interest on CityFirst Certificates of Deposit	26.70
Total Income	9,921.25
Income 2020: 21,588.36	
Income 2019: 10,074.97	
Income 2018: 2,060.67	

2020-21 Expenses (Oct. 1, 2020-November 15, 2021)

10/27/2020	Graduate Student Prizes for 2019 conference	1000.00
10/29/20	EasyChair License, 2020 Conference	254.57
12/17/20	2020 US National Committee dues paid to International Association	251.42
1/9/21	Pair.com webhosting fee for new website	170.43
2/24/21	Inforest Design, website design final payment	2080.00
3/2/21	Oertel, Fernandez, Bryant, and Atkinson. Annual report.	71.71
4/12/21	Final payment to University of Toronto for website services	240.60
10/7-19/21	Grants, Byzantinists of Color Fund	4000.00
11/11/21	2021 US National Committee dues paid to International Association	237.04

Total Expenses 8,305.77

Expenses 2020: (\$8740.19)
 Expenses 2019: (\$23,664.92)
 Expenses 2018: (\$9,856.92)

2021 Income less Expenses 1,615.48

Income less Expenses 2020 12,848.17
 Income less Expenses 2019 (13,589.95)
 Income less expenses 2018: 2,203.75

NOTES

- The balances in accounts is approximately \$15,000 more than in the 2020 report. This reflects (1) 12,795 in Jaharis Center Funding, most of which will be disbursed immediately after the conference; (2) higher income from memberships in 2021 (see below).
- The total balance of the Byzantinists of Color Fund stands at 12,529.76. Four grants were given to graduate students this year, for a total of 4,000.
- Paid memberships are up slightly, but income from memberships nearly doubled in 2021. This is a result of the option, newly instituted, to pay for 3 years of membership in advance. 34 members took this option. Membership income will almost certainly be lower in 2022.
- BSANA has also instituted a system of no-fee memberships for retired scholars, graduate students, and early career contingent scholars. In that category, we have an additional 132 members in 2021.
- Dues and donations have been recorded and calculated as net amounts after PayPal fees. The total of PayPal fees for the period Oct. 1, 2020 to November 15, 2021 is 395.50 (2020: 339.59; 2019: 246.32), at 3.49% plus .49 per transaction. These rates have risen (from 2.9% plus .30 per transaction). Future Treasurers should monitor these fees, but I would argue that the cost remains reasonable, given convenience for members and donors.
- Expenses were relatively low for 2020-2021, primarily because of the online BSC in 2020. The online format resulted in (1) no travel reimbursements for graduate students (\$3600 to \$7000 per year between 2017 and 2019); (2) minimal Jaharis Center spending.

With 3-year memberships added to the mix, I've been using the date that a member paid to keep track of when their membership expires. In other words if you paid for a year last October, I have your membership expiring this October. Alice pointed out that traditionally we have done it by calendar year. By the traditional system, if you paid in October 2021 your membership still expires on Dec. 31, 2021. Besides easier record-keeping, another advantage of this traditional system is that one email is sent to everyone in January reminding them to renew their membership. And then I believe the Sec'y also sends a reminder later in the year to anyone who is on the program and not a paid-up member.

If we change this to having the Treasurer keep a list of everyone who has paid in the last 365 days or who has paid for a 3-year membership, it gets more complicated. For the Treasurer, it's just one additional piece of easy bookkeeping. The Treasurer can still regularly update the Sec'y with a paid-members list. But the process of reminding people would be more complicated. Since about 1/2 of the members still renew their membership in January, perhaps a January reminder would still be sufficient?

I can picture a lot of people emailing the Sec'y or Treasurer to check on their status. That happens now, to some extent, but again the 3-year memberships make it more likely that people won't know whether they've paid or not.

Information:

Number of memberships paid, by month

Month	Total memberships	3-year	
January	68	16	
February	7	2	
March	8	3	
April	4	0	
May	4	0	
June	6	2	
July	3	0	
August	2	0	
September	2	1	
October	5	4	
November	12	6	
December (as of 12/5)	2	0	
	123	34 (27%)	

Appendix C

Byzantine Studies Association of North America 2021 Vice President's Report

It has not been customary for the Vice President to submit an annual report at the Governing Board Meeting, but given this year's exceptional circumstances, as well as due to the inclusion of certain new areas of responsibility in the office's portfolio, we decided it would be helpful to begin having the Vice President submit a report as well—however brief that may be.

1. EasyChair

The Vice President's EasyChair responsibilities usually include coordinating with the Chair of the Program Committee and serving as a firewall between the Program Committee on one hand and abstract authors on the other regarding submission issues. This year there was an additional wrinkle to the EasyChair process: several people who had been accepted for the 2020 Zoom BSC had opted to defer until 2021, and the Governing Board decided that in such cases the author would still submit an abstract for the BSC 2021, but would indicate on EasyChair that their submission had already been accepted the previous year. This information was visible only to the VP and kept hidden from the Program Committee, and it was the VP's responsibility to flag discretely those instances where an abstract previously accepted for 2020 was unknowingly rejected by the PC. The system seems to have worked, with however one unfortunate exception, and I of course take responsibility for the case of the one abstract that had already been accepted in 2020 and then fell through the cracks when rejected by the PC this year.

2. Diversity and Inclusion Committee; Byzantinists of Color Fund

The formalization of the VP's role within the Committee began to take shape when it was decided that they would serve as the point person in administering the Byzantinists of Color grants for the BSC and in communicating with grant applicants.

In further articulating its mission and structure, the DIC also decided that the VP shall serve as a member of the committee *ex officio* in order to ensure officer participation on the committee.

3. International Congress Support Funds

In response to the AIEB request to support participation at the International Congress by graduate students and early career scholars, the Governing Board is launching a new fund and has allocated \$5,000 towards it. Since, with the Byzantinists of Color grants, the VP is already overseeing a similar fund, the Officers agreed that the VP would also oversee these new International Congress Support Funds.

4. Mary Jaharis Center Grant for Graduate Student Professional Development

Having already coordinated with Dar Brooks Hedstrom and Betsy Williams for their MJC panel during the 2020 Zoom BSC, the VP continued to be involved in the development of an MJC panel for the 2021 BSC. Although this collaboration has so far only been incidental to the VP's defined role, the Board may want to consider designating the VP as point person for future collaboration with other MJC events or similar initiatives.

Respectfully submitted,
Byron MacDougall

Appendix D

Byzantine Studies Association of North America Diversity and Inclusion Committee 2021 Report

1. Mission Statement
2. Leadership and Terms of Service for Committee Members
3. Statement on Racism Towards AAPI
4. Byzantinists of Color Fund
5. Mary Jaharis Center Panel on Diversity and Inclusion

1. Mission Statement

The Diversity and Inclusion Committee understands its mission to consist of the following:

- to promote greater diversity at all levels of BSANA membership through active institutional and individual outreach;
- to maintain and foster a culture of inclusivity at BSC events and other BSANA spaces;
- to support the work and research of Byzantinists of Color in areas including but not limited to participation at the annual BSC;
- at least until the establishment of a separate Advocacy Committee, to attend to BSANA's role in addressing public issues related to diversity and inclusion, especially as they involve the wider academic community.

2. Leadership and Terms of Service for Committee Members

The members have agreed that Ruma Salhi will serve as Committee Chair for the upcoming year. Future chairs will be chosen by committee member consensus.

To ensure Committee involvement on the part of Governing Board officers, the Vice President will serve on the committee *ex officio*.

Members may, if they wish, continue to serve through the length of their term on the Governing Board. Additional members are to be added by volunteering themselves or by being nominated by current members to replace those due to rotate off.

3. Statement On Racism Toward AAPI

On March 22 the Committee released the following statement over the BSANA website:

"Since the beginning of the pandemic our country has witnessed an increase in violence, harassment, and hate targeting persons of Asian descent. The fatal shootings in Atlanta on March 16 were the latest in a series of violent attacks. These murders are also part of a longer history in the United States of discriminating against and stereotyping Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islander communities. The Byzantine Studies Association of North America categorically condemns acts of violence, hatred, and

racism, and we stand in full support of our AAPI members, colleagues, and students who may face increased fear or anxiety because of such actions."

4. Byzantinists of Color Fund

The stated purpose of the Byzantinists of Color Fund was "to combat systemic forms of racism and exclusion in our discipline," (June 7 2020). As of January 27 of this year, available funds stood at \$16,529.76.

We decided that the most pressing need was to support BSC participation among graduate students and early career contingent faculty of color, and that the most equitable way to do this was to distribute grants of \$1,000, as well as a waiver for the conference registration fee and business lunch, on a first-come, first-serve basis. The grants were open to all eligible BSANA members who intended to attend the conference, not only those who would be giving papers.

We decided that the VP would serve as contact person to coordinate between grant applicants and the Treasurer. There were a total of four applicants, consisting of three graduate students and one early career contingent scholar. All received the \$1,000 grant. Further details included in the website announcement and distributed to grant recipients stated that grant recipients are to lodge at the conference hotel, attend the Saturday lunch, and email any receipts for reimbursement of qualified expenses beyond the initial \$1,000 to the Vice President by December 19.

Our concerns going forward are:

- A) increasing the number of applicants, if the grants are to be continued next year
- B) identifying other ways these funds may be used effectively
- C) supplementing the fund through additional fundraising, if necessary

With respect to the first concern, the Committee recognizes that individual faculty play a decisive role in encouraging their students to apply for funding opportunities like this. We urge all members to encourage their eligible students to apply in the future.

5. Mary Jaharis Center Panel on Diversity and Inclusion

Committee Members Ruma Salhi, Felege-Selam Yirga, and Byron MacDougall are serving as panelists for the Mary Jaharis Center workshop on "Diversity, Inclusion, and Outreach Topics" at the 2021 BSC on Friday, December 10. The panel has been organized by Dar Brooks Hedstrom and Betsy Williams, and is funded by a Mary Jaharis Center Grant for Graduate Student Professional Development. A post-workshop questionnaire will be circulated among the graduate student attendees, and it will include questions regarding what initiatives the graduate student community would like to see the Diversity and Inclusion Committee undertake, as well as how to more effectively promote greater participation and diversity for graduate students and contingent faculty at the BSC, both including and extending beyond the model of the Byzantinists of Color Fund.

Respectfully submitted,

Committee Members Ben Anderson, Roland Betancourt, Fotini Kondyli, Byron MacDougall, Ruma Salhi, and Felege-Selam Yirga

APPROVED MINUTES, Thursday BSANA Board Meeting

Appendix E

BSANA Graduate Student Committee Review of Activities, 2021

Respectfully submitted to the BSANA Governing Board by Jake Ransohoff on behalf of the Graduate Student Committee, December 1, 2021

Chair(s):

Justin Mann (UVA)
Jake Ransohoff (Harvard)

Committee members:

Aurora Camaño (Simon Fraser)
Anna Carroll (CUNY Graduate Center)
Madison Gilmore-Duffey (FSU)
Caitlin Mimms (FSU)
James Razumoff (UVA)
Tiffany VanWinkoop (Simon Fraser/UW Madison)

Committee missions:

The Graduate Student Committee strives to give greater agency to graduate students through a committee that reflects diversity in race, gender, geographic distribution, public/private institutions, and MA/PhD membership. We seek to grow graduate membership and create a strong graduate community, bringing together students in all related fields of Byzantine Studies. Additionally, we aim to increase graduate attendance at the BSC through a guaranteed session and the presentation of annual committee reports at the BSC member's meeting.

Summary of Main Activities, 2021:

- Planning, advertising, and selecting participants for the Graduate Student Committee's first annual panel at the 2021 Byzantine Studies Conference.
- Formulating a mission statement and establishing bylaws to govern the Graduate Student Committee henceforth.
- Devising or supporting initiatives to both grow graduate student participation in BSANA-affiliated events, and to enhance the range and number of graduate-focused events in the future.

Report:

The Graduate Student Committee (hereafter GSC) met on seven occasions, all via Zoom, during its inaugural 2021 year: 2/9 (with Lynn Jones, president of BSANA, presiding), 3/12,

4/23, 8/27, 10/12, and 11/12, with a final meeting anticipated in December 2021 after the BSC, to discuss the appointment of candidates to the 20222 GSC. Its activities during this initial year

centered on two objectives: (1) formulating and implementing a body of regulations, including internal organization, leadership structure, bylaws, and election procedures, to endow the GSC with a coherent set of institutional aims and procedures necessary for its continued existence beyond the current generation of leadership; and (2) organizing the first annual GSC panel at the Byzantine Studies Conference.

At its second meeting, in March, the GSC discussed the formulation of its mission statement. On the basis of this discussion, Maddie Gilmore-Duffey drafted a version of the statement subsequently approved by the GSC. We resolved in this same meeting to keep the number of the Committee's members at its existing eight (8), rather than reducing membership to a proposed four (4) or five (5) in this or future years. We also decided to create four permanent leadership positions (chair, vice-president, outreach officer, and secretary), to be held by members of the GSC for a one-year term. The four one-year members of the GSC (Jake, Justin, Anna, Caitlin) assumed these four leadership positions in 2021; the four two-year members will then step into leadership positions for their second year of service. Justin Mann and Jake Ransohoff jointly assumed the position of chair, Anna Carroll that of vice-president, Caitlin Mims that of outreach officer, and Tiffany VanWinkoop that of secretary—who, while serving a two-year term, was chosen by unanimous acclamation to continue the duties of secretary which she assumed on an *ad hoc* basis during the meeting of 2/9.

In observance of its mission “to increase graduate attendance at the BSC,” the GSC dedicated time in meetings across the year toward the planning of its Byzantine Studies Conference panel. We resolved in March to keep the panel open rather than restricting it to a particular theme, and decided to accept five papers rather than four papers and a respondent. Anna Carroll then drafted a panel advertisement, approved by the entire Committee, for circulation on the BSANA listserv. In August, Lynn Jones in her capacity as BSANA president delivered eighth abstracts to the GSC. After dedicated discussion, in which we balanced considerations of content, diversity, MA/PhD, and geography/institution, the GSC selected five papers to include in the session. In October, Lynn informed the Committee that a five-paper panel would be impossible to accommodate, and the panel was reduced to four papers.

Throughout the year, the GSC discussed the framing of regulations and procedures to govern the Committee's organization as they arose in relation to the Committee's immediate duties. In October, Caitlin Mims drafted these discussions and resolutions into a formal set of bylaws, edited by the entire GSC on November 1st, 2021 and subsequently approved by all at the meeting on November 12th (included as an appendix to this report).

Finally, across 2021, the GSC has actively discussed initiatives toward the fulfillment of its missions to “give greater agency to graduate students” and “create a strong graduate student community.” Some of these, such as responding to Mary Jaharis center questionnaires in April about graduate student events, were carried out in order to aid BSANA-supporting institutions in developing graduate-centered programming. Others—such as discussions about the appropriateness of potential GSC involvement in the awarding of Graduate Student Paper Prizes at the BSC—were referred to the BSANA governing board. Still other, longer-term initiatives include enhanced job market and professionalization programming at the BSC, mentorship programs facilitated by BSANA, and discussions about strategies to increase diversity among North American graduate students in Byzantine Studies across specializations (Art History, History, Literature, etc.). The GSC hopes these discussions will form the groundwork for a slate of initiatives among the four second-term members, and four new members, of the 2022 council.

Appendix: Graduate Student Committee Bylaws

ARTICLE 1: COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION OF COMMITTEE

Section A. Name

1. The name of this organization shall be Byzantine Studies Association of North America Graduate Student Committee (Hereafter referred to as the Graduate Committee or the Committee).

Section B. Purpose

1. To strive to give greater agency to graduate students through a committee that reflects diversity in race, gender, geographic distribution, public/private institutions, and MA/PhD membership. We seek to grow graduate membership and create a strong graduate community, bringing together students in all related fields of Byzantine Studies. Additionally, we aim to increase graduate attendance at the BSC through a guaranteed session and the presentation of annual committee reports at the BSC member's meeting.

Section C. Membership

1. The Committee shall be composed of eight graduate students who reflect diversity in race, gender, geographic distribution, public/private institutions, and MA/PhD membership.
2. Each committee member shall serve a term of two years.
3. Election to the Committee will be on a rolling basis. Each year there will be four vacancies.

Section D. Officers

- 1) The Committee shall have the following officers elected from the current

membership: Chair

Secretary Conference

Officer Communications

Officer

- 2) Duties of Officers

i) Chair

- (1) Sees that the Graduate Committee operates in accordance with BSANA operating policies and procedures
- (2) Ensures the execution of the responsibilities of the Committee officers and coordinates the activities of the officers, as listed.
- (3) Presides over all meetings of the Committee

- (4) Presents an annual report on the activities of the Graduate Committee to the members of BSANA at the Annual business lunch during the Byzantine Studies Conference.
- ii) Secretary
 - (1) Records the minutes of all Committee meetings and distributes them to all members of the Committee and to the BSANA President
 - (2) Maintains up-to-date records of all business conducted by the association.
 - (3) Responsible for producing and distributing meeting agendas at least 24 hours in advance, along with reminders for meetings.
 - (4) Maintains attendance records of all Committee meetings
- iii) Conference Chair
 - (1) Ensures the creation of a dedicated session for graduate student presentations at the annual BSC.
- iv) Communications Officer
 - (1) Ensures that information on the BSANA website is updated.
 - (2) Responsible for all correspondence directed toward the organization (e.g., emails, post mail, etc.).
- 3) Terms of Office
 - a) Each officer will serve a term of 1 year
 - b) Officers will hold their positions until new officers are elected.
- 4) Vacancies and Removals from Office
 - a) Failure to meet duties of office without reasonable cause shall be grounds for removal from office.
 - b) No current officer may run for office to fill a vacancy of another officer.
 - c) Any officer, including the Chair, may be removed from office or suspended from office by a vote of two-thirds of the total official membership at a regular meeting. Removal or suspension must be with justifiable cause. The person under consideration for removal or suspension of office shall be given an opportunity to be heard at the meeting, with sufficient notice of the proposed removal or suspension.

Section E. Election of New Members

- 1. Four outgoing committee members will form an election committee and will invite nominations (including self-nominations) for terms beginning at the next BSC.
- 2. The election committee will meet and determine the four incoming members of the Graduate Committee.

ARTICLE 2: PROCEDURE

The Committee shall establish its rules of procedure.

ARTICLE 3: AMENDMENTS

An amendment to the Bylaws may be adopted at any meeting of the Committee by a two-thirds vote of those committee members present and voting, providing that the amendment has been

presented in writing at the preceding regular meeting. Following approval, the amended Bylaws will be submitted by the Chair to the President of the Byzantine Studies Association of North America.

Revision History

Revised by Graduate Committee: 11/1/2021

Appendix F

REPORT OF MJC PROGRAMMING TO THE BSANA BOARD 2020 Fiscal Year (Virtual-Online)

Prepared by Dar Brooks Hedstrom and Betsy Williams

November 2021

Description of the participants, and events funded by MJC monies in 2020

The 2020 Byzantine Studies Conference went virtual due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and the inability to meet in person on October 24-25, 2020. BSANA hosted two very well attended panels sponsored by the Mary Jaharis Center. We wish to recognize that graduate students, young career scholars and contingent faculty have been impacted significantly by the uncertainty of the pandemic. We maintained that rotation of two panels: one on a topic of broad appeal and one in technical skills for navigating the early steps of being a professional in the field.

This year we used Google Forms to gather information about the participants in the two panels to see who we are reaching with the BSANA-MJC Development panels and to invite the participants to suggest ideas for future panels. This was a great opportunity to learn what is needed and to respond appropriately with support and mentorship.

BSC 2020 PROGRAM #1: “From the Dissertation to Grant and Book Proposals: Strategies for Different Types of Academic Writing”

Discussants in this panel provided advice for crafting different types of scholarly writing. Our group of four scholar-mentors focused on different aspects of academic writing to rework dissertation research in a variety of genres, such as an article for publication, a book proposal, a grant project, and generally how to respond to reader's reports, which was very helpful advice. The panelists all addressed very pragmatic concerns and gave concrete advice to familiarize graduate students with this often intimidating process. We counted 23 students and recent PhDs in attendance at this panel (Fig. 1-2).

Panelists

Michael Sharp, Publisher, Cambridge University Press “Book proposals: general overview”
Colin Whiting, Dumbarton Oaks Papers, Dumbarton Oaks “Preparing an article for a journal:
responding to peer-review comments”

Katherine Jansen, Speculum, Catholic University of America “Preparing an article for a
journal & process”

Lynn Jones, Florida State University “General tips re: dissertation prose v. article/book prose”

What is your primary field of study?
21 responses

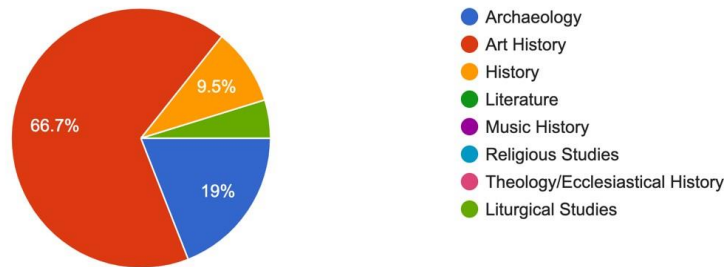


Fig. 1. Who attended Panel 1 on different types of academic writing based upon one's field of primary study.

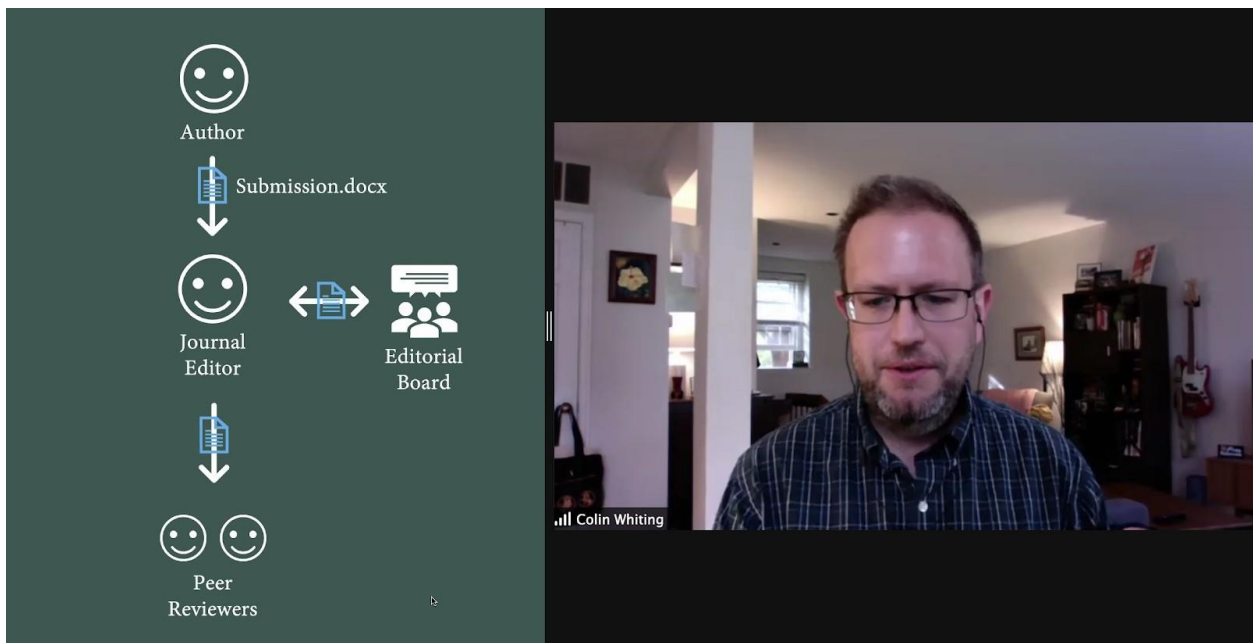


Fig. 2. Colin Whiting explaining the process of reader reports for journal submissions.

BSC 2019 PROGRAM # 2: "Interviewing Skills: Online and In Person"

When we initially planned this session in early 2019, our hope was to continue the past programming where graduate students and recent PhDs were matched with mentors for one-on-one sessions and personalized tips for interviewing. However, in light of new realities arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, we decided to make this an opportunity for a more open discussion about job interviews in an era when jobs are scarce and all interviews are taking place online. Our panelists included people who have recently been on the market as well as others who have served on numerous interviewing committees. In addition, we sought a mix of university, museum, and foundation professionals, with the idea that a broader swath of experience would serve those students looking outside of tenure-track or teaching jobs.

To encourage discussion, we asked students to send in questions in advance via a Google Form (see below). The session started with panelists addressing these pre-circulated questions in an open forum. After this, students and mentors were broken into smaller group rooms for more focused discussion. Panelists generously provided their email addresses to students and recent PhDs for “office hour” meetings after the session. We counted 20 students and recent PhDs in attendance at this session (Fig. 3-5).

Some questions our panel addressed:

1. How important is the interview for the selection of final candidates?
2. How do you balance expectations about your role as a teacher/mentor but also a scholar during the interview?
3. How do you determine how formal/informal the interview will be now that everyone is much more comfortable with zoom?
4. Are there any unexpected benefits specific to virtual interviewing?
5. Any there any specific pitfalls in interviewing specific to the virtual medium?
6. Think about some pragmatic tips for Zoom/Video interviews: lighting, headphones/microphone, carving out space in a small apartment to concentrate on interview, etc.

Panelists

- Alice Isabella Sullivan, Michigan, BSANA board member
- Andrea Achi, Metropolitan Museum of Art
- Ben Anderson, Cornell University, BSANA board member
- Byron MacDougall, Brown University, BSANA board member
- Darlene L. Brooks Hedstrom, Brandeis University, former BSANA board member
- Elizabeth Williams, Dumbarton Oaks, former BSANA board member
- Felege-Selam Yirga, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, BSANA board member
- Fotini Kondyli, University of Virginia, BSANA board member
- Georgios Makris, University of British Columbia
- Young Richard, University of Illinois-Chicago, former BSANA board member

What is your primary field of study?
15 responses

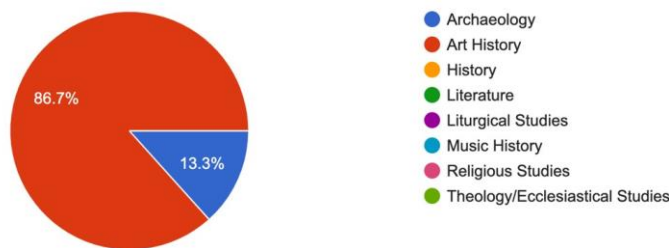


Fig. 3. Who attended Panel 2 on Interviewing Tips based upon one's field of primary study.

Where are you in your career?

15 responses

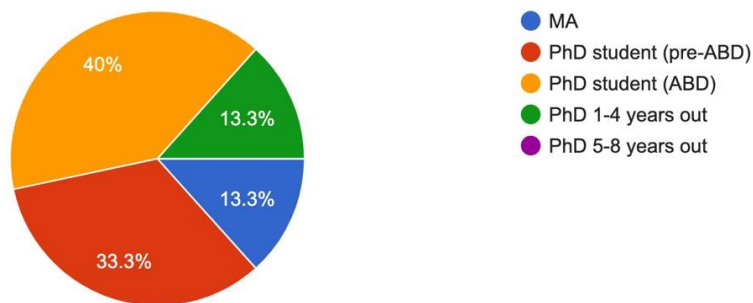


Fig. 4. Pie chart illustrating where the participants are in their academic career.

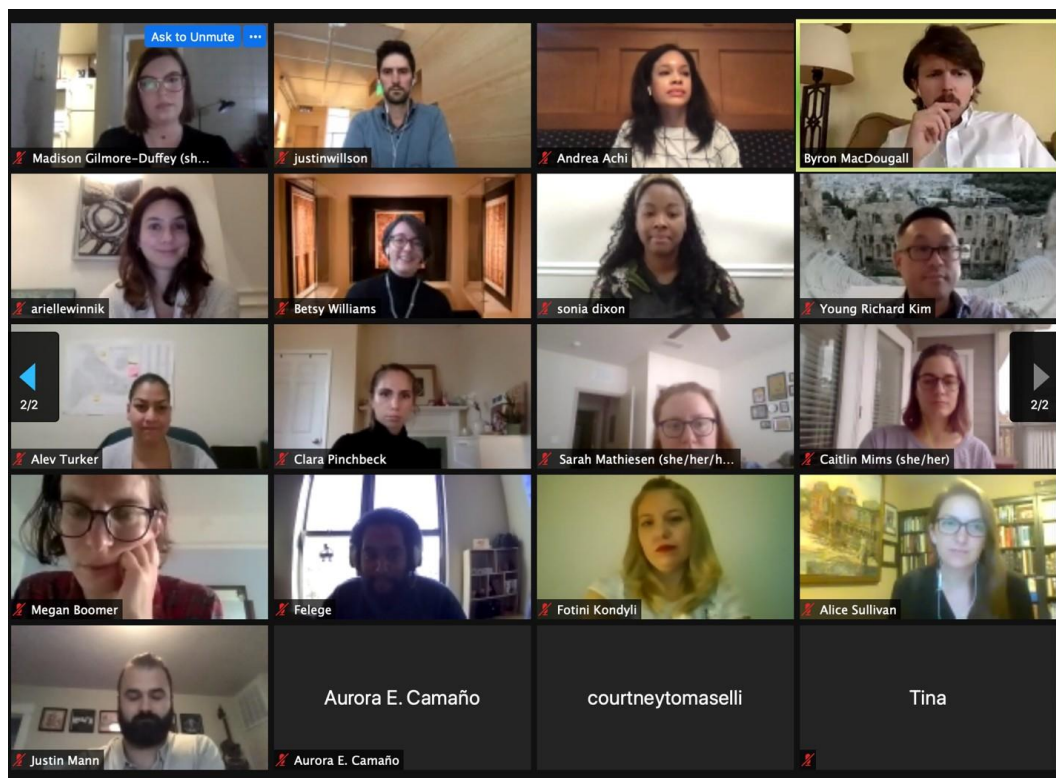


Fig. 5. Panelists and participants on Zoom call for Panel 2.

2. Attendance

Session 1, Academic writing panel: 23 students and recent PhDs

Session 2, Interviewing mentoring session: 20 students and recent PhDs

3. Feedback from Graduate Students

At both panels we provide opportunities for participants to offer suggestions for future topics for the MJC 2021 panels. This year, we used Google Form assessments right after the panels ended to gather immediate feedback. We did not have questions on the wider distributed BSC Post-Conference survey. These results, therefore, reflect the voices of participants and not of the 80 graduate students who registered for the conference. Here are the responses of participants:

Responses to Writing Panel: What did you learn in the panel? What was useful to you?

- I learned a lot about the peer review process.
- All of this was very helpful, especially the advice from the editors about what they are looking for and what they don't want.
- the process behind peer review, taking feedback
- The detailed process of the publication and editing process was extremely helpful.
- The practical information was very helpful to better understand how the publishing process works. Many thanks to all the speakers.
- I found the information about book proposals very interesting. I was particularly struck by the section on choosing an appropriate title and its importance for the circulation of the book. The guidance on dealing with the dreaded reviewer 2 was also very comforting as a junior scholar. I think this was a very valuable session in general and that it is such a shame that this sort of information is not made available to students as a matter of course at every institution. Thank you!
- Journal mission statements, the end-to-end processes, everything! This was extremely useful.
- Learned more about the peer-review process, thank you to all the panelists for shedding light on this aspect of publishing
- The many details about the writing process was helpful. For example, the fact that librarians often do not see the subtitles so we must consider how our work would be catalogued. Colin's mapping of the process was useful, too. I appreciated hearing that Speculum is seriously tackling the issue of lack of diversity.

Responses to Interviewing Workshop: What did you learn in the workshop? What was useful to you?

- I learned that it is acceptable to bring my personality to interviews (from what I wear to how I present myself).
- The panelists gave specific suggestions about what to prepare prior to interviewing.
- It was interesting to hear different perspectives on interview best practices! The discussion about the tone of thank you notes was particularly interesting, as well as ways to debrief after the event.
- Some suggestions for the virtual interview and presentation of material.
- I learned how to market my research to a broader audience.

4. Detailed accounting of use of MJC funding (\$5,200), and a summary of any BSANAmomies used toward the events.

<i>Payee</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Notes</i>
None	\$0	The conference was online and therefore we did not have any expenses for 2020.
<i>Total 2020 Expenses</i>	<i>\$0</i>	

In addition to not spending the \$5,200 allocated for 2020 conference expenses, we also carryforward unused 2019 expenses (\$2,395).

The 2020 committee was composed of:

- (1) The 2020 BSANA President, Dr. Benjamin Anderson
- (2) The 2020 BSANA Treasurer, Dr. Tia Kolbaba
- (3) The 2020 BSC Program Chair, Dr. Christian Raffensperger
- (4) Dr. Darlene Brooks Hedstrom (2016-2020 BSANA Governing Board Member)
- (5) Dr. Elizabeth Dospel Williams (2015-2019 BSANA Governing Board Member, BSANA Treasurer, 2017-2019)