# American Academy of Religion, Western Region

# AAR Boston

# Board Meeting and Dinner

# November 18, 2017

Location:
Uno Pizzeria & Grill

[731 Boylston St, Boston, MA 02116](https://maps.google.com/?q=731+Boylston+St,+Boston,+MA+02116&entry=gmail&source=g)

Time: 6-9 pm

## Attendees

Jonathan Lee, President; Abdullahi Gallab, VP/Program Chair; Brian Clearwater, Regionally Elected Coordinator; Jason Sexton, VP-elect; Zayin Cabot; Marie Cartier; Anjeanette LeBoeuf; Sarah Robinson-Bertoni; Chase Laurelle Way; Joseph Paxton; Susan Maloney

Excused:
Souad T. Ali; Sakena Young-Scaggs; Kimberly Carfore; Greg Yanke; Dorothea Kahena Viale

1. **CALL TO ORDER/OPENING REMARKS**
	1. Jonathan Lee, the President began the meeting at 6:20pm.
	2. Abdullahi Gallab, the Vice-President counted 10 participants present, and welcomed all executive committee members and AAR members to the business meeting. The President provided an overview of the meeting, discussing four agenda items: thank you’s, update to policy files, accepting candidates for open board positions, and elections for executive committee positions.
2. **Ice-breaker / Introductions**
3. **Action item: Vote on approval of Board Meeting Minutes at UWest March 15, 2017; and AARWR Business Meeting, March 19, 2017.**
	1. Jonathan Lee motioned to approve board meeting minutes on Friday. Anjeanette LeBoeuf seconded, and this motion was passed unanimously. The business meeting minutes for Sunday were motioned for approval by Jonathan Lee; Marie Cartier seconded and this was passed unanimous.
4. **Update to Policy Files**
	1. The committee discussed revision for the “regional business meeting” timeline clarification for the VP. The recommendations aimed to reduce confusion among board members and conference planning committee. In addition, there was a recommendation to change language around joint panels.
5. **Report from Joseph Paxton re: AARWR 2017 UWest conference.**
	1. Joseph Paxton provided a conference manager report for the 2017 AAR WR at UWest and offered the following recommendations:
		1. As CM, I recommend that the AAR/WR plan to secure a web-based platform to receive payment for next year, and look into cheaper alternatives.
		2. I recommend that the AAR/WR look into a web-based platform that can receive payment and obtain descriptive statistics from participants at the time of registration (i.e., title, institutional affiliation, and other information).
		3. I recommend that the CM work with the Regional Coordinator to determine a close date for online registration.
		4. I recommend that the CM work with the institution and conference liaison to secure one permanent student worker to be at the registration desk at all times.
		5. I recommend the CM develop and organize a training manual that will identify specific student positions as follows:
		6. Registration
		7. Census (counting number of participants per room per session)
		8. Hospitality (floating in the halls to facilitate travel to panels
		9. Signage (providing clear directions and signs around the rooms reserved for panels
		10. I recommend that CM request vegetarian options for the business meetings and caucus lunch.
		11. I recommend that EC identify and vote on a “family fee”, so that families can participate in the conference at a reduced rate, possibly $25.00.
		12. I recommend the CM monitor double-registrations. Three individuals double-registered this year for the conference.
		13. I recommend the CM construct a Microsoft Word instructional that will help future CM’s to format and adjust the CM report with ease.
	2. Sarah recommended having a meat option, a poultry option, and a vegetarian option; and Anjeannette suggested having a dairy-free hors d’oeuvres.
	3. The board discussed a $5 increase per tier-price.
6. **Report from Brian Clearwater re: AARWR Financial Report**
	1. The AAR WR was commended at the Regional Coordinator’s National Conference Meeting for finance.
	2. The board discussed a Regional Panel, and the additional costs associated with holding this panel.
	3. Sarah recommended adding an extra incentive to the paper award contest that would allow the student paper awards be presented at the National AAR panel.
		1. Jonathan recommended the category of “The Best of the West” for a paper and panel reception.
	4. The board discussed ways to include Hawaii, and Brian recommended the development of a scholarship program for greater inclusion, or offer an alternative mode of presentation like “Skype.”
	5. The board discussed the development of a “Mentorship Program.” Chase clarified the role of the Student Director as it relates to it.
7. **Report from Abdullahi Gallab, VP/Program Chair re: AARWR 2018 meeting.**
	1. The Vice-President offered an introduction, background, and bio. Abdullahi discussed the 19th Century Unit Chair held by Matt Crabb. Information on the website will need to be updated to reflect his standing as Chair.
	2. Abdullahi discussed the total unit chair submissions, and noted there were three units who had not provided their submissions for a total of 26 panels.
	3. The use of titles across the conference units was discussed. The CM will need to choose a chair or moderated and use this throughout the program.
	4. Sarah recommended listing the previous supporting institutions on the AAR WR website, and consider adding additional paper awards to incentivize participation.
	5. Sarah recommended increasing organization for payments that would include donations.
	6. Sarah recommended having a minimum in the bank account at all times.
8. **Caucus Liason Update – Queer Caucus**
	1. The Queer Caucus will be doing a drag performance and offer a history of drag, and this will be free and open to all; the duration will be 1.5 hours. They said that they will need space.
9. **Caucus Liason Update – Women’s Caucus**
	1. Sarah will be collaborating with another conference that will be held a week before March 23-25.
10. **Graduate Student Professional Development**
	1. Chase organized a special topics forum for the upcoming 2018 conference, and the GSPD is planning a round table for the theme of “Religion and Kindness.”
11. **Policy Revision: Candidacy and Timeline**
	1. Policy revision re: clearer language for election re: candidacy deadline at AARWR annual meeting in Spring (Jonathan Lee to lead discussion).
		1. **Proposed addition:** Candidates wishing to stand for election should communicate with the Regionally Elected Coordinator and submit a short statement of interest and CV as required by the call for open board positions posted on the AARWR webpage. If a position has a candidate who expressed interest before the deadline for candidacy, no other candidate will be accepted for said position. If a position has no candidate, interested candidate may stand for election during the Business Meeting. This needs work… but we can discuss at the meeting.
	2. Jonathan discussed the requirements around running for an elected position without being present.
	3. Jonathan motioned to make an addition to the policy file, as discussed in the minutes. Abdullahi second the motion. This was unanimously approved.
	4. Jonathan motioned for a deadline of (A) two business days before the Friday business meeting at 11:59 pm or option (B) Saturday at the luncheon, for submissions to be considered for an elected position. Joseph second this motion. Seven “yes” for option “A” and two voted “yes” for option “B.” Motion “A” was passed 7:2 for submission of candidacy.
	5. Sarah recommended that an “e-blast” be sent a week before the conference that indicates which elected positions are available.
12. **Gender neutral options in registration (Anjeanette LeBoeuf to lead discussion)**
	1. Anjeanette recommended that preferred pronouns be included on the conference name tags. Jonathan motioned to include gender neutral options in the name tag, and for this to be included in the registration. Anjeanette second the motion. This was passed unanimously.
	2. Sarah suggested that Anjeanette and Joseph be in touch about orchestrating and organizing this change.
13. **Funding for Pacific Islander/Hawaii participants**
14. **Elected Positions Extension**
	1. Jonathan suggested we do not extend elected positions. Jonathan motions we make a policy that the board cannot extend elected positions, but the membership can at the business meeting. Zayin second the motions. The motion passes 8:0 with 1 abstain.
15. **Additional items to be discussed or tabled for AARWR 2018 annual meeting Board meeting?**
	1. Jonathan made a motion to separate the independent scholar paper competition from the adjunct/post-doc paper competition. Anjeanette second, and the motion passed 8:1 in favor.
	2. Chase recommended the board review the National policy regarding the board declining extension of elected positions.
16. **ADJOURNMENT**
	1. The meeting adjourned at 8:51pm.
17. **NEXT MEETING**
	1. The date for the next meeting has been tentatively scheduled for Friday, March 23, 2018 at IBS at 12:00pm – 5:00pm.

Minutes completed by: Joseph Kim Paxton, Conference Manager.