**Board Meeting Agenda  
American Academy of Religion, Western Region**

**University of the West**

A buffet lunch will be brought in during our meeting, and we can enjoy our lunch once it is ready. This is complimentary, thanks to our generous host, UWest!

March 15, 2017  
Start 10:00 am  
  
Notetaker: Jonathan Lee

Attending: Kahena Viale; Jonathan Lee; Hester Oberman; Kimebrly Carfore; Charles Townsend; Sarah Robinson-Bertoni; Joseph Paxton (non-voting); Chase Way (via google chat); Grag Yanke (via Skype); Zayin Cabot (arrived 1:20 pm); Souad Ali (1:40 pm); Abdullahi Gallab (1:40 pm);

Excused: Chase Way; Shanshan Yang; Regina Pfeiffer; Marie Cartier; Leigh Ann Hildebrand

1. Welcome by Kahena (acknowledgements and welcome Abdullahi)
2. Introductions/ice-breaker (board members introduced themselves and shared any news/updates they wish to share).
3. Approval of meeting minutes from Board Meeting at San Antonio 2016  
   Jonathan mentions notes were sent out after meeting in November and edits/changes were made. Need to vote on meeting in order to publish on webpage.

Sarah R. noted we need to sentence on clarification of language and tabling of issue.   
Motion to approve meeting minutes as amended on March 15, 2017 by Charles T.   
Seconded by Joseph P.   
Yes: 6  
No: 1  
Abstain: 1

1. Update/report of UWest conference—Joseph and Jonathan   
   Joseph: First time as conference manager; overall everything has gone very smoothly; thanks to Sarah R. for helping with transition; thanks Jonathan L. for his assistance; issues of host responsibility and finance are cleared; catering may be over $1500 donation which AARWR will cover. 150 pre-registered online; 4-8 student workers for the entire conference; UWest provided free campus wide wifi; printed 30 Programs to sell for $5; update on nametags; avery.com has template for name tags….  
   Jonathan: UWest went above and beyond with their generosity.   
   Sarah: We paid student workers in the past. Recommend that student workers type in census on Sunday; final finance meeting is between Joseph and Charles after the meeting.   
   Charles: We have a PayPal swiper.
2. Financial report—Charles   
   Charles sent our mid-year financial report yesterday.   
   Most of the expenses have not happened yet….  
   **Deposits:**

7/15/2016 Clerical error by previous RC $0.60

08/18/16 AAR Subvention $2,500.00

2/27/2017 City of West Hollywood Grant $1,000.00

3/11/2017 Online Registrations (PayPal) $4,511.36  
  
**Expenses:**7/22/2016 Conference Manager Stipend $1,000.00 CK#1083

11/19/2016 $150.00 CK#1084

11/19/2016 Board Dinner Annual Meeting $850.35 Card

11/27/2016 Regional Coordinator Travel $500.00 CK#1085

11/30/2016 Website Hosting (2 years) $308.10 Card

2/27/2017 $1,000.00 CK#1086  
  
Starting balance: $12,570.81  
Current balance: $16,774.32

1. Discuss recommendation to make amendments to the Policy File regarding 1). Timeline and 2). Joint Session language—Jonathan   
     
   1. Jonathan recommends that this sentence “For all intents and purposes, this is a recommended timeline for planning the conference” be add to the paragraph “Timeline for Conference Planning” on page 15 of the Policy File.   
     
   Jonathan motions to approve amending the paragraph on “Timeline for Conference Planning” by adding a last sentence, that reads, “For all intents and purposes, this is a recommended timeline for planning the conference, which the VP/Program Chair will communicate.”  
   Second motion: Kimberly.

Yes: 5  
No: 1  
Abstain: 1  
Motion passed.  
  
2. Joint session re: Organizing Sessions.  
Jonathan recommends that Joint Sessions have its own subject header, and that a limit to the number of joint session be determined.   
  
Charles says that national limits joint session to 1, in addition to regular session.   
  
Joint Sessions  
In addition to the two allotted sessions, each unit is allowed to submit one joint session; or more in consultation with the VP/Program Chair.   
  
Jonathan motions to approve the language on Joint Sessions.  
Charles seconds the motion.

Yes: 7  
No: 0  
Abstain: 1

1. Discuss permanent fee increase? PayPal?—note for now we have no option but to use PayPal, unless national AAR provides us a free service for registration again.  
   A. Charles Oxford Abstract stopped offering the free registration service.   
   PayPal was best option for registration because there is only one fee to PayPal, instead of using Eventbrite and PayPal and being hit with two fees.

Sarah motions to maintain the 2017 registration fees for future meeting.   
Hester seconds this motion.

Yes: 7  
No: 0  
Abstain: 1.  
  
B. Sarah motions that for 2017 and 2018 students will pay $40 for on-site registration.   
Kimberly seconds the motion.

Yes: Unanimous   
No: 0

Abstain: 0

1. PayPal for more than registration i.e. catered events  
   Hester: How about we charge $5 for the reception?   
   It was pointed out that it might be a disincentive….  
     
   Questions about registration categories (e.g. receptions); personal data; institutions; etc. Joseph will follow up on this.   
     
   Joseph will also follow up on possible donation link for the webpage.   
     
   Charles will follow up on looking into interest earning accounts.
2. Open board positions and candidates—Kahena   
   Jason Sexton running for Presidential line;  
   One candidate, Anjeanette LeBoeuf, for Queer advocate;  
   Diversity Advocate candidate is Anna Hennessey   
   South Cal Student Representative candidate is Joseph P.  
   Arizona/Nevada representative????
3. Presidential line candidates—Charles   
   As of today, only one candidate Jason Sexton running for Presidential line.
4. Caucus reports re: Queer Caucus and Women’s Caucus   
   **Queer Caucus**: Marie Cartier’s request: “as an agenda item for Friday if possible can you please put on the agenda that the queer view be allowed to program on Friday night continuously-- to help further the needs of LGBTQ+ students and members in Southern California, and when we are in other geographies to assist us in our early programming. if other groups would like to program on Friday nights-- can we be alerted early (6 months prior to the conference?) so that we do not program unnecessarily. perhaps the current queer caucus liaison could follow up and comment on this? in terms of other Southern California business hopefully I could be updated regarding that at the meeting on Sunday.”

Discussion: Sarah suggest that we make it an informal agreement that the Queer Caucus has the Friday evening time slot, but it can not be made permanent due to venue considerations and other unknown future variables.

**Women’s Caucus:** Sarah update on event today, and a USC mindfulness group will be presenting this evening.

1. Paper Awards—Kahena

First Place $150 - Prea Persaud

Creole Religions: A Critique of the Study of Hinduism in the Caribbean

Second Place $100 - Ivan Christian Paz

The Myth of Ontological Sinfulness: How the notion of Inherent sinfulness contributes to the scapegoating of ethnic minorities

Third Place $50 - Aizaiah Yong

Religion and Liberation: A Vision of Inter-Reconciliation  
  
Travel awards: five people applied, and all were given $60 each.

1. Hawaii rep.—Hester  
     
   Regina Pfeiffer is current regional Hawaii Pacific Islander representative.
2. 2016 AARWR conference report—Sarah  
   Sarah: already gave a brief report in November 2016: bring attention to two main things from 2016 meeting, that we see at this meeting, and things we can do in the future: 1. Asking and doing funding raising at the institution instead of having just the $1500 contribution; 2016 total cost of over $800; moving on, we need to identify host institutions that can be generous.
3. 2018 conference—Jonathan  
   Institute of Buddhist Studies; March 23-25, 2018! Confirmed.   
   Totally free; donation of $1500 for receptions; 100+ dorm rooms at very affordable price; public transportation+; accommodations
4. Time of AARWR Board Meeting at Spring conference   
   Discussed moving the Board meeting back to 12-5 pm for convenience of travel.  
   Sarah: 2018 Women’s Caucus event may be an all day Friday event with a conference at California Institute of Integral Studies.   
     
     
   **Meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm.**