

**American Musicological Society, Southern Chapter**  
Business Meeting, 10 February 2007, LSU

The meeting was called to order by President Jennifer Thomas on 10 February 2007. The minutes and treasurer's report were distributed and approved. President Thomas thanked LSU and especially local arrangements chair Andreas Giger for the expense of time and energy involved in hosting our meeting.

First-term **student representative Stephen Thursby** reported on the student representatives' breakfast held at the Los Angeles national meeting. Principal concerns centered on:

- 1) how to get more students interest in both national and regional meetings; suggestions included
  - creating a student website to advertise the national program earlier and to stress the benefits of student attendance
  - including more workshops on practical matters such as how to create CVs, etc.
  - compiling a national email list of students in AMS
  - giving students greater access to reading at national meetings through
    - a) special student panels
    - b) each chapter choosing a student paper to be read at the national meeting
- 2) the possibility of extending the number of years for student membership beyond the seven allowed by the national AMS, with proof of student status, as many students do not complete both the MM/MA and PhD. Stephen now serves on a committee to study these issues and requested that ideas and concerns be sent to him.

**AMS Council representative** Scott Warfield reported on the 2006 Council meeting, including a brief summary of the duties and term lengths of the council members (the member elected today will attend the 2007, 2008, and 2009 national meetings) and the advisory function of the council. He noted the possibility of having council members discuss certain issues via email, rather than communicating only once per year at the meeting. Scott also mentioned the use of online presentation of standard program notes, the online newsletter, and other ways of increasing the dissemination of information about AMS to the general public

The President reported on the **chapter officers' breakfast** and noted these particular points:

- 1) AMS will pay for part of the fee for a guest speaker at a chapter meeting.
- 2) A list of chapter boundaries by zip code is available from the national office.
- 3) chapters can divide at will.
- 4) Any AMS member may become a member of any AMS chapter, regardless of geographical location.
5. James Briscoe has worked toward achieving a broader role for the chapters and noted that chapters should not be clones of AMS but should strive to build on their own strengths and to develop their own identities.
- 6) Many members have made considerable commitments of time and energy to promote the OPUS campaign. The success of OPUS will strengthen and secure present endowments and will allow AMS to make new initiatives in the form of support for publications, subventions, travel funds, fellowships, etc. During this year, OPUS contributions will be matched by NEH; all contributions are tax deductible.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

President Thomas announced that the **information survey** distributed last year, soliciting comments and asking members to indicate how they might like to serve the chapter, had proved helpful.

Margaret Butler reported that **email submission of abstracts** had worked very well and will continue.

President Thomas then described **how the abstracts were judged**:

- 1) The abstract editor receives the submissions and makes copies that exclude name
- 2) then distributes the proposals in this anonymous form to the executive committee (currently the president, president-elect if that office is filled, the secretary-treasurer, and the council representative).
- 3) The committee members read the proposals blind, rank them, and determine how many should be selected.
- 4) Approximately 18 are usually selected, but this year there were more submissions than ever before (40 total), and the committee voted to increase the number chosen.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

As the treasurer's report shows a healthy surplus, President Thomas asked for **ideas for using some of our funds**. She asked that members who indicate spending money on a guest speaker (on the information survey or elsewhere) please also include one or more names for consideration.

Jan Herlinger moved that the chapter donate \$2000 to the **Opus** campaign. Discussion centered on this unique point in AMS history and on the opportunity to contribute when our gift will be matched by NEH. President Thomas noted that other chapters might see this as an example they might follow.

Discussion then turned to **support for the student representatives** and to the cost of attending national meetings. After noting that the national AMS pays for only one half of each student's airfare, and that the chapter matches that only for the first year of a student's term, Andreas Giger suggested that we increase our support to \$200 per student representative per year for a total of \$400 per year. After more discussion, John Spilker moved to make this increase; the motion passed.

President Thomas then turned to **officers and student representatives** whose terms were ending

- 1) Following current practice, the secretary-treasurer (Linda Cummins) moves into the position of president-elect.
- 2) Jan Herlinger nominated Andreas Giger for secretary-treasurer; he was elected by acclamation.
- 3) Alice Clark nominated Valerie Goertzen for council representative; she was elected by acclamation.
- 4) Tina Huettenrauch had been nominated for student representative and was elected by acclamation.

President Thomas then appointed a **constitution committee** to write a new constitution: Scott Warfield will chair, Greg Harwood will also serve; others may volunteer.

Some discrepancies between older constitutions and our current practice were reviewed.

- 1) creating an office of past-president
- 2) continuing to move the secretary-treasurer to president-elect
- 3) making the council representative a member of the executive council
- 4) electing or appointing a nominating committee
  - should perhaps include past presidents
  - perhaps someone elected from the membership
- 5) continuing to elect student representatives to 2-year overlapping terms as national requires
- 6) removing the actual dues amount from the constitution

President Thomas suggested that members email suggestions and thoughts to the committee.

### **Length of Meeting and Proposal Selection**

President Thomas asked the membership for feedback on the length of the meeting and the issue of rejecting such a large number of submissions. Andreas Giger, Alice Clark, and others expressed concern over the length of this meeting and suggested returning to accepting approximately 18 papers. Some ideas mentioned:

The national AMS does not allow members to read in successive years; perhaps follow this rule only for tenured faculty. This could discourage faculty submissions.

Place more trust in the abilities of the executive committee to judge proposals.

Appoint a program committee.

Meet more than once per year.

Again, the members were invited to submit ideas via email to the president.

Andreas thanked Margaret Butler for putting together such a beautiful abstracts booklet.

### **Host for 2008 meeting**

- 1) The FSU members announced that we are invited to FSU for the 2008 meeting; dates undetermined.
- 2) USM is investigating the possibility of hosting the meeting in 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40  
Respectfully submitted by Linda Cummins