

American Musicological Society, Southern Chapter  
Business Meeting Minutes  
22 February 2013  
McNeese State University, Lake Charles, LA

**I. Call to order.** President Margaret Butler called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**II. Approval of minutes.** Paper copies of the 2012 minutes were distributed. (These have been and continue to be available on the Chapter website.) Ed Hafer moved to accept the minutes, and Bryan Proksch seconded. The minutes were approved.

**III. Thank yous.** On behalf of the membership, Margaret Butler expressed appreciation to Local Arrangements chair Bryan Proksch and to Professor Bill Rose and Ms. Eva LeBlanc, who assisted him. She extended thanks to Brett Boutwell, who edited the abstracts and had the program printed, Program Committee members Melissa Goldsmith (chair), Jennifer Roth-Burnette, and Scott Warfield, Nominating Committee members Denise Von Glahn (chair), Jennifer Thomas, and Alice Clark, AMS Council Representative Joanna Biermann, Student Representatives Morgan Rich and Amy Dunning, Secretary-Treasurer Valerie Goertzen, and Past President Andreas Giger.

**IV. Reports.**

Student Representative to the AMS Council, Morgan Rich (incorporating information from the written report she submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer). The breakfast meeting of the Council of Student Representatives included two main agenda items:

1) An an-hoc committee consisting of William Hettrick, David Levy, Dorothea Link, and Jonathan Waxman have proposed a statement regarding qualifications of those teaching music history courses at the college level (see also Joanna Biermann's report below). Waxman attended the meeting to hear the views of students, who raised several questions:

- What would be the practical effects of adopting such a statement?
- Would accrediting agencies take such a statement seriously?
- How would professors with DMAs currently teaching music history be affected?
- Did the need for such a statement stem primarily from budgetary concerns?
- What about musicologists who teach performance, such as Collegium?

After lively discussion on both sides of the argument, Waxman requested that a straw poll be taken, using paper ballots. The proposal was approved, with 19 votes in favor, 3 against, and 2 abstentions.

2) How to encourage student membership and involvement, particularly within chapters that cover a large geographic area. A Facebook page has been created to help Student Representatives exchange information and ideas.

Morgan Rich is at the end of her term. She thanked our membership for allowing her to serve as Student Representative for the past two years.

Representative to AMS Council, Joanna Biermann (incorporating information from her written report submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer). Susan Youens, Charles Atkinson, Marcia Citron, and Christoph Wolff have been named honorary members of the AMS. New corresponding members are Martin Staehelin, Klaus-Jürgen Sachs, and Michał Bristiger.

President Anne Robertson reported on the spring retreat of the Board. A Board committee on internet technology was created, and a new study group for Music and Dance was approved. The Board considered questions relating to the election of the AMS Council and the running of Council meetings. The President reported that the Plenary Session in their meeting of 2 November 2012 voted not to amend the Mission Statement to include direct mention of “teaching.” The change had been sent to the Session by vote of the Council last year (2011). The membership of the Society will now vote on the issue. Robertson reported on the Society’s Visiting Scholars program. Four Chinese scholars attended the San Francisco meeting in 2011. This year a group of Latin American scholars attended and spoke about current trends in Latin American musicology. The program will continue and has already resulted in a return invitation: President Robertson was invited last year to Beijing for a conference of Chinese music schools.

Anthony Sheppard of Williams College was named JAMS editor, Suzannah Clark of Harvard University review editor. Sheppard is the first professor at a liberal arts college to edit JAMS. A graduate student aide must still be found for him, since he cannot provide his own.

Good news regarding AMS funds was announced. The Bozarth fund for travel and research in Austria has reached the minimum funding level of \$25,000 and will be able to grant its first award next year. The William C. Holmes/ Frank D’Accone endowment for research on the history of opera also has been fully funded.

A renewed discussion of the statement on recommended credentials for teachers of music history took up the bulk of the meeting. The statement was first brought forward at the 2010 Council meeting by an ad-hoc subcommittee of the AMS Council (members listed in Morgan Rich’s report, above), then discussed again in 2011. (Most of the text of this statement was included in the minutes of our Chapter’s business meeting last year <http://www.music.lsu.edu/~smi/AMSS/Minutes/Minutes2012.pdf>.) There was considerable debate over this statement. Concerns included:

- the proposed addressee of the statement (NASM as well as educational institutions);
- whether the AMS is authorized to issue such statements (Robertson: AMS does issue such statements, for instance that music should not be used for torture; or that no one should cite unpublished works without permission; credentials also are certainly our legitimate concern);
- Concern raised that such a statement would devalue the education offered at smaller institutions;
- Suggestion by David Levy that DMAs teaching history might be offered summer schools on some topics (Robertson: a suggestion for the Pedagogy Study Group);
- Question whether SMT and SEM have similar statements (Levy: SEM yes, no knowledge about SMT);
- Questions about the object of such a general statement: to protect our graduate students? to protest that too many underpaid people are teaching history? Justification for statement (however the language may be softened) is unclear: “wagon-circling does not do us proud”;
- Problem that some of us work at institutions that train DMAs; can we turn around and say that they should not be hired?

Many suggestions for rewording were offered, and the statement was returned to the ad-hoc committee for reworking.

The main item of new business was the practice of including the Colloquy section in JAMS. Criticisms include claims that the Colloquy is 1) abstruse; 2) inappropriate, since it presents no argument, merely one statement after another; 3) undemocratic, since the editor chooses authors—otherwise JAMS publication is competitive, a career goal for most. Robertson replied that 1) Colloquies are fully vetted; 2) editors are given freedom to structure the journal as they wish. There is no desire to take this freedom away. A suggestion was made that groups go to the editor with ideas for Colloquies, and Robertson joined in encouraging members to express their opinions to the editor. The role of chapters with respect to the national organization also was discussed. Here it was suggested that the Council simply gather ideas, not prescribe procedures. From the floor came two questions related to governance: Should student members be able to vote? Should study groups have representation on the Council?

Joanna Biermann is at the end of her term. She thanked members for allowing her to serve as Council Representative for the past three years.

Secretary-Treasurer, Valerie Goertzen. Fifty-nine members attended the Tuscaloosa meeting last year, more than half of them students. Forty-one are registered so far for the current meeting.

An itemized Treasurer's report was handed out to the membership. Our treasury continues to grow. We had fewer expenses in 2012 than usual, as (1) the University of Alabama Early College and School of Music covered the costs of breakfasts, snacks, and other expenses at the Tuscaloosa meeting; and (2) we contributed \$200 towards the travel expenses of only one Student Representative to AMS Council who attended the New Orleans meeting, since our second representative took a leave of absence in fall from FSU. The large turnout for the Tuscaloosa meeting and the addition of several new regular and student members in the past year also has helped to put us in strong financial shape.

Chapter Officers' Meeting, Brett Boutwell. Brett Boutwell represented the Chapter at the breakfast meeting in New Orleans. Topics addressed are among those described above in reports of the Student Representative and Council Representative.

### New Business

**V. Election of Officers.** Denise Von Glahn, chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the nominations received by the committee, called for additional nominations from the floor, and supervised the voting. Valerie Goertzen was the one nominee for **President-Elect**, and was elected by acclamation. The committee received three nominations for **Secretary-Treasurer**: Bryan Proksch, Brett Boutwell, and Joanna Biermann. Biermann, who soon will begin a sabbatical, declined, as did Boutwell. Bryan Proksch was elected by acclamation. Nominees for **Council Representative** were Brett Boutwell, Zoë Lang, and Ed Hafer (who declined). Lang was not in attendance, and Boutwell left the room briefly. Brett Boutwell was elected by a show of hands. Andrew Owen, Ph.D. student at LSU, was chosen by that institution's faculty to serve as our next **Student Representative**, replacing Morgan Rich. Ed Hafer and Alice Clark were nominated for the position of **Abstracts Editor** (to replace Brett Boutwell). Both nominees left the room, and Ed Hafer was elected by a show of hands.

**VI. Student paper prize.** Margaret Butler announced that all seven students reading at this year's meeting had submitted their materials for the student paper prize, and she commended them for having their papers and all illustrations ready two weeks before the meeting. The winner is to be announced at end of meeting, after all the papers have been heard. Note: The award went to Toni Casamassina of FSU for her paper, "Poetry, Art, and Music: *Lied* Sources in Nineteenth Century Düsseldorf."

**VII. Next year's meeting.** We have an invitation from Zoë Lang at the University of South Florida, in Tampa, for 7–8 February 2014. We last met in Florida in 2010. Margaret Butler asked whether other invitations were forthcoming. Hearing none, she announced that next year's meeting will be at USF on the dates just mentioned.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Valerie Goertzen, Secretary-Treasurer