

American Musicological Society Southern Chapter  
Business Meeting Minutes of February 19, 2016  
Palm Beach Atlantic University (West Palm Beach, Florida)

**I. Call to Order**

President Valerie Goertzen called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**II. Approval of Minutes from 2015 Meeting**

A digital copy of the minutes from our 2015 meeting was posted on the chapter website for review and distributed in hard copy at the current meeting. Michael Broyles moved to accept the minutes; Denise Von Glahn seconded the motion. The 2015 meeting minutes were approved by acclamation.

**III. Expressions of Gratitude**

Valerie Goertzen thanked those involved in hosting the 2016 meeting and those who have continued to keep the chapter running smoothly. They include Michael O'Connor, local arrangements coordinator; members of the Program Committee, including Sarah Eyerly (chair), Blake Howe, and Joanna Biermann; Abstracts Editor Joseph Sargent, who received paper proposals and created the printed program; members of the Nominating Committee, including Michael Broyles (chair), Linda Cummins, and Andreas Giger; AMS Council Representative and Secretary-Treasurer Brett Boutwell; Student Representatives to the AMS Council Michael Vincent and C. Megan MacDonald; President-Elect Bryan Proksch; and Webmaster Andreas Giger.

**IV. Reports**

Student Representative to the AMS Council, Michael Vincent

Michael Vincent attended the breakfast for student representatives to the AMS Council at the 2015 AMS meeting in Louisville. The meeting's attendees spoke of issues pertaining to local arrangements for the 2016 meeting in Vancouver. These issues included affordable concert tickets for students; reserving tickets for students at a will-call window; and making a list of affordable hotels for students. The attendees created five subcommittees concerning the following areas: research funding, undergraduate mentoring, early career development, public musicology, and interdisciplinary studies. AMS President Ellen Harris visited the meeting and encouraged students to serve on AMS committees by contacting the Committee on Committees.

Attendee of AMS Chapter Officers' Breakfast, Brett Boutwell

Brett Boutwell attended the AMS Chapter Officers' Breakfast at the 2015 AMS meeting in Louisville. The breakfast took place at 7:00 AM on Friday, November 13, 2015 and was chaired by Michael Tusa (Secretary, AMS). AMS president Ellen Harris was present for the first forty-five minutes. Revisiting a decision made last year, President Harris noted the increase of chapter reimbursement support for "unusual activities" from the Chapter Fund of the AMS from \$200 to \$250 and the elimination of the requirement that chapters match that amount. She also noted that the national office now provides a certificate to be used when seeking insurance for chapter meetings if required by the local site. The chapter officers present were queried regarding problems that have arisen in their respective chapters, including weak attendance and a dearth of institutions willing to host meetings. It was announced that student representatives to the AMS Council will now complete an online form and upload their receipts to seek their partial travel reimbursement from the national office for attending the national meeting. Last, it was announced that Robert Judd is creating new forms for the yearly chapter financial and data reports.

Representative to AMS Council, Brett Boutwell

Brett Boutwell attended the AMS Council meeting at the 2015 AMS meeting in Louisville. The Council meeting took place at 12:15 PM on Saturday, November 14, 2015. AMS President Ellen Harris and AMS Council Secretary Steve Swayne presided. Bruce Brown, Chair of the Committee on Communications, spoke about his committee's activities. The Committee on Communications is meant to serve as the public face of the AMS. The many activities and services it oversees include the Library of Congress lecture series; the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum lecture series; the *AMS Newsletter*; the AMS's various email lists; its website and its Facebook page; and the *Musicology Now* blog. Anne Schreffler, Chair of the Committee on the Annual Meeting, spoke about her committee's activities and opened the floor to questions. Garnering the most interest among those questions was one concerning the expanding role of evening sessions at the annual conference, an issue that provoked a lively discussion. President Harris then presented a report from the Ad-Hoc Committee on Council Voting Procedures, which was chaired by outgoing Council Secretary Carol Hess and comprised members drawn from the AMS

Council (including AMS-S Secretary-Treasurer Brett Boutwell). This committee was charged by President Harris and the AMS Board to reconsider the means by which Members At-Large are elected to the AMS Council. In brief, Harris expressed that the Council elections appear to outsiders as being “in-grown,” given that the Council both nominates members to the Council and then votes on them. She would like to see greater transparency and openness in all of the society’s activities, including those of the Council. In the end, the AMS Board is recommending to the Council and the Society that: 1) the process of nomination will remain the same, with the Council Nominating Committee drawing up a slate of persons that the board reviews and refines, but that 2) the entire membership of the society, rather than the Council alone, will vote for persons to serve on the Council. In order for this change to occur, a change of the society’s bylaws is required. This, in turn, means holding an open meeting in Vancouver to discuss the proposed bylaws changes, followed by a vote by the membership in spring 2017 on these changes, which would then be instituted by the Council Nominating Committee in early 2018. Next, Harris reported on the recent decision by the Board to be a signatory to a statement concerning laws on the carrying of concealed weapons in the classroom. She framed the larger Council conversation thus: How does the AMS deal with issues that are essentially political or that have a political basis? She went on to say that the AMS has an allergy to making political statements because our members have a variety of political views. She affirmed that she would never sign onto a statement herself as the sole representative of the society. Harris characterized the concealed carry statement as “gentle” but one that nonetheless touches upon workplace and safety issues. Should the Board be in the position of taking a stand on these issues when encouraged by other academic societies? If so, should a mechanism be in place to guarantee that the Board is speaking for the membership as a whole? What should such a mechanism be? A lively discussion ensued, touching upon a variety of political issues. No conclusion was reached, but Harris suggested that an ad-hoc committee might be formed by Secretary Swayne from members of the Council to address the issue. Last, in new business from the floor, Emily Wilbourne spoke about the need of lactating members for a small, private space to breast-feed and store milk while attending AMS meetings. This suggestion was unanimously endorsed by the Committee on Women and Gender. The meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm.

#### Secretary-Treasurer, Brett Boutwell

Boutwell noted that, as of the time of the business meeting, thirty-eight members had registered for the 2016 meeting of the chapter. Nineteen of these are regular members and nineteen student members. The enrollment is lower than usual. At final count, fifty-one members registered for last year’s meeting of the chapter, twenty-seven regular members and twenty-four students.

An itemized Treasurer’s report was distributed to the membership. After an intentional drawing down of the treasury in 2014, our account increased slightly in 2015. With a balance of approximately \$5000, and with dues and registration covering our normal expenses, the budget outlook is stable at present.

#### **V. Student Paper Prize**

Valerie Goertzen announced that seven students submitted their materials for the student paper prize and the quality was very high. The winner will be announced at the conclusion of the meeting, after all the papers have been heard. *Addendum: The award went to Michael Palmese (LSU).*

#### **VI. Election of Officers**

##### Election of Representative to the AMS Council

Valerie Goertzen reviewed a decision made during the 2015 meeting: Brett Boutwell, then Representative to the AMS Council, was elected to the office of Secretary-Treasurer, and Sarah Eyerly was elected to replace him in the office of Representative to the AMS Council. Robert Judd of the AMS national office later explained that an AMS Council representative must fulfill a complete, three-year term or the post will remain vacant until the term has elapsed. In light of this new information, Brett Boutwell volunteered to continue in his role as Representative to the AMS Council, thereby completing his term, and Sarah Eyerly agreed not to assume the office. Boutwell’s term will conclude July 31, 2016. A new representative must be elected during the current meeting to assume the office August 1, 2016. Michael Broyles, chair of the nominating committee, indicated that the committee has nominated Sarah Eyerly to serve as the new Representative to the AMS Council, and he spoke to her many qualifications. Charles Brewer moved to close the nomination, and Timothy Love seconded the motion. Eyerly was elected by acclamation.

### Nomination of Student Representative to the AMS Council

Brett Boutwell, as a representative of the LSU faculty, was called upon to nominate a new Student Representative to the AMS Council to replace outgoing representative Michael Vincent, whose term will conclude on July 31, 2016. Boutwell nominated LSU student Warren Kimball and spoke to his qualifications. Kimball will assume the office; no vote is needed.

### **VII. Vote on Change to Chapter By-Laws**

A change to our chapter's by-laws is required by the AMS national office. This change was prompted by the IRS's regulations concerning subsidiaries of non-profit entities. The following changes to sections II and IX were supplied to the chapter's officers by Robert Judd and were proposed by the chapter officers to the membership at our 2015 business meeting. Since chapter officers did not know about this change in time to give members the required thirty days' notice before the meeting, a vote on the issue was delayed until the present meeting. Proposed additions are underlined in the paragraphs below, deletions crossed out. The text below was included in our meeting's agenda for reference.

#### *II. OBJECT*

The object of The Chapter shall be the same as that of the American Musicological Society (hereafter, "AMS" or "The Society"), as stated in the By-laws of the Society, namely, the advancement of research in the various fields of music as a branch of learning and scholarship. The Chapter is organized exclusively for educational purposes under section 5011(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

#### *IX. DISSOLUTION of the CHAPTER*

~~A. Upon the dissolution of the Chapter, assets shall be distributed to the American Musicological Society Inc. for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. In the event of the dissolution of the Chapter, any remaining assets of the Chapter shall be turned over to the Executive Board of the American Musicological Society.~~

~~B. Should the American Musicological Society be dissolved, any remaining assets of the Chapter shall be distributed to any scholarly society or other organization with objectives similar to those of the Chapter, as the Executive Council of the Chapter sees fit.~~

Douglass Seaton moved to approve the change, and Ed Hafer seconded the motion. The change was approved by acclamation.

### **VIII. The Chapter's 2017 Meeting**

We have received an invitation from Ed Hafer and Chris Goertzen to hold our next meeting at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. Valerie Goertzen asked whether other invitations were forthcoming. Hearing none, she suggested we accept Hafer's invitation. Brett Boutwell moved and Bryan Proksch seconded the motion, which was approved by acclamation.

### **IX. Other Business**

The national office of the AMS provides up to \$250 for "unusual expenses incurred for chapter meetings or other chapter activities." Valerie Goertzen encouraged members to consider ways in which we might use these funds in the future. Michael O'Connor suggested that the funds could be used to subsidize the purchase of tickets to a concert performance transpiring during a chapter meeting. Charles Brewer suggested the funds could be used to defray costs for a local speaker of some kind.

### **X. Announcement of New President; Miscellaneous Comments; Adjournment.**

Valerie Goertzen's term as chapter President concludes with this meeting, and she introduced incoming President Bryan Proksch. Proksch thanked Goertzen for her service to the chapter. Proksch encouraged members to contact him with ideas and other input concerning the chapter. Michael O'Connor reminded the membership of two operas scheduled for performance during the course of the meeting.

Charler Brewer moved to conclude the meeting and Michael Broyles seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brett Boutwell, Secretary-Treasurer