

**American Musicological Society Southern Chapter**  
Business Meeting Minutes of February 22, 2019  
University of North Florida (Jacksonville, Fla.)

**I. Call to Order**

Chapter President Brett Boutwell called the meeting to order at 4:25 p.m.

**II. Approval of Minutes from 2018 Meeting**

A digital copy of the minutes from our 2018 meeting was posted on the chapter website for review. Josh Neumann moved to accept the minutes; Charlie Brewer seconded the motion. The 2018 meeting minutes were approved by acclamation.

**III. Reports**

A. President Brett Boutwell

1. Expressions of Gratitude: Brett Boutwell thanked those involved in hosting the 2019 meeting and those who have continued to keep the chapter running smoothly during the preceding year. They include Sarah Caissie Provost, Local Arrangement Chair; Sarah Caissie Provost, Joe Gennaro, and Kathleen Sewright, members of the Program Committee; Joseph Sargent, Secretary-Treasurer; Blake Howe, Abstracts Editor; Sarah Eyerly, Representative to the AMS Council; Emily Theobald and McKenna Milici, Student Representatives to the AMS Council; Andreas Giger, Webmaster. Special thanks was given to Bryan Proksch, Past President, who is ending his service as an officer to the chapter at the conclusion of this meeting.
2. Upcoming meeting sites: In accordance with the rotation schedule established at the 2018 annual meeting, Florida State University will host the 2020 meeting in Tallahassee, Florida on 14–15 February 2020. The University of Alabama will host the 2021 meeting in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

B. Emily Theobald, Student Representative to the AMS Council

The meeting for the student representatives to the AMS council took place on Friday morning, November 2 at 7:30 a.m. in San Antonio. The meeting opened with a brainstorm/discussion of goals for/ideas about the committee going forward (resources/opportunities; interdisciplinary platform [reaching out to students from SEM]; where do students see AMS going; undergraduate mentoring; research funding/support; early career development/having the voices of young scholars heard; advocacy for nontraditional students; possibility of forming panels or workshops for graduate students at future national AMS meetings).

A discussion of the health and viability of subcommittees followed. These were formed at AMS Louisville and include subcommittees on research funding (as information about funding needs constant updating), undergraduate mentoring (e.g., advocating for/supporting undergraduates at AMS conferences, conference buddies for undergraduates), public musicology, interdisciplinary (e.g., AMS study groups, student meetups at friendly spots, how to do interdisciplinary work without feeling like a ‘jack-of-all-trades’), and early career development (wanted a space at AMS San Antonio but didn’t happen; compiled a list of recent publications by early career scholars) Questions emerged about whether these subcommittees should continue, as many AMS committees already have student representatives. Should amendments to bylaws be made for more involvement in AMS committees? Is there an issue with rotating in/out of the student council meeting to attend AMS committee meetings?

Discussion of student representative terms also took place. Should 28-month contracts be used, instead of 24 months? Issues considered with respect to this issue included continuity, the idea of third-year representatives attending AMS committees, and more involvement at the chapter level as student representatives. Martha Feldman and Suzanne Cusick provided updates on the issue of subcommittees and expanding the terms for student representatives.

Feldman and Cusick also discussed the idea of online journals, as possibly appealing to younger society members. Questions emerged about what open access would achieve; how this should be brought about; whether the journals would be only for young scholars (even if by accident); whether they would only widen the gap between junior/senior scholars; whether they would be understood as less “prestigious” than traditional print journals; whether MTO/Spectrum might provide a model; the idea that shorter JAMS articles are an issue under discussion (JAMS remains one of the only journals that allows for long publications), with more articles per issue; and what an online journal can do differently than a print journal, which would help to define the purpose.

Meeting of individual subcommittees, and an update: ad hoc committee on Student Participation in AMS, concluded the meeting.

#### C. Sarah Eyerly, Representative to AMS Council

Sarah Eyerly attended the AMS Council meeting at the 2018 AMS meeting in San Antonio. The majority of the meeting centered on a discussion of JAMS. There are various proposals being considered by the editorial team and the Board’s Publications subcommittee for including the scholarship of a greater number of AMS members, as well as scholarship involving multi-media or alternative formats. Although there have been many discussions about JAMS over the years, it appears there is quite a bit of momentum behind these current proposals. The committee is seriously considering the development of an online and open-access journal that would be separate from JAMS. Also, there was renewed discussion about the idea of publishing issues of JAMS online, either in combination with a print journal or online only, to allow for greater flexibility in the number of articles that can be published and the variety of scholarship that can be represented in JAMS, including digital scholarship. There was also some discussion about the role that JAMS or its editors might play in assisting independent scholars to receive feedback on their work. The Publications subcommittee and the staff of JAMS are very interested to receive feedback on these ideas and initiatives from AMS members.

#### D. Joseph Sargent, attendee of AMS Chapter Officers Breakfast

Joseph Sargent attended the Chapter Officers Breakfast at the 2018 Meeting of the AMS in San Antonio. The meeting was chaired by Michael Tusa, AMS Secretary, and included visits from AMS President Martha Feldman, incoming AMS President Suzanne Cusick, and Mary Paquette-Abt, Chair of the Chapter Activities Committee.

Feldman spoke on several priorities of her presidency, including hosting activities of local chapters within the national meeting; greater diversity in national meeting formats/topics; and keeping a major focus on contingent labor/career issues.

Cusick has also been very focused on employment issues, particularly through her involvement in the AMS task force on career development and contingent labor. She wants to focus the conversation less on academics as adjuncts/contingent faculty, and more on building skills/experience that are more directly applicable to the non-academic world. She also wants to address difficulties with scholars lacking access to research libraries and to consider changes to the AMS membership fee structure, where lower income members would pay less and higher income members pay more.

With respect specifically to chapter activities, Cusick discussed the following priorities: using chapter funds more liberally for student support; increasing promotion of what chapters are doing collectively; chapters supporting the idea of musicologists as public intellectuals by engaging in the communities in which chapters are meeting; and national initiatives (such as webinars) that can be provided to chapters and then disseminated to music departments at member universities.

Paquette-Abt noted that the Chapter Activities Committee is rethinking fundamentally how the pool of money (\$2000) is disseminated to support chapter activities. Ideas include raising the limit for individual projects

from \$250 to \$300; funding the entire expense of a project, rather than 50% (with expectation of matching funds); and funding up to two events per year, rather than just one. The committee also wants to spread the word more actively on what chapters do, including the idea of revamping how chapter activities are presented in the traditional AMS newsletter and greater consistency among the various chapters in communications tools (websites, etc.).

Other items of discussion included the continuing drama of tax-exempt status for chapters; the new AMS website, including exploring ways of collecting dues through the site and encouraging chapter members to create “chapter profiles” on the site; and reaching out to new constituencies for chapter meetings, such as community college teachers.

Finally, Michael Tusa noted that AMS national is very interested in chapters’ professional development activities, particularly as a means of keeping people involved in the organization. The AMS membership is “not expanding,” despite there being no shortage of musicology PhD’s.

E. Secretary-Treasurer, Joseph Sargent

Sargent noted that, as of the time of the business meeting, 35 members had registered for the 2019 meeting of the chapter; 25 of these are regular members and 10 are student members. The enrollment is slightly lower than our attendance for recent meetings, which has hovered around 40 members. [*Addendum: four student members registered on Saturday, bringing the total attendance to 39.*] In 2018, 44 members registered for our meeting in Baton Rouge (28 regular members and 16 students), with an additional guest non-member in attendance; by comparison, in 2017, 38 members registered for our meeting in Hattiesburg (23 regular members and 15 students).

An itemized treasurer’s report was distributed to the membership. Our chapter recorded a gain of \$246.86 during the 2018–19 financial year. The chief source of this gain was greater attendance at the meeting in Baton Rouge, plus fewer reimbursements for student travel and the student paper prize. Gross revenue actually decreased slightly from 2018 levels, primarily because the chapter received additional funding in that year from the AMS Chapter Fund. But with a balance of \$4699.69, the treasury remains strong.

#### **IV. Student Paper Prize**

Brett Boutwell announced that six students submitted their materials for the student paper prize. The winner will be announced at the conclusion of the meeting, after all the papers have been heard. [*Addendum: The prize was awarded to Michael Palmese of Louisiana State University.*]

#### **V. Election of Officers.**

Boutwell began by reminding members that nominations for officers are always welcome from the floor.

Andreas Giger, Chair of the Nominating Committee, announced the following nominees:

- A. Election of President-Elect. The Nominating Committee nominated Joseph Sargent, who spoke briefly about his background and qualifications. Nominations were solicited from the floor but none was received. Discussion ensued. Sargent was elected President-Elect by acclamation.
- B. Election of Secretary-Treasurer. The Nominating Committee nominated Sarah Caissie Provost, who spoke briefly about her background and qualifications. Nominations were solicited from the floor but none was received. Discussion ensued. Provost was elected Secretary-Treasurer by acclamation.
- C. Election of AMS Council Representative. The Nominating Committee nominated Blake Howe. Nominations were solicited from the floor but none was received. Discussion ensued. Howe was elected AMS Council Representative by acclamation.

- D. Election of Abstracts Editor. The Nominating Committee nominated Joe Gennaro, who spoke briefly about his background and qualifications. Nominations were solicited from the floor but none was received. Discussion ensued. Gennaro was elected Abstracts Editor by acclamation.

## **VI. Appointments**

- A. Nomination of Student Representative to the AMS Council

Per our established rotation, the Louisiana State University faculty was called upon to nominate a new Student Representative to the AMS Council to replace outgoing representative Emily Theobald, whose term will conclude on July 31, 2019. On behalf of the LSU faculty, Boutwell nominated Katlin Harris at the meeting. Harris is appointed to the office for a term beginning August 1, 2019.

- B. Nominating Committee

Valerie Goertzen (Loyola University) is joining the Nominating Committee, replacing outgoing member Andreas Giger. Ed Hafer (University of Southern Mississippi) is the new chair of the nominating committee.

- C. Program Committee

Maria Cizmic is joining the Program Committee, replacing outgoing member Sarah Caissie Provost. Joe Gennaro (University of Central Florida), currently on the committee, will also be replaced with a new member following the conclusion of the meeting, as his new position of Abstracts Editor presents a conflict of interest with this committee. [*Addendum: Charles Brewer was appointed after the meeting.*]

## **VII. Other Business; Comments from the Floor**

- A. Boutwell revisited the idea of opening up the abstract process to include proposals in alternative formats: panel presentations, recitals, film screenings, etc. These would be evaluated by the program committee in the same manner as more traditional proposals. No such presentations in alternate formats appear on the program for this particular meeting, but the chapter continues to invite such presentations for future meetings and to move toward a more open model. Boutwell encouraged the membership to explore these options.
- B. Joe Gennaro raised the issue of members submitting multiple abstracts to be considered by the program committee. Should a policy be implemented to restrict submissions to a single abstract? Boutwell noted that AMS national has an official policy to permit only a single proposal. Scott Warfield asked about the idea of allowing one submission for each type of proposal (traditional and alternative), but Boutwell cautioned that such a policy still made it possible for a participant to be on the program twice. Gennaro made a motion to restrict submissions to a single abstract, and Charlie Brewer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and will be part of the language for next year's call for papers.

## **VIII. Adjournment.**

Boutwell moved to conclude the meeting, and Broyles seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joseph Sargent, Secretary-Treasurer, AMS Southern Chapter