

American Musicological Society Southern Chapter
Business Meeting Minutes of February 14, 2020
Florida State University (Tallahassee, Fla.)

I. Call to Order

Chapter President Brett Boutwell called the meeting to order at 3:54 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes from 2019 Meeting

A digital copy of the minutes from our 2019 meeting was posted on the chapter website for review. Josh Neumann moved to accept the minutes; Maria Cizmic seconded the motion. The 2019 meeting minutes were approved by acclamation.

III. Reports

A. President Brett Boutwell

1. Expressions of Gratitude: Brett Boutwell thanked those involved in hosting the 2020 meeting and those who have continued to keep the chapter running smoothly during the preceding year. They include Sarah Eyerly, Local Arrangement Chair, and the FSU faculty; Charles Brewer, Kathleen Sewright, and Maria Cizmic, members of the Program Committee; Joseph Sargent, President-Elect; Sarah Caissie Provost, Secretary-Treasurer; Joe Gennaro, Abstracts Editor; Blake Howe, Representative to the AMS Council; McKenna Milici and Katlin Harris, Student Representatives to the AMS Council; and Andreas Giger, Webmaster.
2. 2020 Meeting: The University of Alabama will host the 2021 meeting on Feb. 19—20, 2021 in Tuscaloosa. The 2022 meeting will be held at the University of Florida in Gainesville.

B. McKenna Milici, Student Representative to the AMS Council

The meeting for the student representatives to the AMS council took place on Friday morning, November 1 at 7:30 a.m. in Boston. In addition to reviewing the new mission statement, which of course was also done in the full council meeting, the main point of discussion at the Student Rep meeting was that the role of the Student Reps continues to be unclear. It appears that the 2018-2019 efforts on student sub-committees was somewhat ineffective, because the students were told there was little work for their sub-committees to complete independent from the council and other official AMS committees. So the main discussion was about what the Student Reps should actually be doing - and the conversation was cut short before any clear direction could be identified, but President Cusick and Council Secretary Shadle both agreed that at least the Student Reps can act as conduits of communication on behalf of the student members in their chapters, particularly if there are ideas or concerns on the topics of Research, Funding, Undergraduate Mentoring, Public Musicology, Interdisciplinary, and Early Career Development. The room was filled with interested, invested graduate students ready to contribute to the society - and the form of what that contribution should be was mostly unclear.

Milici also noted that the Boston program included a workshop on Saturday morning called “Job Materials and Mentoring.” The workshop included presenters giving advice on the job market. Milici encouraged students to attend this yearly workshop in future years, even if they did not have job materials ready for evaluation.

C. Blake Howe, Representative to AMS Council

Blake Howe attended the AMS Council meeting at the 2019 AMS meeting in Boston. President Suzanne Cusick introduced Siovhan Walker, the new interim director, appointed in the wake of Bob Judd's death. There will be a search for a new director soon.

Suzanne announced the formation of an Ethics Committee, which will develop a set of policies concerning ethical violations, including sexual harassment, bullying, and plagiarism. The AMS has already adopted guidelines on these issues, but they currently have no "teeth." The job of the Ethics Committee will be to define the procedures for handling ethical violations—and to do so in a way that limits the AMS's legal liability. Relatedly, there was substantial discussion about the ways in which the AMS can mitigate bullying and intimidation during question-and-answer sessions.

The Council also considered revisions to the AMS's mission statement. The current mission statement is forty-five years old. The proposed revision responds to the increased breadth of musicological scholarship and to the wider range of professional activities that the AMS supports. It also foregrounds the goals of "inclusivity, access, and advocacy."

Finally, the Council considered a proposal to reform how abstracts are reviewed for the Annual Meeting. The number of submissions to the Annual Meeting has ballooned in recent years. This past year, a program committee of about seven people read and evaluated over 800 abstracts. For obvious reasons, this situation has become untenable. Under the proposed reform, each member of the AMS Council will read a selection of the submissions, spitting the workload among a larger and more diverse cohort of scholars. Each paper will be read by three Council members; their rankings will be compiled and passed along to the Program Committee, giving them a head start on their organizational duties. That's the basic plan, and we're implementing it this year for the 2020 Annual Meeting.

D. Brett Boutwell, attendee of AMS Chapter Officers Breakfast

Brett Boutwell attended the Chapter Officers Breakfast at the 2019 national AMS meeting in Boston.

At the meeting, AMS President Suzanne Cusick spoke about the many changes the AMS is experiencing following the death of Bob Judd in August. The chapter officers were introduced to the current Interim Executive Director of the AMS, Siovahn Walker, and to Carla Zecher, Executive Director of the Renaissance Society of America, who is currently assisting in the transition period. Pres. Cusick spoke about the AMS's mission statement, currently under revision, and sought our input. She also spoke about the AMS's current budget woes, the redesign of its dues structure, and other financial matters.

Nicholas Stevens, Chair of the Chapter Activities Committee, spoke. One change he noted: In previous years, chapters could apply for up to \$250 per year to fund chapter activities. This amount has been raised to \$500 for any one expenditure. The committee wants to implement two deadlines for awarding funds (fall and spring), with a total of \$1000 being available each year.

The most consequential discussion of the meeting concerned the relationship of the AMS chapters to the national organization. Since the meeting, the new Secretary of the AMS, Lydia Hamessley, has followed up on this discussion through an email to the Chapter Officers Google Group. The questions raised are as follows:

1. Should all AMS chapters be listed as subdivisions of the AMS so they are all covered by the national organization's 501(c)3 status? [Note from Boutwell: The Southern Chapter has long had its monies held by the national office, and thus this change already applies to us.]
2. Should chapter dues be paid through the national office? [Note from Boutwell: If we switched to this model, members of our chapter would pay their chapter dues online at the same time they pay their national dues.]

3. Should the AMS standardize how chapter monies (payments, reimbursements) are managed?

4. Do we want the chapters' websites to be standardized? This would make them subdomains of amsmusicology.org, and would have the possible advantage of easing chapter members' path to our main website. Boutwell noted that there could be disadvantages as well as advantages. These include that our chapter runs well currently; however, the chapter may lose control of some things.

Secretary Hamessley notes that these changes, even if agreed upon by the chapters, will not be made any time soon, but she has solicited the opinions of chapter officers, and we invite the membership's opinions on these questions.

Boutwell opened comments from the floor on these questions. Jan Herlinger wondered if they system would allow a person to be a member of two chapters; Jenny Thomas noted that if so, one could potentially join all chapters. Bryan Proksch pointed out that we would bring in more dues money because people who don't attend the meeting don't pay. National office handling would standardize that. Josh Neumann expressed concern that the National office may not currently be able to handle the increase in workload that these changes would trigger. Boutwell agreed, noting that National administrative costs have been ballooning. Ed Hafer wondered if service fees might added to each chapter as a result of these changes and increase in workload. Boutwell noted that the AMS has recently revisited how its dues structure is based.

Michael Broyles expressed that he would like to see our webpage stay the same because of how well it currently works and that standardization might make things more bland. Boutwell noted that this is a change in how chapters are run; are they individual or parts under one umbrella? For other chapters these changes may be more urgent. Changes would be slow and likely come up over the next few years.

Jenny Thomas asked if there may be a change in election process.

E. Secretary-Treasurer, Sarah Caissie Provost

Provost noted that, as of the time of the business meeting, 43 members had registered for the 2020 meeting of the chapter. 27 of these are regular members and 16 are student members. The enrollment represents the fifth year in a row in which attendance has hovered around the 40-member mark and is a slight increase from last year. [*Addendum: Six additional regular members and one student registered on Saturday, bringing the total to 50*]. In 2019, 39 members registered for our meeting in Jacksonville (25 regular members and 14 students); by comparison, in 2018, 44 members registered for our meeting in Baton Rouge (28 regular members and 16 students).

An itemized treasurer's report was distributed to the membership. Our chapter recorded a slight gain of \$11.86 during the 2019–20 financial year. With a balance of \$4711.55, the treasury remains strong.

IV. Student Paper Prize

Brett Boutwell announced that 8 students—more submissions than in recent years—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 Emily Theobald of the University of Florida.*] Boutwell thanked the students for gathering their materials early and their advisors for encouraging those students to submit.

V. Election of Officers.

Brett Boutwell (President) became Past President at meeting's end; Joseph Sargent (President Elect) became President. Boutwell noted that no officer positions are up for election this year. A full slate of elections will be held in 2021. Boutwell expressed admiration of the chapter's bylaws.

VI. Appointments

A. Nomination of Student Representative to the AMS Council

Per our established rotation, the University of Florida faculty was called upon to nominate a new Student Representative to the AMS Council to replace outgoing representative McKenna Milici, whose term will conclude on July 31, 2020. On behalf of the UF faculty, Jenny Thomas nominated Heidi Jensen at the meeting. Heidi Jensen is appointed to the office for a term beginning August 1, 2020.

B. Nominating Committee

Denise Von Glahn (Florida State University) is joining the Nominating Committee, joining existing members Ed Hafer (chair) and Valerie Goertzen.

C. Program Committee

Joshua Neumann (University of Florida) is appointed to the Program Committee, joining existing members Kathleen Sewright (chair) and Maria Cizmic.

VII. Other Business; Comments from the Floor

- A. Boutwell noted that presentations in alternative formats have been welcomed in our CFPs for two years now; this year the program reflects this change with a poster presentation, a dance workshop, and a panel. The Executive Committee is pleased with this and will retain the alternative format in future CFPs. Boutwell invited comments and there were none.
- B. Jenny Thomas suggested we make meetings more green by bringing water bottles and reducing the amount of plastic waste. Boutwell pointed out that we recycle badges and asked that we continue to do so. He encouraged us to think about these when we attend and host.
- C. Josh Neumann noted that he is on the technology committee and that there was an ongoing conversation about the app. He invited members to email feedback about the app from the Boston national meeting to him.

VIII. Adjournment.

Denise moved to conclude the meeting, and Linda Cummins seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Caissie Provost, Secretary-Treasurer, AMS Southern Chapter