

American Musicological Society Southern Chapter
Business Meeting Minutes of February 19, 2021
Virtual (hosted by the University of Alabama)

I. Call to Order

Chapter President Joseph Sargent called the meeting to order at 3:53 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes from 2020 Meeting

A digital copy of the minutes from our 2020 meeting was posted on the chapter website for review. Heidi Jensen moved to accept the minutes; Joe Gennaro seconded the motion. The 2020 meeting minutes were approved by acclamation.

III. Reports

A. President Joseph Sargent

1. Expressions of Gratitude: Joseph Sargent thanked those involved in hosting the 2021 meeting and those who have continued to keep the chapter running smoothly during the preceding year. They include Christy Thomas Adams, technical arrangements for the virtual meeting; Kathleen Sewright, Maria Cizmic, and Joshua Neumann, members of the Program Committee; Brett Boutwell, Past President; Sarah Caissie Provost, Secretary-Treasurer; Joe Gennaro, Abstracts Editor; Blake Howe, Representative to the AMS Council; Heidi Jensen and Matthew Wood, Student Representatives to the AMS Council; and Andreas Giger, Webmaster.
2. 2022 Meeting: The University of Florida will host the 2022 meeting on Feb. 18—19, 2022 in Gainesville. Sargent called for hosts for the 2023 meeting.

B. Heidi Jensen, Student Representative to the AMS Council

Heidi Jensen attended the AMS Student Representatives meeting at the 2020 virtual meeting of the national AMS. The meeting began with a discussion of the effects of COVID on graduate students in musicology. The discussion included funding issues, research issues, time to graduation, and international student issues. Alumni networks and best practices for mentoring graduate students were suggested as possible solutions, and Jensen encouraged faculty to speak with their graduate students about utilizing these resources. Jensen also mentioned funding discussions, including hiring graduate students as assistants for funded grants and teaching positions.

Jensen noted AMS's delay producing a statement on anti-racist policies. The passing of Bob Judd may have delayed such an effort. The discussion included development and implementation of anti-racist curriculum and locating opportunities for conversation and allyship.

The final issue Jensen presented was the potential of AMS support for non-academic training and resources. Jensen mentioned webinars, networking events, and other professional development as possible opportunities.

C. Blake Howe, Representative to AMS Council

Blake Howe attended the AMS Council meeting virtually on October 10, 2020. President Suzanne Cusick began the meeting with an assessment of the society's finances and organizational structure. She reports, "AMS is in good standing overall in terms of our current funding." There are concerns about the limited availability of unrestricted funds; this is the major contributor of the Society's current deficit.

Two major appointments have been made. Siovhon Walker has been named as the Society's executive director with a two-year contract. And Noriko Manabe, now an ethnomusicologist at Temple University but formerly an employee at JP Morgan, has accepted an offer to serve as the Society's treasurer.

As editor-in-chief of Journal of the American Musicological Society, Kevin Karnes reported that the journal receives about 100 submissions per year and is able to accept about 10% of them. To increase the number of published articles, a 20,000-word limit has been added to all submissions. Kevin pleaded with the Council, and with the Society at large, to help the journal by serving as peer reviewers and by reviewing articles in a timely manner. He said, "If you have space in your lives right now to review things, please let the JAMS editors know."

There are some organizational changes to note. The AMS Board has begun a "strategic planning" process to address topics such as donor outreach, membership growth, and systemic racism. The ethics committee will be a "standing committee," with the goal of "creating a culture of mutual respect." A new bylaw has been drafted to make the Society's relationship with the Journal of Music History Pedagogy official. Another bylaw proposes an increase in the length of time that members may serve on the AMS Board.

Finally, and most importantly, Steve Swayne was introduced as the new incoming president of the Society.

D. Joseph Sargent noted that there was no chapter officers' breakfast meeting in 2020.

E. Secretary-Treasurer, Sarah Caissie Provost

Provost noted that, as of the time of the business meeting, 60 members had registered for the 2021 meeting of the chapter. 29 of these are regular members, 26 are graduate student members and 5 are undergraduates. She noted that some members still needed to pay their chapter dues for the year.

An itemized treasurer's report was distributed to the membership. Our chapter recorded a gain of \$300.13 during the 2020–21 financial year. With a balance of \$5011.68, the treasury remains strong. She noted that changing financial procedures at the national office have resulted in a \$500 difference in financial ledgers, with the chapter ledger showing more than the national ledger, which is being audited by the national office.

IV. Student Paper Prize

Joseph Sargent announced that 3 students—fewer submissions than in recent years—submitted their materials for the student paper prize. Sargent noticed that other graduate students presented at the meeting and these would have been worthy additions to the paper competition. The winner will be announced at the conclusion of the meeting, after all the papers have been heard. [*Addendum: The prize was awarded to Rachel Bani at Florida State University.*] Sargent noted the varying participation rates in the past few years. Sargent opened the floor for discussion on the future of the paper prize. Jenny Thomas suggested that a later deadline might help, and Sargent noted that the deadline had already been changed. He also noted that this year was different than in the past and he did not advocate for changing the prize this year. Thomas urged students to submit their papers. Sarah Caissie Provost asked graduate students to speak up about their knowledge and willingness to participate in the prize competition. Abigail Lindo noted that she did not know about it and an email to potential participants may help. Scott Warfield noted that students should be encouraged by faculty advisors to prepare papers further in advance. McKenna Milici mentioned that she did not submit because she could not meet the deadline, but also that a recent year in which no paper prize was awarded despite submissions was demoralizing for students. Provost also noted that chapter officers could assist in making the competition more welcoming. Warfield agreed, adding that the acceptance of a paper into the meeting automatically made the student's paper worthy of a prize. Imani Mosely wondered if there were concerns about paper submissions needing to be final versions. Sargent clarified that there was currently not any language about changes in the call for submissions and that officers may need to revisit this call. Sargent thanked the group for their feedback.

V. Election of Officers.

Sargent reminded members that nominations from the floor were welcome.

Ed Hafer, Chair of the Nominating Committee, announced the following nominees:

- A. Election of President-Elect. The Nominating Committee nominated Sarah Caissie Provost. Nominations were solicited from the floor but none was received. Provost was elected President-Elect by unanimous Zoom poll.
- B. Election of Secretary-Treasurer. The Nominating Committee nominated Blake Howe. Nominations were solicited from the floor but none was received. Howe was elected President-Elect by unanimous Zoom poll.
- C. Election of Abstracts Editor. The Nominating Committee nominated Laura Dallman. Nominations were solicited from the floor but none was received. Dallman was elected President-Elect by unanimous Zoom poll.

Sargent solicited nominations from the floor to potentially replace Blake Howe as Chapter Representative to the AMS Council. A discussion about the possibility of serving in both the Council and AMS-S Chapter Officers ensued. Boutwell noted that the national office did not encourage representatives to serve less than their full term. Bryan Proksch recalled that Boutwell served as both representative and officer in order to complete his three year term as representative. The election of Chapter Representative was paused until 2022, with Howe remaining as representative in addition to taking the secretary-treasurer position. Alice Clark suggested that the chapter consider changing chapter officer terms in order to coincide with representative terms. Proksch noted that the current six-year commitment would increase to nine years if chapter officers were elected for three-year terms. Clark suggested that the nominating committee avoid nominating chapter representatives as chapter officers.

VI. Appointments

- A. Nomination of Student Representative to the AMS Council

Per established rotation, the Florida State University faculty was called upon to nominate a new Student Representative to the AMS Council to replace outgoing representative Matthew Wood, whose term will conclude on July 31, 2021. Ed Hafer nominated Emily Eubanks at the meeting. Eubanks is appointed to the office for a term beginning August 1, 2021. Joseph Sargent thanked Matthew Wood for serving for a shortened term.

- B. Nominating Committee

Bryan Proksch (Lamar University) is joining the Nominating Committee, joining existing members Valerie Goertzen (chair) and Denise Von Glahn.

- C. Program Committee

Alice Clark (Loyola University) is appointed to the Program Committee, joining existing members Maria Cizmic and Joshua Neumann.

- D. Webmaster

Christy Thomas Adams (University of Alabama) is appointed to the webmaster position. Sargent thanked Andreas Giger for his years of service in this position.

VII. Other Business; Comments from the Floor

- A. Bryan Proksch questioned the virtual delivery of the 2024 meeting of the national AMS. Blake Howe noted that this was initiated as a cost-saving measure. Alice Clark stated that a virtual or part-virtual conference would increase participation. Sarah Eyerly clarified that part-virtual was difficult due to costs but that she could bring comments about the virtual conference format to the AMS board. Jenny Thomas added that accessibility should be a yearly endeavor and not constrained to any certain year, but that in-person conferences should not be reduced.

- B. Joseph Sargent thanked Brett Boutwell for his years of service as he moved on from his Past President position.

VIII. Adjournment.

Andreas Giger moved to conclude the meeting, and Ed Hafer seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

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