
AMERICAN
SOCIETY FOR
18TH-CENTURY
STUDIES

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

2021 ASECS Business Meeting

Minutes

8 April 2021, 1:20 pm

Online

1. Call to Order (Executive Director: Lisa Berglund)
2. Call for Quorum (Parliamentarian: Joe Bartolomeo)
The number of attendees required for a quorum being 89, and attendance being 77, the meeting lacks a quorum and was held for information purposes only.
3. Moment of Silence to Remember ASECS Members
4. Summary of Major Executive Board and Business Office Actions 2019-2021
 - a. Provided free membership renewals for 2020-2021 to 354 graduate student and contingent/unemployed faculty members;
 - b. Adopted the Policy on Harassment and added it to the Bylaws;
 - c. Hired an Ombuds;
 - d. Organized our first fully online Annual Meeting, which includes a conference app. The meeting has 189 different events and more than 750 scheduled presenters;
 - e. Launched a series of online roundtables in which the winners of ASECS prizes discuss their work. We held a discussion in December 2020 of Avi Lifschitz's 2020 Clifford Prize winning essay and in March 2021 a discussion of James Mulholland's 2020 Aravamudan Prize winning essay. We anticipate holding a discussion of the 2021 Gottschalk winner at the end of the summer and then a discussion of the 2021 Clifford Prize winner in the fall;
 - f. Arranged for members to receive free trial access to both *Eighteenth-Century Collections Online* and *Studies in the Enlightenment*; exploration of the possibility of adding a subscription to one or more databases as a benefit of ASECS membership is ongoing;
 - g. Revised the policy for submissions to *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture* to include papers presented by ASECS members at any scholarly meeting or event;
 - h. Arranged to add Vols. 1-19 of *SECC* to Project MUSE;
 - i. Conducted a search for a new editor for *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, which culminated in the appointment of Ramesh Mallipeddi, University of Colorado Boulder, effective July 2021;
 - j. Conducted a search for a fulltime Executive Director. The search has concluded with an offer that has been accepted. As soon as details are finalized, the new director will be introduced to the Society.
5. Treasurer's Report (Joe Bartolomeo)

- 1) Investments: As of 4/5/21, Fidelity funds at **\$2,093,873.42**—an increase of over \$292,000 (over 16%) from the end of 19-20 fiscal year. Last month, the funds were divided into two accounts, with a slightly more growth-oriented strategy for unrestricted funds.
- 2) Bank Balance: as of 3/31/21, **\$54,244.57**.
- 3) Contributions 2019-20: **\$23,584**; Contributions 2020-2021 through 3/31: **\$23,847**
- 4) Membership Dues 2019-2020: **\$92,115**. Membership Dues 2020-2021 through 3/31: **\$81,760**. This does not yet include payments we've received via the conference website.

6. 2019 Election Results

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|----------------------------|--------------------|
| President | Rebecca Messbarger |
| First Vice President | Meredith Martin |
| Second Vice President | Lisa Freeman |
| Member at large, 2021-2024 | Ourida Mostefai |
| Member at large, 2021-2024 | Romita Ray |

Thanks for their service to outgoing Past President Jeffrey Ravel; to Board Members Michael Yonan and Kate Jensen; and to Sean Moore, who is concluding four years as editor of *Eighteenth-Century Studies*.

7. Report on Constitutional Amendment: The 20 percent participation required to amend the Constitution was not achieved. A second ballot will be issued.

8. Change from “Patron Members” to “Sponsor Members”

In 2017, the Board eliminated the “Sponsor” category, which was thought to be redundant; however, the “Sponsor” category is stipulated in the ASECS Constitution. Therefore, the Board has decided to change the “Patron” membership categories to “Sponsor” categories to bring us into constitutional compliance. The word “Sponsor” also does not have the gendered implications of the word “Patron.” This change will be effective on July 1, 2021.

9. Report on Upcoming Annual Meetings

a. 2022 Meeting in Baltimore

The 2022 meeting will be held at the Hilton Baltimore, March 30 - April 2. Room rates will be \$215.

b. 2023 Meeting in St. Louis

The 2023 meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch, March 7-12. Room rates will be \$165.

c. 2024 Meeting in Toronto

The 2024 meeting will be held at the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel, April 2-7. Room rates will be \$259 CAD.

10. New Business

11. Adjournment