

AAA AOC met May 13, 2005 at the Spring board meeting.

The AOC conducted committee reviews (Committee on Public Policy & Nominations).

Public Policy – It was noted that there is an interest group on Public Policy now. There might be duplication in some of the issues and concerns. Also noted was that the committee has not succeeded in establishing a policy center and that IGAPP could be of help. The committee met last summer and subsequently contacted eight universities in the DC area to investigate whether they might be interested in hosting a Public Policy Center. They were also to do an RFP to some or all of their institutions. SfAA subsequently backed out of the joint AAA/SfAA collaboration so the progress came to a halt. There was discussion of how AOC could help move the project along. It was reported that new AAA liaison might help in moving the committee toward its goals. .

Members discussed whether AAA has committed resources to the policy center. The answer was “no” but it was noted that \$5000 in start up funds might be available from AAA. There followed a discussion of what AAA could add as an incentive for an institution to take on the policy center.

It was re-iterated that this was an elected committee, not appointed. There followed a discussion of how the committee chair is selected and what the succession process is. There was also discussion if the committee would actually become (morph into) the policy center. The center would be a mix of AAA members and personnel from the sponsoring institution.

It was suggested that the committee draw up a draft budget to at least illustrate what they wanted. Discussion ensued as to whether a line item of seed money could be designated to be reviewed annually.

The question was called and the duties of the AOC were re-iterated: AOC is to renew the committee charge or recommend changes.

It was suggest COPP communicate with IGAPP and use them as a resource.

It was moved that AOC renew the charge of COPP and there was unanimous approval

Nominations - Discussion opened with the expressed need for a face-to-face meeting for this group due to the sensitivity of the topic. It was also emphasized that the nominations process needed review. The committee feels it cannot solicit names for nomination. They are totally dependent on membership. They felt constrained when they could not solicit if the proposed candidates appeared less than satisfactory. It was recommended to approve charge pending on a report from group regarding process. It was suggested that responsibilities could be modified to allow “in absence of suitable candidate, committee can suggest names” in the procedures governing committee. This was approved.

Approval of interest groups.

SOYUZ – Post Communist Interest Group

It was moved to re-authorize the IG pending certification that at least 25 IG members are also AAA members in good standing

MELANESIA

The AOC approved of Interest Groups because they exist as long as there is interest. The AOC unanimously approved the continuation of Melanesia Interest Group.

There was a brief discussion of the committee review process. Chairs should report any problems so that committees will be more effective and efficient.

Minutes were read and approved with corrections.

AOC discussed the committee review process and reworked the calendar.

The new schedule developed.

- 2006 Ethics, Minority Issues, Human Rights.
- 2007 Annual Meeting Program Executive Committee, Annual Meeting Committee, Committee on Scientific Communication, Awards.
- 2008 AOC, Long-Range Planning Committee, Nominations.
- 2009 Resource Development, Finance.
- 2010 Public Policy, COSWA, Anth & Education

The AOC reworked the “Questions for a committee to ask itself.”

1. How do we ~~expand on~~ contribute to the mission of AAA?
2. How ~~are we valuable to~~ do we contribute to the members of the Association?
3. How has the committee adapted to the changing needs of the discipline and the association?
4. What is the role of our committee as it is currently operating?
5. How does our committee fit into the LRP? (how does it tie into the goal and mission of the LRP?)
6. How do we mesh with the goals of the Association in general?
7. How are our expenses linked to the LRP and can they be justified?

Results. Accomplishments

1. What positive impact have we had on AAA?
2. What are our accomplishments/achievements?
3. Who does the committee serve and who benefits by committee action?

Looking Forward

1. Where do we go from here? What is our agenda?
2. What changes do we want to make to the committee structure?
3. What are our expenses and what staff support do we need?
4. Where do we see ourselves in 5 years?
5. How does the committee fit into future projects in LRP?

There was discussion as to whether the AOC should evaluate itself every 5 years but no decision was taken. Nichols recommended that committees should include their charge when submitting and the question should be asked: “what is the committee’s charge as it is currently operating and should the charge be updated or amended?”

There was a discussion of committee “budgets” and how committees were funded and also there were questions as to the timing of the reviews – should they coincide with the term of the chair (3 yrs vs. 5)?

There was also a discussion of the lead time to give the committees to prepare their reports.

It was decided to double up the calls and send notification of the annual review at least 2 years in advance.

The committee also dealt with the request of the Ethics Commission to establish an award for publishers of significant undergraduate textbooks. A main problem with the concept was that it rewarded the publisher instead of the author. It was decided to send the proposal back and convey concerns about a publisher vs. author award. Also, the book must be exceptional/superlative piece of work. Finally, it was decided to approve on principle – but the committee remains concerned that 1- the award be given to author and 2 – given on the basis of merit not annually. AOC should negotiate with committee to get changes.

Finally, AOC dealt with the type of services provided by AAA to Interest Groups. In particular, SOYUZ – wants to use AAA Website for their own as some of the sections now do. It was decided that a site could be hosted but that any programming or in-depth technical work would not be part of the service.