

AAAL Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom
Thursday, June 15, 2023
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM ET

Minutes [Approved October 26, 2023]

Present: Lourdes Ortega, President; Peter De Costa, President Elect; Ryuko Kubota, 1stVP; Fabiola Ehlers-Zavala, Immediate Past President; Scott Jarvis, Treasurer; Yasuko Kanno, Member-at-Large; Elizabeth Miller, Member-at-Large; Oksana Moroz, GSC Representative/Co-Chair; Stephanie Link, Chair of OEOC; Katie Henley, Ex Officio.

Excused: Manka Varghese, 2nd VP; Agnes He, Secretary; Julie Sykes, Member-at-Large.

Call to Order and Welcoming Remarks

Lourdes welcomed all participants and called the meeting to order.
Lourdes made land acknowledgement slavery acknowledgement from the institution where she works.
Lourdes welcomed new EC member Liz Miller, Member-at-Large.

Approval of Meeting Agenda (Exhibit #1)

Lourdes called for a motion to approve the meeting agenda.
Motion: it was moved by Scott and seconded by Ryuko to approve the meeting agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

On behalf of Agnes, Lourdes reviewed Rules of Order (**Exhibit #2**).

Approval of March 2023 EC Meeting Minutes (Exhibit #3)

Lourdes called for a motion to approve the March 2023 EC meeting minutes.
Motion: it was moved by Peter and seconded by Ryuko to approve the March 2023 EC meeting minutes. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously, with one abstention (from the member who was not at the March 2023 EC meeting).

OPERATIONS: Conference

2024 Conference Planning – Ryuko Kubota (no written report/Exhibit)

- Call For Proposals is out.
- New policy has been created regarding languages for proposal and presentation.
- Strand coordinators have been advised to use their own discretion in the choice of language in the review process.
- As per JEDI work group recommendation, next year we will use drop-down menu to select languages.
- In preparation for the conference, 7 students are working with Ryuko + one person from the MSU team from 2023.
- Ryuko is still thinking about how to build a multi-year conference planning team.
- Recruiting strand coordinators has been challenging – maybe calling for help from retired AAAL members would be a solution.
- All info re invited sessions is available on AAAL website.
- It is very difficult to recruit indigenous scholars to present at AAAL conferences (due to historical “trust” issues with AAAL). We need to find solutions, e.g., greater EC involvement in closed meetings of indigenous scholars to discuss their concerns, struggles and hopes.
- Training videos for strand coordinators are being worked on.
- Ryuko is planning to use Indigenous Scholarship funds to support working group session and travel for indigenous scholars, while leaving some funds for competitive scholarships;
- 2022-2032 is international decade of Indigenous languages – we need to recognize that at AAAL website, etc.
- OEOC might consider more indigenous scholar-related initiatives.
- JEDI issues: Ramadan coincides with AAAL 2024; disability issues; multi languages; Black scholars.
- Joint session with other professional organizations needs prior arrangement and approval.
- We need to discuss equitable distribution of honoraria/stipends for conference planning team members.

Discussion:

- We need to generate greater publicity of the new multilingual options of AAAL conferences
- Previously, different conference team members received different amounts for summer stipends, depending on the nature and amount of their work. Current SR limits the total amount to 6K and the

number of student assistants to 3; can we change SR to remove the limit of the number of student assistants who can receive stipends?

MOTION: Ryuko moved to delete the stipulation of ‘3’ (in “3 students”) in the SR associated with stipends for volunteers working on the conference planning team. Peter seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

2026 Conference in Chicago – Katie Henley (on behalf of Sherry Battle) (Exhibit 4)

- Salt Lake City is not viable, due to space constraint and cost issues.
- Chicago is eager to welcome AAAL back and ready to accommodate AAAL needs.

MOTION: Peter moved to discuss Chicago-Sheraton as a possible venue for AAAL 2026. Ryuko seconded the motion.

Discussion:

- EC thanked Sherry and Katie for their work.
- It is great that Chicago Sheraton is interested in working with AAAL and wants our business.
- We need to continue the discussion of online possibilities, given members’ cost and health concerns.
- There was no definitive conclusion regarding conference modality from the Conference Task Force last year (led by Lourdes).
- We need to determine the number of rooms that need WIFI for presentation (hybrid); cost will be very high if the entire conference is truly and fully hybrid.
- Some tech-related work can be done by volunteers.
- Chicago is easy to travel to, economical, and therefore a great choice for people from everywhere.
- The Chicago hotel once held the largest number of conference attendees in AAAL conference history.
- Funding for online conference participation varies from school to school.

MOTION: Liz moved to have 2026 conference in Chicago-Sheraton. Scott seconded the motion.

Discussion:

- We need to continue to discuss online and in person options.
- 2026 conference will be chaired by the person elected 2nd VP this year (2023).

All voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

BREAK

A slight change of the meeting agenda to move the OEOC report before the SR changes was necessary due to Stephanie Link's schedule conflicts.

Standing Committee/Leadership Reports

OEOC (Stephine Link) (Exhibit #8)

Steph summarized Exhibit #8

Steph asked the EC to approve (or provide alternative suggestions for) workshop presenters for the Professional Development subcommittee.

Discussion:

- The committee should have the power to make decisions regarding speakers/presenters.

Speakers/presenters were approved by EC through consensus

Steph asked the EC to discuss and approve (or provide alternative suggestions for) the social media campaign on Disability Justice.

Discussion:

- For clarification, the social media campaign refers to a set of planned social media posts (rather than random or sporadic posts) to focus on certain themes such as disability justice.
- OEOC is aiming for greater alignment between their initiatives and AAAL EC initiatives and mission.
- Theme-focused campaign will be twice a year (August and October).
- A suggestion was made to focus on indigenous scholars in themed social media campaign.
- A suggestion was made to focus on 2022-2023, international decade of indigenous languages, a UN initiative.

OPERATIONS: Governance

Standing Rules changes – Katie Henley (Exhibits 5-6)

Katie went over the proposed changes to SRs (Exhibits 5 and 6) up to “GSA Timeline” (due to time constraints).

The following items received special attention:

Removal of committee members

Discussion:

- Insert ‘comma’ after “council”
- Clarification of a previous ‘failing to perform duties’ incident: it was a problem with using a wrong email address of the committee member; not a case of ‘failure to perform duties’.

Vacancy and resignation

Discussion:

- New verbiage reflects actual practices.
- For elected members, it makes greater sense for the 2nd VP to consider the overall composition of the committee and recommend a replacement than going back to election results to find out who received the next highest vote (as we don’t publicize who received how many votes).

New timeline for DSSA

MOTION: Scott moved that we move the DSSA timeline earlier as proposed. Peter seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

New timeline for GSA

Approved by consensus.

In the interest of time, Lourdes suspended the discussion of SR changes in order to leave sufficient time for JEDI discussion. All SR change items that have been discussed and approved up to this point (i.e., up to the

new GSA timeline) take effect immediately. Lourdes will follow up with emails for the remaining proposed SR changes that are time sensitive, particularly timelines for awards.

OPERATIONS: Governance

JEDI Working Group (Liz Miller) (Exhibit #7)

Liz shared her own learning experience serving on the Working Group, as a way to introduce her remarks and highlight the need to remove barriers and to re-examine ableist ‘default’ perspectives.

Liz raised the following issues for discussion –

- The current Travel Policy (Standing Rule 17) was reviewed, with a particular focus on sections 17.C.4 and 17.E.1. To “document” disability presents an unfair burden to persons with disability. Tentative new language was proposed. Changes to Standing Rule 17 will be necessary if we are going to implement the anti-ableist work. Future meetings (involving some EC members) are planned to further discuss the new language and to discuss the transition from Working Group to Ad Hoc Committee.
- How will the expanded AAAL budget for accommodation/access for 2024 Conference (20K) be used? Particularly, can the budget be used for virtual presentation as well as ASL interpretation?
- Instead of a general survey of AAAL members on needed accommodations which will again place burden on persons who need accommodations, the Working Group looked to other organizations for guidance and guidelines on accessibility issues. Links to AAA (Anthropology) and MLA were shared. Advice from EC is necessary as to how to proceed.
- To enhance accountability and transparency, results of discussions of accessibility issues need to be communicated back to the Working Group and the general membership (and not stop at the EC).
- The Working Group’s work has been slow but steady. The Group is not expecting everything to be fixed for 2024 conference but remains committed to working toward progress in accessibility.

Discussion:

- 2-3 accessibility-related questions will be added to the post-conference survey after 2024 Conference
- We need to keep thinking of removing barriers before thinking of costs. Example: for deaf participants, true removal of barriers will entail ASL interpretation not only for conference sessions but also for social interaction during the conference.

- The 20K can be flexibly used both for ASL interpretation, and also for 1-2 hybrid conference rooms; the JEDI Working Group can determine priorities.
- We could consider additional funding possibilities such as the NSF grants, which would require planning way ahead of time.
- We need to expand the discussion from disability to indigenous scholars, black scholars, which calls for continuous, sustained JEDI efforts (beyond the tenure of any specific conference chair), efforts that require the creation of a standing committee.
- We need to strike a balance between JEDI Working Group's workload and JEDI needs; we are learning a lot, doing a lot, addressing many urgent issues, but it'll take some time for all the structure (e.g., ad hoc JEDI committee, JEDI Officer) to be put in place.
- It is possible for EC to deliberate and vote on the new language for 'travel policy' suggested by the JEDI Working Group via email (before the October 2023 EC meeting).
- The JEDI Working Group will meet again in two weeks, when a timeline for making structural changes can be developed and the scope of the Group's work can be further delineated.
- The EC deeply appreciates and strongly supports the work done by the Working Group, thanks Liz for serving as the liaison, and wishes to convey the idea to the Group that the JEDI work is a process that needs to be scaled and requires sustained, long-term efforts.

OPERATIONS: Administrative (Katie Henley)

Business Office/EC relationship

- We are functioning very well.
- Committee chairs please use the post-meeting feedback form to communicate committee decisions with the Office (Hannah).
- We need to coordinate all 'marketing' efforts, share the marketing calendar where all groups can post.
- All committee information (past and present) is now available and open to all EC members.
- There is no plan to change Managing Director at this point; Katie will continue to work with AAAL.
- Efficiency requires keeping the Office in the know; please avoid having the Office act "reactively".

October EC Meeting

- Katie will create a Doodle poll to determine October 2023 EC meeting dates.

- July Orientation cannot accommodate everyone's schedules (summer schedules are very difficult), but will prioritize new EC members.

Lourdes expressed gratitude to Katie for her and her team's work.

Review of EC Action items – Katie Henley

Adjournment

Lourdes thanked everyone for their participation and contribution.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:30 p.m. ET

Respectfully submitted (on the basis of a Zoom recording of the meeting),
Agnes He