

**Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers
Board Meeting Minutes – April 12, 2018
Napoleon C3, Sheraton New Orleans Hotel
New Orleans, LA**

Board Members present:

Michael Steinberg (Executive Director), Robert Kent (Treasurer), Rebecca Clouser (Secretary), Patricia Solís, Matthew LaFevor, Sarah Blue, Luis Sanchez, John Finn (LASG Chair)

1. Executive Director, M. Steinberg, called the meeting to order at 7:00 AM
 - a. A quorum was not present. While no voting could occur, the Board made several recommendations (bolded below).
2. Past Executive Director's Report - 2017 (A. Sluyter, not in attendance)
 - a. Welcome and congratulations to M. Steinberg as the new Executive Director.
 - b. Voting for new officers of CLAG. Elections typically held in May, will wait until after the CLAG Costa Rica conference (so as to identify potential candidates).
3. Upcoming CLAG Costa Rica conference (May 20-22, 2018) is on track.
 - a. While M. Steinberg will not be able to attend the CLAG Costa Rica meeting, another Board meeting will be held during the conference.
4. *JLAG* 2018 Speaker (tonight): Fernando Funes Monzote
 - a. Board thanked J. Finn for all of his work on this.
5. CLAG 2020: 50th Anniversary (Havana, Cuba)
 - a. Some have expressed concerns regarding travel to Cuba: political climate, yellow fever travel restrictions, state department warning (impacts university travel funds).
 - b. Need to verify with J. Scarpaci that he is willing to take the solo lead on organizing the meeting.
 - c. Discussion of alternate places in case Cuba does not work (Austin, Belize, Guatemala, El Paso, Tucson, Bogota, etc.).
 - These could also be considered for the next CLAG conference (we currently have no proposals for CLAG 2022).
 - d. M. Steinberg to contact J. Scarpaci and report back to the Board as soon as possible.
 - e. The timing for the conference will likely be January 2020.
 - f. Discussed forming a 'CLAG at 50' committee to develop ways to celebrate the anniversary.
6. Membership
 - a. Membership numbers are up. Need to discuss how we want to grow.
 - Membership Committee should begin an email discussion regarding some of the questions posed by M. Steinberg in the agenda (circulated via email before the meeting).
 - b. Streamlining the membership process with UT Press is the top priority.
 - M. Steinberg would like to see auto-renewals for membership.
 - UT Press has a new journals manager, may be an opportune time to address this.

- M. Steinberg is planning on visiting UT Press this summer in order to have these conversations in person.
- T. Norris also will be working on the website in conjunction with this.

7. Treasurer's Report (R. Kent)

- a. Summary of CLAG Expenses and Revenue for 2010-2017
 - We've been conservative on estimating income, which means we've built a hefty cushion (end year balance for 2017 was \$110,369).
- b. 2017 Budget Actuals & Finance Committee Budget Recommendations for 2018, 2019, & 2020.
 - Budgets for 2018 and 2019 were approved at last year's Board meeting, modest revisions of these budgets are proposed as well as a budget for 2020. Larger proposals have not been included at this time, pending Board discussion and vote.
 - Discussion of the 2018 and 2019 revisions and proposed 2020 budget:
 - New line item for CLAG-Honors: Plaques and Registration of \$1500 for 2018 and \$1500 for 2020. This was approved by the CLAG Board at the 2017 meeting.
 - New line item for *JLAG* lecture to be given at AAG meeting (proposed by the Executive Committee) of \$2000 annually.
 - **Board recommends approving this, but also including more follow up (handing out information, recruiting at the lecture, keeping track of attendance). Future Board members will have context to understand why we support this.**
 - New line item to cover annual cost of maintaining the CLAG Archive at Syracuse University Libraries (\$250 per year).
 - We also currently owe \$1000 (as have not paid in 4 years).
 - Confusion of \$100 vs. \$250 per year. Should be \$250 per year.
 - **Board recommends approving this payment of \$1000 and including it as a new line item for future years.**
 - Income projections for 2018, 2019, and 2020 have been modestly increased (increase of \$500 for JSTOR, \$100 for Gale/Ebsco/Proquest, and \$1500 for Project Muse).
- c. Discussion of other budget proposals (not included in current 2020 proposed budget)
 - CLAG Communications Officer (T. Norris, not in attendance) and *JLAG* Editor (C. Gaffney, not in attendance) proposed CLAG contract a firm to do electronic promotion campaign for *JLAG* (\$3000).
 - **Board recommends tabling this until after have worked out streamlining membership process with UT Press.**
 - P. Solís noted she has collected a large set of contacts and would also be able to send out an email blast.
 - C. Gaffney proposed that beginning in 2019 the annual editorial honorarium paid to the *JLAG* editor be increased from \$4000 to \$5000 annually (and to pay it in two installments per year).
 - **Board recommends approving this proposal.**

- C. Gaffney proposed collapsing current line items for “editorial assistant” and “copyediting” into a *JLAG* editor’s discretionary fund (in the current budgets these two items total \$4000 annually). Further, it is proposed to increase this amount by \$2000.
 - **Board recommends tabling this proposal until after the next *JLAG* editor is in place.**
 - Should also research further what other editors receive for support.
 - d. Board expressed its gratitude to R. Kent for his amazing work, ability to sort through complexities and provide clear information.
8. New *JLAG* Editor
- a. C. Gaffney has accepted a new position that will require more of his time.
 - b. Board expressed its gratitude to C. Gaffney for his hard work and impressive transformation of *JLAG*. Would like to find a way to recognize and honor his hard work (potentially at the CLAG Costa Rica meeting).
 - c. Need to form a search committee. Suggested names for the committee: C. Gaffney, E. Carter and M. Bell.
 - Discussed using the Publications Committee as the search committee and adding members as needed (i.e. E. Carter, someone from the Finance Committee, etc.).
9. Honors Committee
- a. CLAG 2018 Honors will be presented in Costa Rica.
 - Importance of increasing representation in the pool of honorees to better reflect the diversity of CLAG membership.
 - Discussion of creating new awards/categories (‘mid-career’ or ‘early career’ award).
 - Discussion of creating an award linked to a *JLAG* article (up-and-coming author; ‘best paper’; most downloads; etc.).
 - Discussed how often we give the awards
 - Does every award need to be given every year? Could we link some to the CLAG conference cycle?
 - Idea of having a more explicit policy on this.
 - S. Blue will take these discussion points back to the Honors Committee to generate ideas for discussion at the CLAG Costa Rica meeting.
 - b. Student awards
 - The student travel and research awards will be announced at the CLAG/LASG business meeting.
 - The quality of the applicants remains impressive.
 - Discussion of confusion regarding the named awards (as the amount of awards is greater than the number of names). While is cumbersome, can give multiples (i.e. 3 of the Nietschmann awards).
 - c. Board thanks C. Brannstrom and the Honors Committee for their hard work on coordinating the awards process and evaluating the applications.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Clouser, Secretary