

ASDAH Business Meeting

March 19, 2016; 7:15pm @ La Sierra University Cactus Room

Dr. Edward Allen, presiding

Ben Tyner, minute taker

1. After prayer, Allen calls the meeting to order. First item on the agenda is the *election of officers*.
 - a. Below are elected candidates (votes anonymously handwritten by present members):
 - i. Vice President - Amy Rosenthal
 - ii. News Editor - Katherine Koh
 - iii. Secretary Treasurer - Ed Allen
 - iv. Executive Member at Large - Jeff Crocombe
 - b. SAU is confirmed as the next host (in 2019) by motion and assent.

2. Two constitutional issues are next on the agenda:
 - a. *Name of the organization*: Association of Seventh-day Adventist Historians or Association for Seventh-day Adventist Historians?
 - i. Motion to change the name back to the original Association of Seventh-day Adventist Historians is seconded and carries unanimously.
 - b. *ASDAH website*: should Bruce Lo continue as website editor? Should the webmaster be a member of the steering committee?
 - i. Motion (made by Ruth Crocombe) to appoint Bruce Lo as Webmaster and to give the Secretary Treasurer responsibility for communicating with Webmaster. Seconded and unanimously carried.

3. Next item: *should ASDAH have yearly meetings in association with the AHA conference?*
 - a. Discussion covers the following issues: the use of such a meeting in bringing attention and new members to ASDAH; potential for diminishing importance of triennial ASDAH conference; the desired formality of such a yearly meeting.
 - b. Ruth Francis moves that the ASDAH have an informal meeting at the AHA in 2017 (in Denver) and that the Executive Committee should organize it. After discussion, motion carries unanimously.
 - c. Late motion to approve the minutes from the 2013 meeting is made; motion carries with one correction: Southern College should be written as SAU.

4. Next item: *for ASDAH to continue at maximum effectiveness, should we include political scientists and global/international studies scholars (who are increasingly replacing the vacated positions of historians)?*
 - a. Discussion: Brian Strayer argues that there is a lack of interest of the political scientists in his department (others counter that there is interest); Andrew Howe

discusses the rise of hybrid departments; questions are raised about another name change to indicate openness to non-historians; Amy Rosenthal and Michael Weismeyer urge more openness to non-Adventist history; Ben McArthur notes that numbers are shrinking in history programs in general.

- b. No motion is raised, but the general consensus is that ASDAH desires to enlarge its tent and that measures should be taken, at least informally, to make it known that ASDAH welcomes outside scholars.
5. Next item: *is there an increasing trend to downgrade the study of history in higher education and/ or in Adventist colleges? Should the ASDAH advocate against reduction in General Education which lowers or eliminates students' exposure to history classes?*
 - a. General assent that the trend described is real and of significant concern to those present.
 - b. Discussion: question raised about whether the ASDAH members are intended to be lobbyists; Lisa Diller suggests SDA history should be taught by historians and recommends that we push for accreditation to require this; Andrew Howe counters that requesting oversight of programs is dangerous and may turn out to be burdensome; Jeff Crocombe and others suggest that legislating popularity is impossible and that General Education requirements are onerous on students; Amy Rosenthal says that financial aid availability will have more to do with what happens rather than our principles; Lisa Diller suggests an ASDAH panel on this topic for the next conference; Ed Allen nominates Amy Rosenthal to chair said panel; Amy notes that students need to be a part of the discussion. No motion raised.
 6. Next item: Amy Rosenthal leads discussion of online post-baccalaureate certificates for secondary instruction in history. She describes an 18 hour certificate of this kind that she is working on at SAU. *Would the ASDAH be interested in participating in building an online class?* Members should email Amy if they are interested; US History is needed most.
 - 2013 ASDAH meeting formally closes.