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ADE Business Minutes, Quincy, Massachusetts, 20 October 2006-22 October 2006

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ADE Business Minutes

Quincy, Massachusetts

20 October 2006–22 October 2006

President Roger Bruns called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. The minutes of the 2005 business meeting were approved.

The president thanked the Local Arrangements Committee: Maggie Hogan, (co-chair), Gregg Lint (co-chair), Karen N. Barzilay, Mary Claffey, Holly Hendricks, Ondine Le Blanc, Sara Sikes, C. James Taylor, Paul Tsimahides, Hobson Woodward, and Conrad Wright. He also thanked Harvard University Press and the Massachusetts Historical Society for their generous support. He thanked the Program Committee: Ronald A. Bosco (chair), Carol De Boer-Langworthy, Helen R. Deese, Robert F. Karachuk, and Beth Luey.

Bruns recognized the completion of a three-year term as Councilor-at-large by Michael Stevens, and he thanked Charlene Bickford and Christine Patrick for their support during the past year.

President Bruns announced that a new procedure for the collection of dues will be instituted in 2007. Renewal notices for dues will be mailed in mid-January 2007, and a general reminder will be sent via the ADE e-mail list. A second notice will be sent at the beginning of March, and all members who fail to renew their dues at this time will be removed from the ADE membership list. Dues paid later in the year will be pro-rated, and all memberships will expire at the end of 2007.

James Taylor welcomed the members on behalf of the Local Arrangements Committee. He explained the logistical details for the reception at the Adams National Historic Park and the creation of a reception for new editors, "The Dinosaur Eggs." He announced that Robert Gross would be the speaker for the Saturday morning breakfast instead of Joseph Ellis.

President's Report

Roger Bruns reviewed events surrounding the sending of the 1 September 2006 letter to the NEH. This letter protested the failure to use peer reviews in the evaluation process for grant proposals, the stated prefer-

ence given to free online editions, and the declining resources allotted to documentary editions. Members received a copy of this letter via the ADE e-mail list. The American Association of University Presses (AAUP) also expressed its concern about the preference given to free online editions, because of the implications this had for digital versions of copyrighted, print editions.

President Bruns reported on his subsequent meeting with Jane Aiken, the director of the Division of Research Programs of the NEH, and Michael Hall, the NEH representative to the ADE. It was a productive meeting and resulted in a change in grant requirements so that digital editions were not given preference over strictly print editions, although free online editions will be given preference over those online editions that charge a user fee. The NEH did not agree to restore peer reviews, but did indicate that projects can submit draft proposals for a preliminary review by NEH staff members. Grant proposals can include peer reviews, but such letters must be included within the prescribed number of pages allotted by the NEH. Published volumes can no longer be submitted to demonstrate the proficiency and value of an established project.

Bruns noted that while the money allotted to documentary editions has increased, the number of projects funded has declined in recent years. He also mentioned the technical problems encountered in using the new NEH computer software for filing grant proposals. In light of all these problems, members were encouraged to budget more time for the grant process.

Secretary's Report

Christine S. Patrick announced the results of the 2006–2007 election: Richard Leffler, John Lupton, and Christine Patrick have been reelected to their respective positions as Publications Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary. Michael Stevens will be the new President-elect and Martha King the new Councilor-at-Large. The Nominating Committee for 2007 will consist of Anne Decker Cecere (chair), Elaine W. Pascu, Barry Pateman, Mary Lamb Shelden, and Kenneth H. Williams.

She reported that the ADE had 337 members as of 2 October 2006; the membership stood at 347 at the end of 2005.

Treasurer's Report

In the absence of Treasurer John Lupton, President Bruns announced that the fiscal year for 2005–2006 had ended with a surplus of \$6,000. This sur-

plus had resulted from the failure to publish three of the scheduled issues of *Documentary Editing* and the membership brochure. Since the Spring, Summer, and Fall issues of 2006 will be published in the 2006–2007 fiscal year, the ADE Council added this increased cost to the proposed budget for 2006–2007, along with increased donations of \$1,500 to the National Coalition for History and \$500 to the National Humanities Council. A motion to approve the budget “as offered by the Council” was passed by the members.

Committee Reports

Richard Leffler, chair of the Publications Committee, reported that it had been a difficult year for the editors of *Documentary Editing*. The editor-in-chief lacked the appropriate support from IUPUI, and difficulties with the printer had delayed publication of the journal. The spring and summer issues would, however, be mailed to the members later this year. Digitalization of back issues was in process. The issues have been scanned, but are waiting for coding to make them searchable online. The committee was hopeful that the journal could be available on the ADE web site in the near future.

He reported that considerable progress had been made on the third edition of the *Guide to Documentary Editing*, by Mary-Jo Kline and Sue Purdue. The revised versions of chapters 1–6 have been reviewed and are being rewritten where necessary; the draft of chapter 7 was currently under review. The NEH grant ends in July 2007, and approximately half of the available money has been spent. The University of Virginia Press will publish the electronic edition.

Leffler reported that a draft of the ADE membership brochure was included in each convention packet and invited the members to offer comments and suggestions. The brochure started as a project of the Membership Committee, but early in 2006 Kate Culkin turned over a draft to the Publications Committee for completion of the brochure. He reported that the image of the letter by Thomas Jefferson was a work-in-progress and permission from the Pennsylvania Historical Society was still needed for its publication. The committee anticipated publishing one thousand five hundred brochures at a cost of approximately \$1,000. The committee expects to have a version for presentation on the ADE website.

Charlene Bickford, chair of the Federal Policy Committee, thanked everyone for their support in lobbying for funds for the NEH and NHPRC. She noted that out of 130 participants in the Humanities Advocacy Day, ten

to twelve of those were ADE members. The work of the National Coalition for History (NCH), under director Bruce Craig, and the National Humanities Alliance (NHA), under director Jessica Jones, was extremely helpful in the lobbying efforts. One team led by Bickford and Craig, made visits to relevant NHPRC appropriations committee staff, while other ADE members went with their state teams. Right now it looks like the NEH will have level funding in FY2007.

Funding for both the grants program and the staffing for the NHPRC was again zeroed out by the Administration. Currently \$5.5 million by the House and \$5 million by the Senate has been proposed. Because of one member's floor amendment, funding for NARA had been drastically reduced by the House of Representatives. Although the Senate has allotted more funding, much of the difference is earmarked for Presidential Libraries. Final appropriations will not be determined until conferences are held after the 2006 election. Members will be contacted if additional lobbying efforts are needed.

She reported that Bruce Craig is retiring from the NCH and that his replacement will be selected in November. Bickford is serving on the search committee.

She also reported that members can probably expect to conduct the same fight again next year, especially for the NHPRC since the OMB recently took all mention of the NHPRC's role out of NARA's proposed strategic plan, insisting that NARA's role be confined to federal records.

Phil Chase, chair of the State Policy Committee, thanked the committee members and the editors-in-chief who answered the committee's survey. He reported a 60% response rate to the survey. He emphasized that the "Report on Institutional Relationships and Support of Documentary Editing Projects" provided a valuable baseline for future evaluations. He announced a "brown bag" session during the lunch hour on Saturday to discuss the significance of the report and to solicit ideas for future action.

Cathy Moran Hajo, ADE Webmaster, requested that members provide information for the ADE website throughout the year in order to keep its content current. She asked that committee chairs, especially, provide the information necessary to update their sections on the site. New members are welcome to join the Website Committee.

Martha King, chair of the Travel Funds Committee, reported that applications for grants had been processed electronically this year. From a field of ten applicants, five had received financial assistance to attend the annual

meeting in the amount of \$500 each. The awardees for 2006 are Jane Calvet (Political and Legal Writings of John Dickinson), Bobby R. Holt (Papers of Cornell Hull), Hetty Kroll (Papers of Gouverneur Morris), Erica Nunamaker (Papers of Abraham Lincoln), and Erica Olsen (Writings of Frederic Remington). King asked the membership to meet and extend a welcome to these new members of the ADE.

Mary Hackett, chair of the Meetings Committee, reported that the 2007 meeting will be in Richmond, Virginia, on 15–18 November. Brent Tarter is chair of the local arrangements committee, which includes John R. Barden, Sara Bears, and Sandra Gioia Treadway. Future meetings are scheduled in Tucson, Arizona, in 2008 and Springfield, Illinois, in 2009. Volunteers are needed for membership on the committee and to host future meetings.

All business being concluded, members of the Local Arrangements Committee conducted a raffle for members, courtesy of Harvard University Press and the Massachusetts Historical Society. The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

