**ARL Business Meeting**

**Chicago, IL**

April 18th, 2015

President Karen Dalton called meeting to order, 10:50 am

1. Approval of 2014 Business Meeting minutes - **MSP**
2. Secretary-Treasurer’s Report – Terri Elton
   1. *Membership* – Our individual member subscriptions are up a bit from last year. One thing that has helped is the automatic renewal of the website. Student memberships are down a bit. Members were encouraged to invite students to join. Institutional subscriptions remain the same. International membership continues to grow.
   2. *Financial* – Overall we remain financially stable. With the fiscal year being from April 1 – March 31, the spring issue of the journal and the annual meeting costs are split between two fiscal years. For budgeting and planning purposes, we are working with the actual number to compare costs and revenue from year to year. It is also noted that 2013-14 did not have an ATLA check and the 2014-15 has two years worth of ATLA income.
   3. *Suggestion:* A suggestion was made for the Steering Committee to have a conversation about rethinking the fiscal year.
3. Elections – Kyle Small
   1. *Nominating team included*: Kyle Small, Rob Muthiah, Alicia Crompton, Scott Cormode (excused himself from the meeting for part of the discussion).
   2. *Nominate for three year terms* a slate (2015-2018): **MSP**
      1. President elect: Scott Cormode
      2. Member-at –large: Michaela O’Donnell-Long
      3. Secretary/Treasurer: Terri Elton (re-elect)
   3. *Conversation:* Steering Committee had a conversation around the value of having a student on the Steering Committee. The decision was made to not change the by-laws to state that one member-at-large be a student, but to be attentive to having students serve in that role.
4. Journal Update:
   1. *Reported:* Lisa Withnow and Dwight Zscheile have been serving as co-editors but need to step down from this role. Starting this year Sharon Callahan and Bill Kondrath will serve this role moving forward.
   2. *Vote on Editorial Board*: Sharon Callahan, Isabel DoCampo, David Forney, Lisa Hess, Deborah Kapp, Bill Kondrath, Robert Martin, George Thompson, Russell West, Lisa Withrow, Dwight Zscheile – **MSP**
   3. *Update:* Dwight Zscheile reported Leanna Fuller has stepped in as the production editor (affirmation by the membership), more international submissions, and encouragement for ARL membership to submit proposals.
5. New Business:
   1. Proposal for *new positions*: meeting logistics coordinator and digital communication/website. The Steering Committee has the ability to determine these, but wants to open the conversation up to the membership for discussion.
      1. Meeting Coordinator - Conversation about the process of bringing on the meeting coordinator (Tara). Affirmed by membership and thanked Tara for her work.
      2. Digital communication position – the focus of this position would be updating current work on website and the development of ARL in the social media arena and helping with ongoing engagement with membership between meetings. (Karen has a job description she is willing to share.) Affirmed by membership.
      3. Both positions have stipends of $1,000 each and fit within our current budget.
   2. *Annual Meeting Theme and Location for 2016* (dates: April 14-16) The decision was made to keep the location in Chicago for the near future. The hotel will be announced shortly. The meeting will begin with a reception on Thursday evening and conclude Saturday afternoon. Discussion followed on the theme for next year. Title: *Engaging Sacred Texts for Religious Leadership Formation.*
   3. *Possible meeting themes for the future* – No discussion was had on future theme, other than why leadership in public theology (noted at the 2014 minutes) was not the topic for 2016.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am. **MSP**

Minutes prepared by Terri Elton