

Minutes of the ASG Business Meeting
Association of American Geographer's Conference, April 4-9th, 2005; Denver, CO

The ASG business meeting was held on Friday, April 8th at 7.30pm in the conference hotel. The meeting was called to order by chair, Florence Margai. There were 22 members in attendance.

Updates

The chair provided an update on the overall state of the specialty group including an overview of group membership, financial status, and sessions organized during the Denver conference and the status of the African Geographical Review.

Membership & Financial Status

Listserves & Website

She noted that the listserve continues to function as the primary means of communicating with the members. The ASG has also established a new web site under the supervision and leadership of Francis Owusu.

Journal

Florence also reported on the state of the *African Geographical Review Journal*. She indicated that following the advice of the editorial board and marketing strategies adopted since the last meeting in 2004, the library subscriptions had improved dramatically from 7 to 28. She noted that based on a comparative assessment of production cost estimates issued by three publishing companies, a decision was made to go with the Global Academic Publishing of Binghamton University. The new volume 23 was behind schedule but expected to be out in a few weeks.

Further discussions on the journal at the meeting included:

- i. Suggestion to publish more issues (2 or 3) per year
- ii. Suggestions to include book reviews in the journal
- iii. Suggestions to go with an online version of the journal.
- iv. Suggestions to expand the scope and marketability beyond the US.
- v. Continue to involve the editorial board in the overall functioning of the journal

It was agreed that Florence Margai should continue as interim editor for another year, following which a more formal procedure will be set in place for appointing a new editor.

Elections

The next item of business was the election of new officials for the organization. Prior to the elections, Florence reminded member of the responsibilities for the chair and the directors as summarized below:

3 Directors: Directors should serve in an advisory capacity, but to ensure that each director contributed to running the association, it was suggested that each director should be assigned one of the following responsibilities:

- One director should be the coordinator of financial affairs
- Another director should be in charge of communications: taking minutes during business meeting, assisting with the listserv, managing the ASG website and writing the newsletters.
- Third director should coordinate social events and assist with group sponsorship of sessions at the AAG meetings

Chair responsibilities should include the following:

- Maintain visibility of the group within the AAG
- Oversee all activities of the ASG; serve as the liaison to the AAG
- Assist with organization and sponsorship of sessions at the AAG
- Chair ASG business meetings and submit minutes to the group
- Provide Annual report to the AAG
- Serve on the editorial board of the AGR

Following an overview of these responsibilities, the group voted using paper ballots and elected the following people for a three year term 2005-2008:

Chair:

- Francis Owusu, (fowusu@iastate.edu),

Directors:

- Abigail Amissah-Arthur, (abigail.arthur@sru.edu)
- Seth Appiah-Opoku, (sappiah@bama.ua.edu)
- Calvin Masilela, (cmasilel@iup.edu)

Student Directors:

- Kojo Owusu, (kowusu@ufl.edu)
- Sarah Smiley, (ssmiley@ku.edu)

Florence thanked all of the outgoing officials for their hard work and support over the past three years and welcomed the new officials.

Planning for next AAG conference

The next item of business was the discussion of potential topics for 2006 AAG conference in Chicago. Below is the list of session/panel topics suggested for the next AAG meeting, including the names of members who will coordinate these efforts:

- Africa's water supply (Fenda Akiwumi)
- African immigration (Kefa Otiso)
- NEPAD (Calvin Masilela)
- Changing economic geography of Africa (Ben Afori-Amoah)
- Political ecology/ conflicts in Africa (Veit Bachman)
- Rethinking field methods (Kobena Hanson/Madeline Wong)
- NGOs and their role in changing social space (Lance Salisbury)
- Emerging /Remerging infectious diseases (Florence Margai/Joseph Oppong)

- Anglophone vrs Francophone Africa: (Emanuel Mbohi)
- Mentoring (Calvin Masilele, Ben Afori-Amoah, Florence Margai)

Anyone wishing to assist in the organization of these sessions, including additional topics that are not listed above must contact one of the ASG co-directors or the ASG chair.

Other Announcements:

Joseph Oppong announced that the Univ. of North Texas- Denton would be hosting the International Medical Geography symposium this year. The deadline for abstracts was April 30th, 2005. Also, Joseph announced that Rex Honey, one of the ASG members was part of the organizing committee for the next IGU.

The meeting adjourned at 9.00pm.

Submitted by Florence Margai.