

**Asian Studies Development Program Alumni Chapter Annual Meeting  
20<sup>th</sup> Annual ASDP Conference, Houston, Texas  
Friday, March 14, 2014, 5:00-5:40 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

1. Acknowledgements

President Jessica Sheetz-Nguyen thanked the many people who contributed to the success of the conference, most notably the co-chairs, Sylvia Gray and Rachana Sachdev; Tom Cox for media support; and Dona Cady, for program design and all-around assistance.

2. Proposed Amendments to By-Laws, President Jessica Sheetz-Nguyen

The Alumni Board proposes four amendments to the Chapter By-Laws; these will be sent out to the membership via email in the coming weeks for votes to accept or not.

The recommendations are as follows:

- a. Add a third Member-at-Large to the Board;
- b. Extend the length of service of the Member-at-Large positions from two years to three.
- c. The call for nominations to fill any vacancies on the Board will occur on May 1, with elections held on May 15. Once the results of the elections are announced, the new members will take office.
- d. The Alumni Board will take responsibility to identify the leadership to organize the national conference every other year.

Clarifications/Discussion:

- Given the growth of the chapter, adding a third member-at-large would increase representation and participation. The time goes by quickly, and while we have tried to provide overlap of terms, if someone steps down early, we lose this person's contributions. Both the third member and the additional year would allow for greater continuity.
- Elections held in the spring would allow new board members to prepare to participate in the next conference.
- Jeffrey Dippman, the ARCAS member on the Board, took the recommendation regarding the national conference to the ARCAS board meeting, and they agreed with this arrangement.
- It takes a lot of time to prepare for the conferences, generally 18 months in advance. ARCAS will do next year's conference and the Alumni Chapter in 2016 (odd/even years). The burden has been on the ARCAS institutions to host and several have hosted the conferences 2-3 times. This arrangement would allow for switching back and forth to share the responsibilities to identify sites, plenary speakers, etc. This is meant to be an inclusionary, not exclusionary practice; there is often overlap between the ARCAS and Alumni Board, and both are part of the ASDP association. For example, this year Sylvia Gray and Dona Cady, who are from ARCAS schools, helped with the conference overseen by the Alumni Chapter.
- Jeffrey Dippman explained that the Association of Regional Centers was established to further the ASDP mission, assisting and disseminating the ASDP program. The ARCAS

board is composed of the heads of those centers. They assist ASDP, the University of Hawai'i, and the East West Center in that task; there are 19 or 20 two-year and four-year campuses.

- Jessica noted that the membership of ASDP is centered at the East West Center, so includes a wide reach of individuals, alumni from workshops, and participants in various activities. The ASDP Alumni Chapter is comprised of institutions and individuals.
- Faye Beauchamp, also an ARCAS member, spoke in favor of the arrangement, noting that the meetings have moved around, but the program chairs in the past have all been from ARCAS; this provided a lot of variety, but ASDP is much larger, so to go beyond makes sense and the organization gets stronger with more involved. This is the first time we have had the meeting in Houston; it's healthy to have a meeting here even though there is no regional center here—we take advantage of both worlds. While the motion came from ASDP Alumni, there is consensus that this proposal of shared responsibility for the national annual conference is a good idea.
- Betty Buck explained that most EWC chapters are geographic (Hong Kong, Beijing, etc.), but we are programmatic, and the largest chapter. Through the bylaws and elections, we try to have more viable communication and bring in new people, the next generation.

### 3. Board Members and New Officers

- Jessica introduced the Board members (voting and non-voting members) and announced the newly-elected officers, Pam Herron, Treasurer, and Gordon Patterson, Member-At-Large (in absentia). If the Amendments to the By-Laws pass, we will hold an election in May for a new Member-At-Large.
- Faye Beauchamp encouraged those present to nominate themselves, noting that we need a biographical paragraph about each person to include on the ballot.
- Suggestion to post the biographies of the officers on the ASDP website.

### 4. Acknowledgement of President

Sylvia Gray, on behalf of the conference arrangements team, acknowledged the leadership of Jessica Sheetz-Nguyen, noting that until she had worked with her, she did not know how amazing she was. Sylvia presented Jessica with a card and gifts including a copy of a book of poems by Rabindranath Tagore, his own translations; a picture frame, and a fan. Jessica commented that she would put these in her office, and noted that this experience in hosting the conference has pushed her experiences, and she was grateful.

### 5. Future Conferences

- Jeffrey Dippman announced the tentative site for next year's March 2015 conference to be Springfield, Missouri; this needs to be finalized.
- Sylvia Gray announced the tentative site for 2016 as Portland, Oregon.

### 6. Announcements

- Peter Hershock noted that our ASDP secretary in Hawai'i, Sandy Osaki, would be retiring at the end of this month, which was met with audible sighs. We are trying to get her to stay on a little to help with the transition. Send Sandy a note to let her know the

difference she has made. She plans to emulate Betty Buck, whose frequent travel is contagious.

- Jessica announced a 2015 Japan workshop in Tulsa.
- Faye reminded everyone that the Japan Studies Association has some overlap of membership and mission with ASDP, and noted a summer workshop. JSA got a Japan Foundation Global Partnership Grant and they have been invited to reapply for projects for two more years. There is a March deadline for this year's June workshop and travel in Japan, so check the JSA website for more information. Twenty participants will receive \$500 toward airfare, and have paid hotel accommodations, and shared food allowances, with eight people selected for the add-on travel segment. See [www.japanstudies.org](http://www.japanstudies.org).
- Keith Krasemann announced the College of DuPage summer school program in China and Japan for students.
- George Brown, Slippery Rock, has a program for students in their region, part of the Pittsburg Asia Consortium.
- Rachana Sachdev is working on the April issue of the Newsletter; she sent an announcement out, send her information.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta E. Adams  
Secretary, ASDP Alumni Chapter