Annual Report from AES to the AAA, 2000-2001
Submitted by Susan Harding

Continuing Projects

AES Website: The AES website functions well has been improved and updated in several ways. It is partially hosted at AAA so we no longer need to change addresses when the President changes, just move some web files behind the scenes to a new location. The on-line spring meeting submission and registration process worked very well again. We moved the AES member email list to an independent location (Topica, a free email group service) but are still a long way from developing the list to a point where we can use it effectively to communicate with members. Vicki O'Day, the out-going student representative and web manager, documented her work and passed on some recommendations for simplifying the web-page maintenance process to her successor, Leo Hsu.

Cultural Anthropology Magazine: The committee formed by the Board in 1998-1999 to develop a contemporary issues/public affairs magazine met at both the 2000 spring meeting in Montreal and at the Washington DC 2001 AAA meetings. Format options, funding sources, editorial arrangements, and a preliminary budget were discussed. We decided to create a sample issue as a web page through the AES webside (a webpage describing the proposed journal already exists at the site). The committee (Dean Birkenkamp, Emily Martin, Ida Susser, Dan Segal, Don Brenneis, Louise Lamphere, Joe Dumit, several excellent new student members, and others) will continue its work in the coming year.

Tenure Norms: The Tenure Norms committee did not make much headway this year because the Board was preoccupied with other matters. The committee still exists and Mary Huber, interim committee head, circulated some memos concerning possible future activities, but the committee needs attention and co-leadership from one of the officers and/or Board members to continue its work. At its last meeting, a workshop at the 2000 AAA meetings, those present expressed a number of serious concerns about standards and working conditions for anthropologists in the academy. We talked about placing a call in AN for "illustrative cases," cases which exemplify emerging problematic standards and conditions on campuses.

New Initiatives

Internal reorganization: Although AES operations are financially sound, in the last year we had to cut back some of our basic operations to balance our budget. We eliminated graduate student travel stipends for the AES 2001 spring meetings and the modest honoraria paid to the chair and members of book prize committees, and we decided not to convene spring meetings in 2002. Spring meetings are planned for 2003, and we hope to reconvene them on a yearly basis after that. As of the November 2001 AAA meetings, the Board was discussing a terms of a contract proposal to move the publication of AE from AAA to Duke University. Louise Lamphere and Don Brenneis, AAA President and President-Elect, attended our spring board meeting and told us AAA would consider renegotiating the AAA charges made to AES which are becoming increasingly burdensome, but we gather this discussion cannot occur at this time.
Spring Meetings: The 2000 AES meetings, chaired by Councillor Ida Susser, were held in Montreal, in conjunction with the Canadian Anthropology Society. The theme of the joint meetings was "Culture, Difference, Inequality." Susan Harding delivered the AES Keynote Address, "A Colloquy of Voices." Plans for the 2003 meetings, to be held in Providence, Rhode Island, were discussed at the 2001 AAA/AES Board Meeting in Washington.

Publications: Under the editorship of Carol Greenhouse, the American Ethnologist, continues to be strong and vibrant. Turn-around time is short, submissions are up, the budget is balanced, and the issues are excellent. A committee (Fred Myers, chair, Dan Segal, Steven Caton, and Susan Harding) was appointed to search for a new AE editor. Virginia Dominguez was selected among a field of candidates and will begin her term in June, 2002.


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