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Membership:

Provide the most recent membership numbers.

Number of Members: 244

List any factors you think may be increasing or decreasing your Section membership.

AQA's number of members also decreased this 2014 year from ~290 to 244, which seems mostly a result of AAA consolidating its membership databases. The decrease in official members, however, did not affect revenue from members' dues, since these two figures had been counted separately. Current membership is at 2009 levels.

One factor in membership decline may structural: the relative youth/early career location of our membership, which means that a high proportion of our members fall in the more precarious, less economically secure population of anthropologists. It is possible that the overall economic and professional climate is reducing our rolls.

Finances:

Provide the most recent financial balances for Section budgets (and publication sponsored budgets).

Financial Balance: 25,400.00

Publication Sponsored budgets.

I. Financial Balance for AQA: $25,400.00

Revenue from membership: $ 2422.11

Expenses for 2014: $ 1415.00

II. Payne Memorial Fund: $11,496.00

2014 award expenses from Payne Fund: $ 400
Treasurer's report:

In the 2014 fiscal year, AQA continued a trend of financial stability. The section's revenue from membership stood at $2422.11, and its expenses from the annual budget were approximately $1415.00. An additional $400 was spent out of the Payne Prize Memorial fund for this year's award winner. This left longtime assets at $25,400 held by AQA and $11,496 held in the Payne Memorial Fund.

Publication Sponsored budgets.

We continue to receive modest annual income from Wiley-Blackwell for our former publication SOLGAN: $259 for 2014.

It is likely that potential future AQA publications, being Internet based, would not be income generating and might represent an expenditure for the section. We are still exploring publishing options.

List any factors you think are affecting your Section's finances.

AQA finances remain stable and healthy. The Payne Prize endowment remains stable. If membership does not increase, or declines further, we will see a slow erosion of our overall section budget.

List any factors you think are affecting your Section's finances.

Participants at the AQA board meeting discussed three primary issues related to the budget:

1. whether AQA was under-spending in its annual budget and could increase program support;
2. how and whether to increase funding for potential future projects. At the 2014 meeting, the treasurer agreed to produce a report in the first half of 2015 that offer recommendations on AQA's capacity to increase spending on a year-to-year basis.
3. how to raise additional funds for the section within AAA's broader financial guidelines. We are interested in increasing membership and also in exploring possibilities for future fundraising tied to awards or travel support, for example, through silent auctions or through work with AAA development office. Lesbian and gay philanthropy is a growing area in giving that AQA might have the potential to attract.

Sessions:

List the titles of your Section's AAA meeting invited sessions, co-sponsored sessions, and any special events your Section sponsored or in which it participated.

Session Type: Invited
Session: Roundtable: QUEER LEFT ACTIVISM / QUEER LEFT METHOD

Session Type: Invited
Session: Roundtable: THE NO FUTURE OF QUEER ANTHROPOLOGY??

Session Type: Special Events
Session: JOINT RECEPTION WITH
AFA-ABA-ALLA-AQA-SANA-SAW-SLACA-SUNTA
Session Type: Special Events
Session: BUSINESS MEETING

Session Type: Special Events
Session: BOARD MEETING

Session Type: Special Events
Session: CASH BAR

Session Type: Volunteered
Session: 7 volunteered panels accepted; 56 papers

Session Type: Other
Session: Co-sponsor: QUEERNESS AS A SITE OF VULNERABILITY IN ACADEME

Session Type: Invited
Session: ROUNDTABLE: TITLE NOT REPORTED

Awards
List awards presented this year on behalf of your Section.
Award: Benedict - Individually Authored Monograph
Date: 12/05/2014
Recipient: Noelle M. Stout,
Affiliation: NYU

Award: Benedict - Anthology
Date: 12/05/2014
Recipient: Lal Zimman, Jenny L. Davis, and Joshua Raclaw
Affiliation: Several
Project/Paper/Accomplishment: Queer Excursions: Retheorizing Binaries in Language, Gender, and Sexuality (Oxford University Press, 2014)

Award: Payne Paper Prize
Date: 12/05/2014
Recipient: Justin Perez
Affiliation: UC Irvine

Meetings
Did your section request a meeting registration waiver or community engagement grant?
Yes
If granted, who/what was it/they used for?
We aren't sure who received waivers, but requested for:

Ruby Corado in the following session: 5-0880
PRODUCING QUEER DESIRES: NEOLIBERALISM, AFFECT AND SEXUAL ECONOMIES?

Others waivers were requested for non-anthropologist academics participation on one AQA invited session organized by Margot Weiss on QUEER LEFT ACTIVISM / QUEER LEFT METHOD:

- Christina Hanhardt (American Studies, LGBT Studies, University of Maryland)
- Deborah Gould (Sociology, UC – Santa Cruz)
- Tanya Saunders (African & African American Studies, Ohio State University)

**List spring meeting activities**

not applicable 2014; co-chairs worked via email.

2015 Spring internet meetings planned

**Mentorship:**

Mentorship efforts (at or beyond the AAA meetings) to any of the following (e.g., special activities, funding, awards, guidance/advising on professional matters, etc.)

**Undergraduate and/or graduate students.**

1. We offer a prize for a paper by a graduate and undergraduate students, funded by a separate budget pool (Payne).
2. Our book award includes graduate students on the committee. Other committees include graduate students.
3. We scheduled a workshop to mentor graduate on how to successfully publish and circulate scholarship in the field of queer anthropology with Professor Tom Boellstorff (former editor-in-chief of AA); while our 2013 workshop has 20 attendees, this years low enrollments led us to replace a formal workshop with informal meetings with Prof. Boellstorff.

**Early career scholars.**

1. Our listserv publicizes jobs and other relevant announcements. We are discussing using our website to pair early career scholars and graduate students with senior colleagues.
2. We have supported roundtable discussions about experiences facing structural changes to job market (see Meetings sessions).
3. Our book awards are often awarded to first books by junior scholars.

**Independent scholars.**
Indepedent scholars.

1. We used an AAA meeting waiver for a community advocate in 2014.
2. Our board includes junior scholars who are not in tenure track positions.

Outreach:
Additional outreach efforts (at or beyond the AAA meetings) to other sections, interest groups, and scholarly societies, government agencies, public education/community engagement, and underrepresented minorities.

1) AQA did not formally sponsor but was connected with the panel, “Queerness as a Site of Vulnerability in Academe” organized by two active AQA members and sponsored by the AAA Commission on Labor Relations.

2) AQA emphasizes outreach to underrepresented minorities. We collaborate in the reception we co-hosted with ABA, AFA, ALA that has run for some years and is an important cross-section networking event. At the 2014 meetings we reached out to ABA and ALA for future conversations about similarly oriented small sections and plan to have chairs meet at the 2015 meeting.

3) We regularly incorporate representation from the LGBT community in host cities, for example, in 2014 through the presence of a prominent DC-based Latina transgender advocate on a panel. We will likely have similar outreach in Denver and subsequent meetings. The interest in AQA developing an award for a community advocate reflects this commitment as well.

4) Our panels also frequently include non-anthropological scholars, in recognition of the interdisciplinary nature of studies of LGBTQ populations. In 2014, for example, one panel included a professor of American Studies and LGBT Studies. This inclusion of non-anthropologists works to enhance the presence of anthropology in broader scholarly conversations about LGBT or queer studies.

5) Attending the 2014 AQA business meeting was one of the founders of an LGBT group in Physical Anthropology. (Be grateful: their name is the LGBTQQIAA interest group of the AAPAs). The current AQA chair is in touch with the physical anthropology representative about 4-field inclusion in AQA sessions and other potential collaborations.

Communications:
Status and use of Section internal communications such as a website, list serve, or newsletter (if applicable): Please list internal communication tools you use and what they are used for.

AQA retains an active listserv for sharing information on contemporary events, politics, policy, meetings/conferences, faculty and research positions as well as AQA & AAA news and reminders. It focuses on members but is open to others. It is currently housed at American University.

We use a separate listserv for board members and a shared gmail account for chairs and chair documents.

We have an AQA website (queeranthro.org), an AN column, and social media account and a Director of Communications on the AQA Board. However, upkeep on the digital platforms has lagged the past few years; they have not genuinely functioned as active communication...
vehicles. The board articulated a mandate for improvement of communications at the 2014 meetings. One step is recruiting members for the communication committee to decentralize the tasks required for upkeep from the committee chair alone. Some members have raised the possibility of remuneration for media tasks but this would involve fiscal, governance, and policy issues that have yet to be addressed. Beyond its role for section members, we see growing interest in LGBT or queer anthropology that AQA media could help fill.

**Governance:**

**Changes in bylaws or governance structure.**

No recent changes in bylaws or governance structure.

In 2015, the current chair (Wilson) plans to draft proposed changes to the bylaws to better reflect actual practice and clarify grey areas. She is reviewing the bylaws of similar and allied sections, such as ABA. A draft will be voted on by electronic vote (the voting process mandated by the bylaws with uncharacteristic and unhelpful specificity).

**Initiatives:**

**What Initiatives does your Section have underway or planned for the coming year: membership, publication annual meeting, mentorship, other?**

1) Updated and accurate bylaws: See above.

2) Improved nominations process and pipeline: The Nominations Committee (Maura Finkelstein and Ann Kakaliouras) will oversee active recruitment of members for board, committee, and officer positions. Our awards offer one pool of potential applicants for positions.

3) AQA Publishing: Previous committee work and dialogue with the AAA publishing committee led AQA to conclude that a regularized print or web journal was beyond the capacities of the AQA section at this point. However, AQA is interested in exploring less regularized modes of publishing, including occasional papers through web publishing (likely linked to our website) or digital publications. Because the lead organizer on publications is currently serving as AQA chair, this project may be back-burnered this year.

4) New Awards: We plan to strategically consider the possibility of offering new AQA awards with consideration to their function for the section and financing:

   1. In 2013, a suggestion for a Public/Engaged/Activist Award was raised and was revisited in the 2014 meetings. Self-selected members plan to form a committee to develop a description, criteria, and governance structure as well as to consider modes of sustainably funding the award.
   2. We are considering a dissertation award.
   3. Funding: The treasurer will identify sustainable funding possibilities potential awards from our budget balance. We will also discuss new sources of funding.

5) Communications has much potential for growth, for members and as a scholarly hub for the increasing attention to LGBTQ scholarship and issues more widely. We plan to hold a meeting via internet this spring to develop concrete plans for enhancing our media presence. The aims outlined in the 2014 meeting were the following:

   1. Update and improve our platforms:
i. Update AQA website

ii. Improve recruitment/pipeline for AQA’s column in Anthro News,

iii. Update social media presence (e.g. the already established AQA Facebook page or twitter); link with website; explore Tumblr; develop strategy for regular updates of media venues; e.g., link updates across platforms

1. Explore developing an expertise database to identify LGBTQ anthropological experts by area/topic. (Perhaps in dialogue with the AAA press office.)
2. The conversations about the labor market proposed a using AQA website to publish narratives from LGBTQ vulnerable faculty
3. Explore hosting for website: compare hosting at AAA’s website with current host.

Ask AAA:

Please tell us what your chief concerns and issues are, especially if they are not previously noted.

What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the Section Assembly Executive Committee (SAEC)? Please be specific.

1. We found the SAEC communications this year worked very well and enhanced the SA’s sense of itself as a body in the AAA. We appreciated the receptivity to section voices. AQA welcomes this democratic process particularly around decisions that affect us directly (e.g., changing structures of the meetings).
2. In the future, we would welcome more time to allow our members to review proposals requesting statements or action from the AAA executive board rather than foreclose discussion or rush a vote.
3. Note: If there is a template for this annual report, we did not find it on the AAA website and simply followed the previous year’s report (which in turn followed the year prior). (This is why it was late; a few more explanations of how to post the Annual report -- that it's not just a pdf -- may be welcome for new chairs.)
4. At the training session for new chairs, a lot of information is presented speedily, much of it not written down or otherwise available (in any obvious way) on the website. It would be good to have information about contact people, AAA staff, (posting annual reports) etc that is as detailed as the screenshots that illustrate how to log in to the AAA website.

What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the AAA Executive Board? Please be specific.

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1. We would like the meetings to better accommodate mentoring activities in the following ways:
1. Allow workshops oriented to mentoring to remain free of charges. It doesn’t make sense to charge the most vulnerable anthropologists a fee for help succeeding in the profession. We recognize that serious skill transfer, personalized training, or market-related workshops might charge.

2. Do not limit mentoring activities to time slots that are more challenging for members to make, particularly those who arguably need mentoring the most, e.g., less resourced members, those not in tenure track positions, or those with major care-giving responsibilities.

1. 2. AQA members have raised concerns about the weak job market characterized by the decline of tenure-track positions and increase in insecure, casual, poorly remunerated positions. AQA section disproportionately attracts junior members – graduate students and new and recent PhDs – who are the population most affected by these larger structural changes. Given the focus of our section, we are particularly concerned for the potential heightened vulnerability of members of marginalized groups, such as LGBT individuals, or those working on more novel topics around sexuality or queer approaches. Membership has asked AQA to bring awareness of these vulnerabilities to our work as a section – for example, sensitivity to the cost of attending the meeting – as well as to contribute to broader efforts to address the risks faced by junior members as a national organization and as a discipline. To that end, AQA endorses calls for the AAA follow up on the statement of concern about contingent faculty with further steps, such as:

1. An AAA task force on the economic vulnerability of non-tenure-track faculty, perhaps established on the model of COLGIA, with particular attention to the demographic/identity issues that exacerbate economic vulnerability, like race, citizenship, and sexual/gender identity.
2. We welcome recommendations from the AAA to sections about potential feasible steps that might ameliorate what is a large, structural problem (e.g., assistance with registration costs? Retooling for other jobs?)
3. Appoint an AAA ombudsman [sic] for those placed in unethical employment situations; one attuned to diversity issues in the academy.
4. Several of our members are active in these conversations about labor (e.g., Ellen Lewin, Bill Leap, Maura Finkelstein, Christa Craven). Other AQA members and the AQA board are available to work with the Committee on Labor Relations or other units towards these efforts.

1. 3. We would like to see more bottom-up designed options for alternatives to the 15-minute presentation based on scientific meeting panels. We appreciate the need to limit substantial presentations so that fewer presenters do not monopolize slots. However, we think that counting participation in genuine open-ended roundtable dialogue the same as a paper limits the prospects for roundtables. We would support designing rigorous forms that would allow a greater degree of audience participation. If there was a way that participation could be defined with greater flexibility – greater numbers allowed in a roundtable, or a no-cost workshop -- ideally members could still use institutional funding to attend, when funding is linked to a formal role.
What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the AAA Staff? Please be specific.

We have found that information about sessions at the meetings offered by AAA staff via email or from the AAA website is not always fully accurate, timely, or constructive. For example, session planners have not been told in advance that workshops always charge participants; that information is not on the website nor given out at the time of submission of a proposed workshop. At other times, members were not given accurate information about available funds for community activities. We ask that the website offer information that is consistent and clear with links to more detailed information, for example, about the novel forms of sessions that might be proposed, elements of fee waivers, or charges for workshops.

Web detail: The website link to annual reports seems not to land anywhere: http://www.aaanet.org/sections/info/ -> Section Reports Link -> http://www.aaanet.org/about/Annual_Reports/section_reports/ which doesn’t exist.