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- Jonathan Hill (Board Member) - jhjill@siu.edu

Membership:

Provide the most recent membership numbers.

Number of Members: 552

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

We had 552 members as of September 2014. In September 2013 we had 642 members. Much of this drop appears to be caused by the purging of the AAA rolls that effected all sections. It is also the case that our membership tends to rise in years during which we hold our biennial meetings. We did not hold one in 2014 but we will hold one in April of 2015. We therefore expect some increase in membership this year.

Finances:

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

Financial Balance: 64,268

Publication Sponsored budgets.
We began the year with $57,338.34 and have added $6929.86, bringing the total SAR funds to $64,268.20 as of October 31st (the latest figures I have). That income is primarily from membership dues (plus $300 in royalties). Of this, $5292.41 came from professional members, and $1337.45 came from student memberships. By the end of December, when November and December dues are added, I expect we’ll be up to about $8200 total revenue for the year, bringing the total SAR treasury to roughly $65,538.64.

List any factors you think are affecting your Section's finances.
Our membership usually grows in Biennial Meeting years, so we expect some growth this year. At the same time, our expenses also grow during meeting years. It is not clear if growing membership fees and registration fees will wholly offset expenditures. But this a predictable oscillation for our budget and we regard our financial situation as stable at this time.

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: Beyond Ritual: Food, Religion, and Identity in Everyday Contexts

Session Type: Invited
Session: Religion and the Morality of the Market

Session Type: Invited
Session: Theology as Productive Ethnographic Partner: A Roundtable Discussion of a Theologically Informed Theoretical Framework for Anthropological Research

Awards

List awards presented this year on behalf of your Section.

Award: Clifford Geertz Prize (Book Prize
Date: 12/06/2014
Recipient: Stephen Palmi?
Affiliation: University of Chicago

Award: Clifford Geertz Prize Honorable Mention
Date: 12/06/2014
Recipient: Emilio Spadola
Affiliation: Colgate University

Award: Student Paper Prize
Date: 12/06/2014
Recipient: Emma LeBlanc
Affiliation: Oxford
Project/Paper/Accomplishment: "Reimagining Democracy Through Syria's Wartime

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Meetings

Did your section request a meeting registration waiver or community engagement grant?
No

If granted, who/what was it/they used for?
Incomplete

List spring meeting activities
No Spring meeting last year.

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.
Our student paper prize is currently one of the prime ways we reach out to undergraduate and graduate students (both are eligible). We are planning to more extensively advertise this prize in the future in the hopes of encouraging more students to submit.

Many graduate students present papers at our biennial meetings, which are very much open to their participation.

Our book series publishes a good number of first books by early career scholars.

We have also determined that mentorship is an area in which we want to increase our efforts. We plan to more often offer roundtables at AAA for students, and to design programs by means of which students can spend time with more senior scholars from universities other than their own at the AAA meeting and at our own Biennial meeting. We plan to devote a good deal of time at the board meeting that will take place at our upcoming biennial meeting discussing ways to increase our mentoring efforts.

Early career scholars.
Our book prize and honorable mention awards often, though not always, go to first books by early career scholars. We also have a good record of having untenured scholars elected to our board. This gives them important leadership experience and also broadens their networks within the field. Many early career scholars also present at our biennial meetings.

Independent scholars.
We do not have any special mentoring programs in place for independent scholars, though the book prize, board service and biennial meeting attendance are all of course open to them. We would like to hear what other sections like ours might do to increase their mentoring for this group.

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.

We have in the past co-sponsored sessions with other sections and we have also from time to time combined with other sections to host joint Spring meetings. This is something we are considering do again in the future.

We hope to continue to improve our website so that it can become an even more effective outreach tool.

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.

We use our website to make information about the society, its activities, and its governing structure widely available. We hope in the future to improve it to make it easier to use for these purposes.

We use our listserv to announce Society activities, distribute calls for papers (for AAA events and for other events), and for occasional scholarly discussion.

Our newsletter section reports on society activities and also carries reviews of books in our book series and other scholarly discussion.

Governance:

Changes in bylaws or governance structure.

None to report. We do appear to have two extra board members this year. I am not sure how this happened, but we will be return to our normal complement at the next AAA meeting.

Initiatives:

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

Our major initiative for the coming year is our Biennial Meeting.

Our book series (with Palgrave) is thriving and have many projects in various stages of submission, review and production.

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.
As was fully aired at the SA meeting at AAA, many of our officers and board members were, like those of other sections, dismayed by the fact that we had a board meeting on Friday night and then a business meeting on Saturday night. We hope the promised return to the status quo ante on this issue will be realized.

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

As was fully aired at the SA meeting at AAA, many of our officers and board members were, like those of other sections, dismayed by the fact that we had a board meeting on Friday night and then a business meeting on Saturday night. We hope the promised return to the status quo ante on this issue will be realized.

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

As was fully aired at the SA meeting at AAA, many of our officers and board members were, like those of other sections, dismayed by the fact that we had a board meeting on Friday night and then a business meeting on Saturday night. We hope the promised return to the status quo ante on this issue will be realized.