Submitted By:

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Board Members:

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- Jason Pribilsky (Councilor) - pribiljc@whitman.edu
- Christine Prebble (Student Councilor) - cp8985@albany.edu
- Sydney Meredith Silverstein (Student Councilor) - smsilve@emory.edu

Membership:

Provide the most recent membership numbers.

Number of Members: 516

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

In terms of overall numbers, it SLACA membership has dropped over this last year. However, this is primarily related to two factors: first, AAA membership has decreased overall, and second the AAA has been cleaning up its databases in 2014 and counts are lower than in previous years. This has included deactivating expired members in a more timely fashion, removing deceased members from our active member rolls, and removing duplicate records. Many of the inaccuracies were the result of carrying poor data over from their old member database, which has been inflating the member numbers for years. The AAA has assured us that this will not affect our membership fund amounts.

Thus, total membership had a 39% decrease, regular membership had a 7.2% decrease, student membership had a 70% decrease, life and membership (a category that is selected each year – it is not a permanent status) dropped by 33%, and the International B category decreased by 16%.

As a whole, membership has decreased by 39% as compared to the .009% decrease we experienced in 2013. Although these numbers are deeply concerning, we will not have a sense of the stability or instability of membership numbers until next year when we have more realistic data to work with. Regardless, now is the time to develop plans to maintain that stability and to encourage growth, particularly of student members.

Finances:

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

Financial Balance: 160,802.12

Publication Sponsored budgets.
The largest portion of SLACA expenditures is on the journal, JLACA. Other major expenses include awards and honors, travel by board members and JLACA editor, meeting food and space, and storage of old JLACA issues.

Starting in budget year 2011, JLACA no longer paid $12,000 annually for an editorial assistant. The amount of $2,000 was allocated for copy-editing. In 2011, we also transitioned to an online submission process, which entailed the creation of the website/submission portal and importation of reviewers lists for a one-time payment of $1,175, and an annual payment of fees for $390, for a total of $1,565. The annual operating costs for JLACA in 2013 was $14,490, which is identical to expenditures in 2012. This brings the JLACA $14,490 annual budget is broken down into $2,000 for copy-editing, $390 for online portal fees, $7,600 for the third issue, and $4,500 for editor travel. Note that the Wiley-Blackwell contract subsidizes the cost of two issues per year, and thus SLACA has been funding the third issue. The annual operating costs for JLACA in 2015 will drop to $11,460, as when we go to all online-publication we will no longer be paying for print production for the third issue. We have increased the budget for copyediting from $3000 from $2000; travel ($4500) and office expenses ($390) will stay the same.

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

The financial status of SLACA, this far, seems healthy. We have two Student Prizes: the Rosebery-Nash Graduate Student Prize is delivered annually, while the Whiteford Student Prize is delivered bennially to coincide with our Spring meetings. We also have a new SLACA book Prize, and the first awardee was designated in 2014. Because of the healthy finances of the section we have been discussing the creation of a Fieldwork Grant for emerging scholars. Still, the main concern is the dar picture that we received from the POWG regarding the costs of our section journal. There have been several questions regarding that report, that our editor finds misleading, and the fieldwork grant has been put on hold until we get a clearer picture of the section's finances.

Although there has been a drop in membership numbers, our membership fees seem this far adequate, as our finances have been improving annually.

**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:** Sprawling Cities, Whither Citizens? Urban Space and Novel Forms of Political Engagement in Latin America

  **Session Type:** Invited Co-Sponsored with ALLA
  **Session:** Placing Economic Imaginaries in Latin America

  **Session Type:** Invited Co-Sponsored with ALLA
  **Session:** Lived Experiences in Diverse Latin@ Communities: Producing Theories across Multiple Social and Geographical Contexts

  **Session Type:** Invited Co-Sponsored with CSAS
  **Session:** Questioning the Western Order of Things: The Ontological Turn Viewed from the Caribbean
Awards

List awards presented this year on behalf of your Section.

Award: Rosebery-Nash Graduate Paper Award  
Date: 12/04/2014  
Recipient: Krystin Mallon Andrews  
Affiliation: U. of California-Irvine  
Project/Paper/Accomplishment: Sinks for the Press: Cholera and State Performance of Power at the Dominican Border

Award: SLACA Book Award  
Date: 12/04/2014  
Recipient: Paja Faudree  
Affiliation: Brown University  

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

During 2014, Martha Rees, Ramona Perez and Francisco-Fernandez Repetto, for SLACA, and with support from the Centro de Investigación y Estudios en Antropología Social-Istmo, in Oaxaca City, participated in deciding the conference theme for 2015 (Recent Developments in Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology: Debates, Theories and Methods/Desarrollos recientes de la Antropología en América Latina y el Caribe: Debates, teorías y Métodos), held meetings with the CIESAS Authorities, and sought venues for the conference.

Also, they publicized the meetings and called for abstracts in the SLACA Listserve, the SLACA Website, the AA newsletter, and in Mexico through the Colegio Mexicano de Etnólogos y antropólogos Sociales. The committee received 50 abstracts, selected 40+ for the conference, and invited posters. at this time, the committee is expecting full papers between Jan. 31 and Feb. 15.

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.

N/A

Early career scholars.
Ronda Brulotte participated at the AAA Mentoring Breakout Session. Her areas of mentorship are applied anthropology, museum anthropology, material culture, and tourism. One good reason for including him is he's experienced firsthand what it's like to teach as an adjunct in difficult conditions, how to get out of that situation and into first museum curator position, then transition to a teaching-focused undergraduate institution and ultimately to a graduate-research position. This range of experiences and successful strategies makes him a good person to mentor. Along with her, Bill Woods, from our membership, accepted to participate in this experience.

**Independent scholars.**

N/A

**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.*

N/A

**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.*

In *Anthropology News*, coordinated by our Councilor Ronda Brulotte we had:

March/April: Yana Stainova Winner of 2013 Roseberry Nash Graduate Student Award (Yana Stainova, excerpt from winning essay)

July/August: Jordan Levy Wins 2013 Whiteford Graduate Student Award in Applied and Public Anthropology (Jordan Levy, excerpt from winning essay)

November/December: Announcement and welcome for new SLACA board members (Ronda Brulotte); SLACA 2014 Invited and Co-Invited AAA Sessions: Sprawling Cities, Economic Imaginaries, Lived Experiences, and Ontological Views (Timothy Smith)

SLACA 2014 Book Prize Submissions Due Aug 1 (Ronda Brulotte)

2014 Roseberry-Nash Graduate Student Award Competition (Ronda Brulotte)

SLACA 2015 in Oaxaca, Mexico, Call for Papers and Posters (Ronda Brulotte)

For the Love of Dogs: Approaching Animal-Human Interactions in Mexico (Ivan Sandoval Cervantes)

**Listeserv** was in care of our Student Councilor Sydney Silverstein. The listserv is currently at 1001 members (from 969 in 2013), and we send an average of 15 to 25 messages a month.

**SLACA Website.** First in care of our Councilor J. C. G. Aguiar, was taken during the summer by Sydney Silverstein. It appears that the site is getting good traffic; since its “birth” in mid-July the site has gotten nearly 2,500 visits. 1,500 of these were in September, following the publication of the Call for Papers for the SLACA Spring conference.

**SLACA Facebook** in care of the Student Councilor Christine Prebble.
In 2012 we had 125 “total page likes”

As of 10/19/14 we have 1,045 “total page likes”

58% are women; 27% ages 25-34 (our largest demographic). In comparison, 38% are men
18% ages 25-34

Our top three country of origin is 446 from the U.S; 90 from Mexico, and 54 from Brazil.

SLACA Twitter, also in care of the Student Council Christine Prebble.

It was Established in November 2011

In 2012 we had 263 followers and as of 10/29/14, we have 397 followers.

Governance:

Changes in bylaws or governance structure.

By-Law Changes coordinated by the Councilor Quetzil Castaneda.

There were a number of discrepancies between Bylaws, on the one hand, and Board practices and actualities, on the other. This motivated me to propose a number of changes in the bylaws. These were voted in by the membership by 96% of the membership. These changes ranged from updating language to reflect online voting, revising obscure language, and collapsing and renumbering sections to legalizing customary practices of the board.

Two changes are substantive: (1) The Treasurer-Elect position has been written into the rules. Although the Board had previously voted to make a bylaw change for this board position, there was no AAA record of this change in the bylaws.

(2) A requirement was added that stipulated that newly elected board members must attend the AAA meeting of the year in which they were voted into office.

Initiatives:

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

On March 2015 we will hold our V Spring Meeting, which as of the previous one became a biennial event. This event is planned to be small, with some 40 papers presented sequentially during three days, and space and time for poster sessions during the breaks. This meeting will take place in the City of Oaxaca in Mexico.

Pending financial review, we expect to call for the first fieldwork award during 2015. We should also determine the winner of the Whiteford Student Award to be announced before the Spring Meetings take place.

There will be a call for the second SLACA book Prize.

There will be a call for the Rosebery-Nash Student Award.

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.

Our main concern, at this point, is to gain clarity in the manner in which the budget for our journal is being calculated. There is always mention of our journal being subsidized (along with other journals) by the major ones. However, we would like to see and understand the ways in which these subsidies are allocated, in what amounts, and the consequences the renewal with W-B will affect our publication budget. According to our figures, our journal is doing well, but this does not match with the POWG report. We believe we need a more transparent accounting to be able to plan in as much solid basis as possible.

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

N/A

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

Just congratulate the on their work.