

**American Academy of Religion  
Annual Business Meeting Minutes  
March 13, 2016  
7:30 – 8:30 am  
Marriott Hotel – DFW Airport North  
Irving, TX**

Jens Kreinath, AAR-SW President, called the meeting to order at 7:30 am

All in attendance: Stacy Patty, Justin Doran, Jens Kreinath, Jack Hill, Kathy Downey, B.J. Parker, Marc DiPaolo, John Starkey, Rebecca Huskey, Rachel Toombs, Whitney (?), Renee Ford (?), man with glasses and handlebar moustache

MINUTES OF 2015: *approved*

TREASURER'S REPORT: Katherine Downey, REC

*Vote to accept passed.*

Areas of budget that were highlighted during discussion:

Budget for assisting with conference attendance fees: a discretionary travel grant of \$300.

Last year underwrote graduate student luncheon that SWCRS is funding this year.

Coffee service was for special session on book.

Atlanta skimmed \$100, which should be forthcoming

\$4,000 regional development grant was just deposited.

Projecting expenses subtracts the grant money bill.

March balance here includes regional development grant money and should be 9,500.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2016 – 2017

Slate approved unanimously.

Returning Officers:

Past President: Jens Kreinath

President: Marc DiPaolo

President Elect: Paul Martens

Program Chairs for 2016 – 2017

Arts, Literature & Religion: BJ Parker [b\\_j\\_parker@baylor.edu](mailto:b_j_parker@baylor.edu)

and Marc DiPaolo [medipaolo@okcu.edu](mailto:medipaolo@okcu.edu) or [dr.dipaolo@gmail.com](mailto:dr.dipaolo@gmail.com)

Philosophy of Religion and Theology: Rebecca Huskey [rhuskey@ou.edu](mailto:rhuskey@ou.edu)

History of Christianity: Justin Doran [jmdoran@utexas.edu](mailto:jmdoran@utexas.edu)

Comparative & Asian Studies in Religion: Mark Dennis [m.dennis@tcu.edu](mailto:m.dennis@tcu.edu)

Ethics, Society & Culture: Paul Martens [p-martens@baylor.edu](mailto:p-martens@baylor.edu)

Religion & Class: Suzanne Scholz [sscholz@mail.smu.edu](mailto:sscholz@mail.smu.edu)

Ritual Studies: Jens Kreinath [jens.kreinath@wichita.edu](mailto:jens.kreinath@wichita.edu)

Slate of Nominations:

Regionally Elected Coordinator: Katherine Downey (renewal for 3 year term)

Student Director: Rachel Toombs (2 year term)

Vice President: Rebecca Huskey (4 year presidential line)

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES 2016

Vote to accept the document as is with provision that it is a living document that will be assessed and revised in the future. APPROVED!

Kathy Downey explained the justification for the document, which was crafted to meet national AAR organizational standards. Downey created the document to reflect what has traditionally been done while clarifying and evolving the responsibilities of the members of the presidential line, etc.

Suggestions for revision: Nominating committee should have at least three members including one member not in the presidential line. Also, one of the responsibilities of the membership should be nominating appropriate applicants for the SWCRS Junior Scholar Grant and the Gammie Award.

Kathy Downey presented information gleaned from SWCRS board meeting, including discussion of incrementally moving program to paperless model, state of budget, lack of awards, etc.

BJ Parker made student director report:

Graduate student paper competition. Winner was: Andrew Benko, "Can a leopard change its spots?"

Need to be on the program to make an announcement.

Interestingly, there were only four submissions, despite being in the CFP.

Graduate students feel particularly supported by this region.

BJ Parker presented a paper on how to write holistic versus soul-deadening scholarship (where?)

At national AAR meeting in Atlanta: BJ and Kathy did poster and verbal presentations to highlight the work the regions do to help inspire Atlanta to innovate the work it does

## AAR National

Atlanta is providing travel grants to national conference

Atlanta is willing to fund translator and other service fees for regional

There should be a cosigner on the region's bank account in addition to the REC

Membership is declining for the national meeting and they want regions to recruit

## Regional Development Grant

We held a retreat with the goal of innovating the work we do in the region.

We intend to ask for follow-up funding from national to launch innovations brainstormed during the retreat.

## Supporting Documents:

Treasurer's Report

Policies and Procedures Draft

Southwest Operating Agreement

Regional Development Grant approved proposal

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 am