

LATIN AMERICA SPECIALTY GROUP
Business Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2010
8:00-8:30 pm
Coolidge Room, Marriot Wardman Park Hotel
Washington, DC, USA

LASG Officers in Attendance:

Margaret Wilder, University of Arizona, Chair
Joe Scarpaci, Virginia Military Institute, Vice-Chair
Claudia Radel, Utah State University, Secretary/Treasurer

1. Margaret Wilder, LASG Chair, called the meeting to order and presented the agenda.

2. **Treasurer's Report**, by Claudia Radel, Secretary/Treasurer

- Balance of LASG Account from the AAG: \$6,071.48 (as of 28 Feb 2010)
- Funds spent between March 2009 and March 2010:
 - two 2009 student field study awards (\$600 and \$300)
 - two 2009 student paper awards (\$500 and \$250)
 - co-sponsorship of 2009 AAG LASG-CLAG reception (\$1,401.74, less \$700 for CLAG share)
- Projected Balance post April 2010 AAGs, not accounting for dues collected: \$3,571.48
 - co-sponsorship of 2010 AAG LASG-CLAG reception (\$500)
 - one 2010 student paper award (\$500)
 - three 2010 student field awards (\$600, \$600, and \$300)
- Membership (as of 8 April 2010)
 - Total – 537 members (with a 12% increase from 13 April 2009)
 - Student Members – 243 (45% of the membership)
 - Non-Student Members – 294

3. **Student Awards**

The Chair announced the LASG student award winners and presented checks to those winners in attendance (Garmany, Davis, and Klinger). Due to the high number of field study travel award applications received at the doctoral level, LASG officers and the relevant award selection committees decided to award a second prize this year in this category.

- Best Student Paper Award (PhD level): Jeff Garmany, University of Arizona, *Religion and Governmentality: Understanding Governance in Urban Brazil*
- Field Study Travel Award (MA/MS level): John E. Davis, Jr., Univ. of Colorado at Colorado Springs, *Resplendent Quetzal Nesting Sites: Snag Availability and Occupancy in the Sierra de las Minas, Guatemala*

- Field Study Travel Award (PhD level): Julie Michelle Klinger, University of California, Berkeley, *The Geography of China's Aid and Investment in Brazil*
- Field Study Travel Award (PhD level): Ingrid Haeckel, University of Texas at Austin, *Tradeoffs and Benefits of Carbon Sequestration and Water Supply in Mexican Pine Plantations*

4. Officer Elections

As the two-year terms of office for the current chair (Margaret Wilder) and vice-chair (Joseph Scarpaci) were ending directly following the AAG meetings, Margaret Wilder sought nominations for incoming chair and vice-chair over several months leading up to the business meeting. The term of office for current secretary-treasurer, Claudia Radel, remains active for an additional year.

- **LASG Chair:**
The current and outgoing chair, Margaret Wilder, introduced the candidate, **Craig Revels** (Central Washington University), for incoming LASG Chair. No additional nominations were received from the floor. Christian Brannstrom moved that Craig Revels be elected LASG Chair, and Taylor Mack seconded the motion. The motion was carried by a voice vote of the membership.
- **LASG Vice-Chair:**
The current and outgoing chair, Margaret Wilder, introduced the candidate, **David Salisbury** (Richmond University) for incoming LASG Vice-Chair. No additional nominations were received from the floor. Maria Elisa Christie moved that David Salisbury be elected Vice-Chair, and Craig Revels seconded the motion. The motion was carried by a voice vote of the membership.

5. Research Ethics Statement

Margaret Wilder introduced to the membership the draft LASG Research Ethics Statement, which had been circulated to the membership prior to the business meeting via the LASG listserv. The chair introduced the draft statement by explaining that it was created using the statement of the American Anthropological Association as a model. A brief discussion ensued, including a few suggestions for minor changes. Claudia Radel asked that if the statement were to be approved, that it be re-visited for the additional inclusion of guidance to LASG members on the concept of community informed consent. Karl Offen moved to accept the Research Ethics Statement, pending minor revisions. Anne-Marie Hanson seconded the motion. The motion was carried by a voice vote of the membership.

6. LASG Proposal to AAG for New Research Ethics Training Initiative

As a follow up to the LASG/CLAG co-sponsored research ethics panel (Research Ethics for Latin Americanist Geographers) held earlier the same day, Margaret Wilder requested

membership input and support for the LASG to formally propose to the AAG national leadership that they undertake a new initiative in research ethics training. AAG would develop online materials (e.g. a training module) and/or workshops on research ethics to assist the AAG membership, including but not limited to students. Christian Brannstrom moved that the chair compose and submit this proposal to the AAG, on behalf of the LASG membership. Taylor Mack seconded the motion, and it carried by a voice vote.

6. Proposed Dues Increase

Currently, regular LASG membership dues are \$5/year, with student dues \$1/year and dues for members from developing areas \$0/year. The LASG officers proposed a dues increase for regular members to \$8/year. Discussion followed as to whether the student dues should be increased as well. Tad Mutersbaugh moved that the regular dues increase be accepted, and Rob Kent seconded the motion. The increase for regular dues carried by a voice vote. Karen Owen moved that student dues be increased to \$2/year, and Manuel Prieto seconded her motion. In a voice vote the “ayes” carried, with a minority of “nays.” LASG will re-assess the student dues increase next year to see if the approved increase in student dues should be un-instated.

7. New Business from the Membership

Tad Mutersbaugh proposed to the membership that LASG request that AAG respond to the “Tiltepec Letter” (from the community San Miguel Tiltepec in Oaxaca, Mexico), concerning the issues around the AGS Bowman Expedition, México Indígena. Some discussion ensued, followed by a proposal and motion from James Biles that the LASG officers contact and coordinate with IPSG (Indigenous Peoples Specialty Group) to explore jointly requesting the AAG response. Eric Perramond seconded this motion. A hand vote was held, with 25 in favor, 6 opposed, and 11 abstentions.

LASG & CLAG Joint Special Reception – after the business meeting adjourned and following the CLAG business meeting (8:30-9:00 pm), LASG & CLAG sponsored a joint reception for members of both groups.