**Austrian Studies Association at the University of Vienna**

**Annual Board Meeting: Tuesday, 15 March 2016, Vienna, Austria**

Minutes submitted by Katie Arens

Action items highlighted in Yellow.

Presiding: Imke Meyer, President

Board Members: Thomas Antonic, Michael Burri, Jennifer Good, Susanne Hochreiter, Brigitta Prutti, Oliver Speck

*ex officio:* Robert Dassanowsky, President Emeritus; Joseph Moser, Book Review Editor; Katherine Arens, Webmistress

Excused: Craig Decker, Vice-President; Todd and Hillary Hope Herzog, JAL Editors; Helga Schreckenberger, Secretary-Treasurer

1. New Board Members Brigitte Prutti and Oliver Speck were introduced; great thanks for their service was reiterated for the board member who have finished their terms (Nele Hempel-Lamer [2013-2015] and Joseph Moser [2013-2015])

2. Meyer informed the board about the reasons for VP/President Elect Craig Decker's absence, a serious health issue that is on the mend. However, the Association's work needs to be continued, and so Meyer consulted the constitution. The solution she proposed is in line with the constitution: that she and Robert Dassanowsky both keep positions as "Past Presidents," to help with any work that needs more than email communication until Decker is recovered. Past Presidents are non-voting members of the board, and so this solution allows for continuity without disrupting the will of the Association's electorate. The board approved this solution unanimously and wishes Craig a speedy recovery.

3. Schreckenberger sent in an electronic report on the Association's finances (attached).

* The Association's 501c3 status has been approved, and it is incorporated in the state of Vermont.,as ASA, inc. Schreckenberger will stay on the board ex officio to keep the incorporation legal.
* The Association's allied status to the Modern Language Association was renewed, guaranteeing us one conference slot a year and the chance at a second one, judged competitively against other allied associations.
	+ The panel for the 2017 MLA is being organized by Todd and Hilary Herzog, in a round table format about the future of Austrian studies (UPDATE: the panel was organized by the April 1 due date, with last-minute cooperation by email).
	+ The 2016 MLA panels were poorly attended in Austin; they took place at the same time as an anti-gun protest march and were cross-scheduled with other German panels.
* Aside from a healthy bank account, we receive a small check from Nebraska. Right now, we have 135 paying members and 151 institutional members, down from 180 members and 230 institutional members as a high, but rebounded from under 100 paid members a year ago. Several suggestions to improve that situation were made, the most notable ones being Dassanowsky's suggestion that we do PR in South America and Hochreiter's idea of special offers for institutional members. For the Chicago conference, membership requirements will be upheld, and a computer will be available for individuals to subscribe onsite.

4. Editors' Reports: Sent electronically (attached); the report was discussed favorably, especially the formidable increase in the number of downloads. The board supports the schedule alteration. Board members are encouraged to send in MSS (the back file is over) and to encourage others to do so, when they hear appropriate papers at conferences. The journal is also being added to JSTOR, as per earlier reports. Moser also sent in an electronic report on his continuing successes with the book review section; he was heartily congratulated by the board.

5. Fundraising and Publicity:

* The board voted to ask Robert Dassanowsky to continue his work in fundraising for the Association, and to report to the board as an *ex officio* member at the annual conference. Thoughts were that it would be nice to work towards a fellowship or dissertation prize. He said he would contact Swarovski, et al.
* We need nominations for new Honorary Members. Forward ideas to Dassanowsky, preferably with initial contacts made, if you know the people.
* Dassanowsky explained how our twitter feed has taken off, with 66+ direct followers -- he has been tweeting and the ACFNY has been retweeting. Our Facebook page has 600+ "likes," which means people are getting these announcements; Dassanowsky and Arens have been posting items of interest there, as well, to encourage our feed. Prutti suggested something should be posted each day, if possible.
* Moser agreed to add to the Facebook page a list of the book reviews appearing in each issue; Good stressed that these book reviews are a great service to those of us who have significant teaching burdens, and so that this part of the journal deserves special publication.
* Hochreiter suggested that advertisements for books published by the membership would also be a good addition. This has been done often, but not always; please send notifications to Arens or Dassanowsky if you hear of any and are not a Facebook member; post them yourselves if you are!

6. Website [3 action items]

* One honorary member has passed and needs to be removed from the website
* The link to the Jelinek introduction to our conference will be added to the website as PR.
* Need to do a "how to submit to the journal" section for the website
* Arens volunteered to do a flyer for advertising (reminding that HRE and other fields would be there).

7. 2016 Elections

* We need to elect a VP/President Elect plus 2 board members (at least one of whom needs to be European); nominations need to be solicited and an election committee established.
* Current nominees: for the board: Allison Fiddler; Anita McChesney; Teresa Kovacs; Thomas Antonic; for the Vice Presidency: Michael Boehringer

8. Other business:

* The form for the American Council for Learned Societies was filed by Heidi Schlipphacke, but no answer was received. Michael Burri volunteered to try again/ follow up.

9. Future conferences:

* 2017 Conference will be in Chicago, organized by Imke Meyer and Heidi Schlipphacke. Venue close to being secured; information will be forthcoming soon.
* Future conferences may be hosted by Helga Schreckenberger, Daniel Gilfillan, and Robert Dassanowsky. None of these are confirmed.