

Minutes of the ASIANetwork Business Meeting
April 15, 2023
Columbus, Ohio

Presiding Officer: Sophia Geng, Chair of the Board of Directors

Notetaker: Gordon Gray, Past Chair

Call to Order

Sophia Geng

Sophia called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

Approval of Minutes of Spring 2022 Business Meeting

Laura Elder moved to approve. Seconded by Susan Furukawa. Motion carried.

Election of New Members to Board of Directors

Sophia Geng presented a slate of candidates to join the Board.

- Steven Day, Benedictine University
- Keisha Brown, Tennessee State University
- Qin Fang, McDaniel College

Dennis Frost moved to close nominations. Susan Furukawa seconded. Motion carried.

Proposed changes to the Bylaws

Sophia Geng

Sophia Geng moved to adopt the proposed new bylaws. Laura Elder seconded. Motion carried.

Membership and Publicity Committee Report

James Godde

- Membership peaked in 2017 and has generally been on a downward trend since then, currently at 145 members.
- We need to communicate to schools that ASIANetwork adds value, to regain lapsed members, and gain new members
- For instance, we would want HBCUs and other minority-serving institutions to join.
- Cold-calling schools would be counterproductive – we need members to let administrators know how good ASIANetwork is.

Dyron Dabney asked if there are any ways of knowing which schools have lapsed and so go straight to their administrators and/or get members to help “unlapse” institutions. Jeff Felardo agreed that this would be good. Karen Kingsbury added that one of ASIANetwork’s biggest selling points is that we are one of the very few organizations that aids student research via projects such as the poster sessions.

Headquarters Reports and Updates

Dan Choffnes

- The Board has initiated a lot of new programs that come from the interests of members, which have formed panels, reading groups, etc.

- These projects have created conversations, teaching resources, and some are moving into funding possibilities.
- If there are any projects that you the members would like to pursue, please contact the Board.

Financial Report

Teddy Amoloza

Teddy noted that ASIANetwork holds funds as of 3/31/2023:

Investment fund:	\$1,184,219
CRA:	\$402,086
Total Investment and CRA:	\$1,586,305
Total grant funds:	\$695,123

Investment funds and CRA were affected by market volatility, withdrawal from Investment Fund to add to CRA, withdrawal from CRA to add to our operating funds (\$50K in the fall and another \$50K this spring).

Overall performance of all of our funds in the first three months of 2023 looks better at 2.87% but the overall yield for one year is -1.3%.

The Board approved operating expenses for next year of \$195,480, which includes internally funded programs like:

- ANExchange
- The Lever Press book series
- Speakers Bureau
- Amoloza conference travel
- Two student award programs
- Emerging Projects.

Income from membership dues estimated at \$43,950; income from grant administrative support is down to \$19,918 from interest earned on the Freeman grant fund (\$8,393) and the last year of the Luce Postdoc grant (\$11,525). We will roll over any unspent funds this fiscal year and may have to draw \$135,000 from our CRA.

Administrative support from grants continues to decline.

- The Student Faculty Fellows program is ending, and the Luce Enhancing Asian Studies grant ended last year.
- The Luce Postdoc program is in its final year and renewal is uncertain.
- The Clark Embodied Learning program uses interest earned from CRA.

We need to find other funding sources for current and planned programs and through public donations through our website. Amazon has ended its Amazon Smile program.

How members can help:

- Help recruit member colleges (new and lapsed)
- The external website for donation has launched – please visit and donate, even small amounts help.

Sophia added that the Board has been thinking of new initiatives and will be asking members for ideas for new revenue, membership, etc.

Recognition of Dennis Frost as incoming Vice-Chair

Sophia Geng

Sophia recognized Dennis as the incoming Board Vice-Chair and program chair of the 2024 conference.

Announcement of April 2024 Conference

Dennis Frost

Dennis announced that next year's conference will take place in Atlanta, Georgia. The theme of the conference is "Asia Beyond Boundaries: Past, Present, and Future".

Recognition of Outgoing Board Members

Sophia Geng

Sophia thanked James Godde, Hiroaki Kawamura, and Gordon Gray for their service to the ASIANetwork Board.

Old/New Business

Sophia Geng

Dan mentioned that we have ASIANetwork t-shirts for sale to members (\$20).

Announcement of the Distinguished Service Award to Craig Rice for his work behind the scenes in keeping the technology working.

Teddy asked that we appreciate the work of Gary DeCoker during his time as Executive Director.

Recognition of Jeff Felardo as incoming Board Chair

Sophia Geng

Sophia passed the gavel to Jeff. Jeff noted his appreciation.

Adjournment

Jeff Felardo

Meeting adjourned by Jeff at 6:36pm.