Latin America Specialty Group

Annual Business Meeting

Association of American Geographers

Thursday, April 23, 2015, 7:15-7:45 pm

Grand Suite 2AB, East Tower, Hyatt, Chicago

LASG Officers in Attendance:

Claudia Radel, Chair

John Finn, Vice Chair

Ben Tillman, Secretary-Treasurer

1. Claudia Radel opened meeting at 7:15 pm with an announcement of the joint CLAG/LASG party (held after the business meeting) and an invitation for all in attendance to join both CLAG and LASG organizations.
2. Chair’s Report (Radel)
   1. Minutes from the 2014 Tampa meeting were approved (David Robinson moved, David Salisbury seconded)
   2. Announcements from AAG chairs meeting
      1. AAG’s name changed to American Association of Geographers
      2. 9000 registrants in attendance at the Chicago 2015 meeting
   3. LASG updates at AAG 2015
      1. AAG held a panel on the relevance of regional specialty groups to which the chair relayed the responses by LASG members
      2. LASG sponsored several notable sessions including those on “Crises in Central America Revisited”
      3. LASG Co-sponsored ($100) IPSG plenary speaker Dr. Robert Warrior
   4. Chair explained LASG-CLAG shared newsletter duties and discussed options for making the newsletter editor one of the director positions. The Chair also explained the need for additional graduate student directors.
      1. Chair proposed that at least one director position be a graduate student director
      2. After much discussion from the floor three graduate students were nominated for the three director positions (Rob Kent moved for approval, seconded by anonymous)
      3. Graduate student directors voted in: Diego Pons (U. of Denver), Joshua Rudow (U. T. Austin), and Anna Sveinsdottir (U. of Denver)
      4. Newsletter liaisons voted in: Adrienne Johnson (Clark U.), Nikolai Alexander Alvarado (U of Denver)
   5. LASG By-laws: Chair explained proposed changes
      1. (Rob Kent moved to approve, seconded by anonymous)
      2. Vote to approve by-laws changes passed unanimously
3. Vice-Chair’s Report on Student Awards (Finn)
   1. Finn recognized the work of committees
   2. 2015 Award Winners
      1. Field Study Awards
         1. Sophia Borgias (MA)
         2. Diego Pons (PhD)
      2. Paper Awards
         1. Aaron Groth (MA)
         2. Chris Courtheyn (PhD)
         3. Edward Park (Best Co-author Paper Award)
   3. Vice Chair (Finn) discussed addition of the multi-authored paper award category and if LASG should keep it (the award may not be economically feasible long term)
      1. Chair (Radel) proposed that we table remaining discussion for later after new student directors can add their viewpoints--vote to be held at a future time
   4. Need for faculty to encourage students to submit work for awards. Both paper and field work submissions were down this year.
4. Secretary/Treasurer’s Report (Tillman)
   1. Membership as of 3/31/15: total members number 474 of which 201 are students (~42%). There are 41 non-student members and 10 student members located in Latin America (14 members in Canada, 10 in the UK, 12 in other Western European countries, (1 in Australia, and 1 in Indonesia).
   2. Budget
      1. Current budget after award checks and ISPG speaker is $3,673.49 and projected to reach ~$4,000 by the end of August (based on past enrollment trends).
      2. Dues have declined the last three years but appear to be up during the current year. LASG’s budget decreased by $575 in AY 13-14, with a projected decrease of ~$800 in AY 14-15. This decrease is not a problem yet but if it continues may mean the new co-authored paper award is not sustainable over the long term.

Dues Received by Academic Year:

AY 2011-2012 $2,332

AY 2012-2013 $2,086

AY 2013-2014 $1,792

AY 2014-3/31/15 $1,618

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm. CLAG meeting followed.