



Association of Critical Heritage Studies General Meeting of Members

Date: December 7, 2022

Time: 9:00 - 10:15 AM

Location: Auditorio Rosende, Facultad de Ciencia Económicas, Campus San Joaquín, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Santiago de Chile

Agenda

Executive Committee members present: Melissa Baird, Tokie Laotan Brown, Alexandra Dellios, Myriam Joannette, Lucas Lixinski, Jessica Mace, Bryony Onciul, Laurajane Smith, Yujie Zhu.

Members present: 65 members total present at the meeting. Quorum is established.

President Melissa Baird calls the General Meeting of Members to order.

1. Approval of the agenda. Baird asks if there are any changes to be made. No changes. She asks for the agenda to be approved by show of hands. Majority has it, the agenda is approved.

2. Approval of the minutes of 2020 General Meeting of Members. Baird asks if there are any changes to be made. Lucie K. Morriset asks that the full names of the Executive Committee be added to the minutes for easier reference (they are currently seen as initials). Motion to approve. Approved.

3. Reports of the Vice Presidents:

These reports were sent in advance to the membership and were made available at the meeting. Baird takes all reports as read to move ahead in the interest of time.

- 3.1. Conference and Events
- 3.2. Communications
- 3.3. Chapters
- 3.4. Membership

4. Report of the President: Baird begins by thanking Olaya Sanfuentes and the organizing committee, volunteers, and staff for the Santiago 2022 conference for an outstanding event. She also thanks the London 2020 team for setting the precedent for incorporating virtual components of the conference.

She gives special thanks the Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, and Executive Committee members for making the association run. She notes that it has been a pleasure to work with this team. She also offers thanks to the members of the ACHS, stating that this is what makes the association run, and that the work and engagement of members is nothing short of extraordinary.

4.1. Membership: Membership is going strong, but the ACHS needs to continue to think of ways to involve members and keep finger on the pulse of what is happening around the world. The Member Spotlight on the website, for instance, has been a successful initiative to hear about each other's work and increase equity across the different regions and languages of the world. Baird and the EC will keep working to introduce new ideas and member ideas are always welcomed.

4.2. By-laws: Baird reports that there will be a discussion of changes to the by-laws in terms of conferences to account for host withdrawals and corresponding protocol. This is what happened with the scheduled DC Metro conference, and with the by-laws as they are, the EC was left without clear procedures. The proposed change will be discussed in 7.1 New business; Amendment to by-laws.

4.3. Developments of the ACHS: Baird reports that the work of the Executive Committee is ongoing. The major preoccupation in recent

months has been the shift of the 2024 conference—the Washington, D.C., USA team had to withdraw from hosting and a new host/venue needed to be secured.

Another main discussion in the wake of many global events has been whether or not the ACHS should make public statements. As an international organization, it was decided that the ACHS will not make statements, but will leave the parole to chapters and members for focused discussion, as needed.

5. Financial report: Baird takes the report as read, but notes that the Association’s financials are healthy. During the next term, the EC will look at how to provide more support for early-career researchers, conference travel, etc. Baird asks for a motion to approve the financial statements. A motion is made and carried. The financial statements are approved.

6. Old business

6.1 Bursaries: The past president, Lucie K. Morisset, established idea of creating bursaries to assist with conference expenses. This idea was carried over, discussed, and implemented by the current EC. Bursaries were allocated for this conference, but work will continue with the next EC because a few people who were provided bursaries were unable to attend. This needs to be addressed and a protocol established. Discussion follows with membership in attendance as to whether there was a waitlist, communication issues, and whether subsidies for locals to attend could be put in place to offset high cost of registration fees. Baird reassures the membership that their concerns are heard, and she reinforces the interest in equity, inclusion, engagement of the ACHS. These issues will be discussed and addressed by the EC for future conferences.

7. New business

7.1. Amendment to by-laws: The projected 2024 DC Metro conference host had to withdraw due to unforeseen circumstances, which left the ACHS in a difficult situation. It was decided that the ACHS will need to plan for this going forward, as it is not currently reflected in by-laws. A revision to the by-laws would give provisions and options so that a

decision could be taken quickly should this happen again.

A motion is made to approve the following changes to the by-laws:

10.13 Conference host withdrawal. In the case of special circumstances where conference organizers who were selected via the regular procedure outlined above can no longer fulfill the role, the President of the ACHS, in consultation with the Vice President (Conference and Events) and the Secretary, shall follow the contingency protocol to find a replacement host, ideally within less than three months (or the date of the next ACHS conference, whichever is sooner). The President, in consultation with the Executive Committee, is free to cancel the conference should the local organizers withdraw less than one year from the scheduled conference. If a replacement host location is found and a new conference location has been successfully selected, the change will be communicated to the ACHS membership.

Discussion follows: question about the time frame given that travel is involved. It is decided that a year is feasible. Online or remote events are also discussed. A clause will be added about online events.

Lucas Lixinski makes a motion to adopt the change to the by-law, adding “or to move it online if the President deems it appropriate.” The amended by-law now reads as follows:

10.13 Conference host withdrawal. In the case of special circumstances where conference organizers who were selected via the regular procedure outlined above can no longer fulfill the role, the President of the ACHS, in consultation with the Vice President (Conference and Events) and the Secretary, shall follow the contingency protocol to find a replacement host or to move it online if the President deems it appropriate, ideally within less than three months (or the date of the next ACHS conference, whichever is sooner). The President, in consultation with the Executive Committee, is free to cancel the conference should the local organizers withdraw less than one year from the

scheduled conference. If a replacement host location is found and a new conference location has been successfully selected, the change will be communicated to the ACHS membership.

A vote is held to adopt the by-law. All in favour. The motion carries.

Lucas Lixinski moves that the following protocol to be adopted and followed in the event of a host withdrawal:

Conference Preparation Contingency Protocol

This provision applies when the conference organizers selected via the regular procedure outlined above can no longer fulfill the role.

Should this event occur, then the President of the ACHS, in consultation with the Vice-President (Conference) and the Secretary, shall endeavor to do the following, in this order:

1. Confer with the lead organizer of the conference to see whether there is a member of the same institution that can take the conference forward in their stead;
2. If there is no possibility of proceeding with the conference in its originally selected location, then reach out to unsuccessful bidders for that conference to see whether they might still be willing to host the conference based on their initially submitted bid;
3. Should the former not be feasible, then reach out to the Executive Committee to gather interest and ability from one of their institutions to bid to host the event;
4. Should there be no success among the Executive Committee members, then produce targeted invitations to individuals and institutions to bid to host the conference.

In the event of 3 or 4, the bids shall be produced as quickly as possible, and ideally within less than three months (or the date of the next ACHS conference, whichever is

sooner). The Executive Committee will consider the bids upon the recommendation of the Vice-President (Conference).

Only after a replacement location for the conference has been successfully selected will the change to the conference be communicated to the ACHS membership.

Should the local organizers withdraw less than one year from the scheduled date of the conference, the ACHS President, in consultation with the Vice-President (Conference) and the Secretary, also has the mandate to cancel the conference or scale it down to a small series of online-only events.

Discussion follows about the possibility of multiple subsequent host bids and a corresponding vote by the EC. The point is raised that this results in a significant amount of decisions being made by EC, with membership left out until the end. In the interest of maintaining transparency, it is discussed that membership should be notified before the protocol is enacted. It is agreed that the protocol open with statement that it is an emergency measure, which is why power is being concentrated. Members will be informed before launching into this protocol.

A vote is held to adopt the protocol. All in favour. The motion carries.

7.2. Newly elected Officers of the Executive Committee: Baird reports that four new elected officers were voted to the EC: Duane Jethro, Ali Mozzafari, Naomi Oosterman, and Carsten Wergin. She warmly welcomes them and asks that the membership do the same. Two new Vice-Presidents have been elected: Tokie Brown is the new Vice-President of Chapters and Myriam Joannette the new Vice-President of Conference. Four officers have been re-elected: Marisa Angell Brown has been re-elected as Treasurer; Jessica Mace has been re-elected as Secretariat Officer; Plácido González Martínez has been re-elected as Vice-President of Communications; and Melissa Baird has been re-elected as President. Baird expresses thanks to all who voted.

She also notes that several members of the

EC are stepping down. These are Neel Kamal Chapagain, Lucas Lixinski, Trinidad Rico, Michelle Stefano, and Yujie Zhu. Baird sincerely thanks them for their support and efforts, which have made a big difference, over their time on the EC.

7.3. ACHS 2024 Galway, Ireland: Baird announces that the next conference will be held in June 2024 in Galway, Ireland, hosted by the National University in Galway. While this was unplanned as of the last GMM, she's delighted with the outcome. Updates will soon be added to the website.

7.4. ACHS 2026 Conference Location: Vice-President of Conference, Lucas Lixinski announces the bids for the 2026 conference. The materials for each were made available and circulated in advance of the meeting. He notes that the procedure for this meeting will be to present each of the bids, take questions, then a vote for the location.

Bid 1. Johannesburg, South Africa. The bid is presented by Lucas Lixinski as there is no representative present. The bid was put through by a tourism office, and focuses broadly on African cultural heritage. It would be held at a conference centre, and the tourism office would use the conference and the relationship to support the local economy and local development.

Discussion follows that it doesn't seem equitable that this bid does not have a presentation. Lixinski clarifies that all bids were invited to present at the GMM (including in video form), but this team declined. They were asked to send a video and declined. Discussion follows as to whether this bid is tied to a university, which is unclear at this point, and how to ensure that bids are linked to a university going forward. Currently there are stipulations that an ACHS member must be involved. All of this is discussed with the VP of Conference who advises that members and universities should be involved, but that prospective hosts are ultimately free to make a bid nonetheless. Another point is made that future bids should not conflict with major religious holidays, as it is limiting to members.

Bid 2: Warsaw, Poland: The bid is presented by the Warsaw team. The bid is linked to the University of Warsaw, and would be held in either summer or winter. The conference team is in place, there is a confirmed scientific committee, and the theme would be Heritage and Transformations.

Bid 3: Wellington, New Zealand. The bid is

presented by the Wellington team. The bid is linked to Te Heranga Waka Victoria University of Wellington, and would be held in November or December. The conference team and scientific committee are in place, and the theme would be Relationality.

A vote is held by a show of hands as prescribed by the by-laws.

Johannesburg: 3 votes

Warsaw: 9 votes

Wellington: 37 votes

Abstentions: 16

The 2026 ACHS conference will be held in Wellington, New Zealand.

8. Word of welcome 2024 Conference Host, Galway, Ireland: Tokie Brown, lead organizer, presents the theme of "custodianship." She announces that the dates will be June 3-6, 2024 and that Galway, the City of Tribes, is looking forward to hosting all ACHS members.

9. Adjournment: Melissa Baird asks for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bryony Onciul moves, Myriam Joannette seconds. The meeting is adjourned.