

The Early Caribbean Society Business Meeting
Minutes
11 November 2021 // 2:00 p.m. Est (1 p.m. CST)

In attendance:

Cassander Smith, President
Kerry Sinanan, Vice President
Mary-Caton Lingold, Acting Secretary/Treasurer
Kelly Wisecup, Immediate Past President

Minutes taken by: Kerry Sinanan

News and Updates (mostly business conducted by email within last 30 days)

CS hopes to have monthly standing meetings once we have new Sec/Treasurer.

Financial Status

CS- Usually we have quarterly reports but as we are without Sec/Trs we do not have one currently. CS- we should also be publishing minutes on the website. CS- how will we relay financial information to the membership? KS- what is the best practice? CS- usually at the biennial meeting the financial report is shared. CS- would be good to have yearly routine practice that makes transparent the finances KS- should we issue a newsletter that has that information? CS- yes, a bulletin. KW – agrees it is a good idea to make this information open to ECS membership. Avoid putting email address of Sec/Trs on the information to protect people but info should be circulated. CS and KW warn about phishing scams so make sure info is protected. KS- possibly the biennial meeting is best place to protect people especially given our small status. All agree on this path forward.

CSA panel sponsorship

CS- Nicole Aljoe asked us as ECS to co-sponsor a panel for CSA. KS agrees this is in hand.

ASECS 2022 Additional Panel

KS- confirms second panel for ASECS 2022 is now approved. This is a good thing for our presence at ASECS- we now have good presence including ECRs and established, published professors.

ASECS DEIA Meeting

CS- has been invited to join ASECS DEIA meeting out of conversations that CS and KS have had with ASECS. CS will be working with DEIA committee to address the concerns we have raised. KS, the last ASECS townhall was a mixed bag but the break out rooms were successful. CS said that she will be recommending more of these smaller spaces.

Journal Editor Resignation

CS relays that Nick Jones has resigned/stepped back from taking on the ECS Journal for a mixture of professional and personal reasons. CS- we need a new Editor.

Defoe Conference postponed

CS- confirms the conference for 2021 was postponed. But will go ahead next year. KS – ECS has two panels ready to go. CS- proposal for panel discussing Caribbean Palestinian/Jewish diaspora was a suggestion for a stand-alone panel: is this still want we want? Will the panels proposed/established roll over? CS will ask Nush.

New Business

Secretary-Treasurer Election

MCL has agreed to run the election of a new Sec/Trs. CS outlines the process for this election. First, send out nomination to listserv, people submit nominations, voting by online ballot. KS- were there more than one nomination at the time in recent elections? KW and CS explain that people expressed interest but that, ultimately, one nomination went forward to last election. MCL- thanks committee for their work. MCL says she will send the email- is she the point person to receive nominations? CS- all of this will happen through the ECS email account. KW- can there be a way to distance MCL from the process in the event that she wants to serve? KS- can we organize a more anonymous administration of the system for both nomination and voting? KS- should we modify the process laid out in VI Election of Officers to enable anonymous forms? CS reminds us that the constitution lays out the process. Agrees it is outdated and needs updated. MCL prefers email but can do the google doc or Qualtrix. KW in the past anonymous forms have been used. CS- having discussed, what is easier for MCL? MCL- is comfortable with Google forms and with streamlining the process. CS- timeline- two weeks for elections and two weeks for elections. KS -and MCL – what is the timeline? CS- yes there have been private conversations in the past with people interested in coming forward. CS- thinks the timeline for nominations of 2 weeks is sufficient. KW- 10 days for nominations (before Thanksgiving break) and a bit longer for voting. KS and CS agree if we can also use social media for letting people know. KS could we possibly consider making the Social Media person part of the Council and an elected person- down the line -for discussion when we are discussing the Constitution with the membership.

Journal Planning/Strategy

KS- outlines the need for clarity on these questions (listed below and these were written and circulated by KS in a previous email). CS returned to the Constitution for guidance. KS pointed out the words “advice and consent” in the Constitution that define the role of the ECS Committee in relation to the ECS Journal, and noted that we need clarity on this as consent is quite powerful and not what has been made clear in previous meetings which felt more advisory. How is that consent gathered or recorded? CS- In the past iteration of the Journal, Nicole ran the journal in

2016 and these questions did not arise. KW- agrees that we need clarity on how this all works. CS- we need permanent Sec/Trs in place to address this fully. CS and KW discuss the need for structures and CS suggests we should consult with the advisory board. KS notes that the advisory board may already have a vision and that needs to be noted. KW suggests we ask advisory board for advice on the structures first and foremost and on the nature of the relationship between the ECS and the Journal. Agreement on this point.

CS proposes reaching out the EAL ECS and to J18 and J19 to gather information on how other orgs are doing these issues. Her questions will be fact finding in the first instance. Will report back.

Questions/Concerns (KS)

What is the exact nature of the relationship between ECS, the ECS Executive, the ECS Journal and the ECS editor/editorial board? Where and how would we define that relationship

- What are the structures within which we are making planning decisions?
There is a clear tension between the ECS being advisory and being part of the actual planning. We need clarity on which it is as soon as possible so that our decision making is transparent.
- Where does the decision making responsibility lie? With ECS Editor between and shared with ECS editor and ECS executive? How will decisions about the journal be made and by whom? What is the process for conjoining ECS vision for the Journal with the ECS editorial board?
- If ECS executive does begin to help with planning how can that work be made visible and clear?
- What are the mechanisms/structures by which an editorial board is being selected?
- How can we ensure that BIPOC and scholars from the Caribbean are centered?
- What are the structures for launching the journal? What support is needed, how will it be gathered?

AOB

CS - we will work through rest of agenda in later meeting. CS- will draft newsletter.

KS- can we put issue of planning for conferences and panels to the top of the agenda and how to get wider ECS membership involved? Agreement that this is needed.