

ASEF-PSOM EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Virtual and in person, 12:00pm – 1:30 pm, Monday, March 4, 2024,
Wood Room (John Morgan Building) and Zoom

The meeting started at 12:00 pm called to order by Paul Lanken.

Attendance was recorded: Judith Aronchick, Frances Barg, Joel Greenberg, Paul Lanken, Ana Lia Obaid, Steve Sondheimer, Joan Von Feldt, Peter Wilding (remote), Arberetta Bowles, Jana Alrayes, Erin Rossello (remote), Priscilla Duncan, John Hansen-Flaschen, Susan Heyner, Vicki Mulhern (remote), Marshall Meyer (remote)

Absent: Janice Bellace, Lesley Carson, Yvonne Paterson, Melpo Christofidou-Solomidou, Jeffrey Field, Fred Henretig, Judith McKenzie, Iris Reyes

1. **Minutes from last meeting** – request for approval. Minutes were approved.

2. Report and announcements by President, ASEF (Paul Lanken)

Theatre event on past Saturday was a full house. The 2nd Annual Honorary Vicky Mulhern Lecture will be on March 18th, 4:30-6pm at the Jordan Law Auditorium with speaker Dr. Robert Vonderheide. The next Luncheon Lecture is on April 16th at 12pm with speaker Steve Treat. There's another Luncheon Lecture on Tuesday May 21st at 12pm with Kevin Mahoney about the health system community outreach. There's a sheet going around with names of 2024 retirees, members are encouraged to write their name next to anyone they know and personally invite them to our retiree reception in the spring. Paul offered to stay on as ASEF president for one more year, as permitted by the bylaws. The Council voted approval without any objections.

3. Report and announcements by Past President, PASEF (Marshall Meyer)

In absence of PASEF President Janice Bellace, Past President Marshall Meyer presented.

A) Upcoming PASEF programs- March 14th talk on Musicology, March 26th program on estate planning for special needs situations, April 3rd viewing a theatre performance, (contact Sarah Barr if you would like to attend, there's a few tickets left), April 9th talk on longevity and decision making in later life, and the May 6th celebration for newly retired faculty.

B) Upcoming meeting in a couple weeks with the presidential commission about dealing with issues of hate in the community. PASEF leadership wants to focus on purpose of

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university, what's special about Penn, its history and traditions. Discussions included how Penn is a secular university, not bounded by a church, always been engaged in the real world and practical, most importantly it's always been a tolerant place. John HF would add interdisciplinary collaboration to that list of Penn attributes.

C) Using Qualtrics, they're conducting a survey for PASEF members to understand their engagement and interests with PASEF. They want to understand how to further engagement. Request for ASEF executive council: would anyone like to test the survey? They're not seeking responses but rather help with the questions. A few ASEF members volunteered. It will be an anonymous survey and will need at least 2 weeks of more revisions; he is trying to get it out before March 20th. Besides the survey, another project to engage PASEF members is creating a web location for bringing people together to have discussions, form interest groups, and bring up issues to attention immediately. Later will ask ASEF members to join if they wish, since it's not discoverable by most browsers.

4. Reports by Chairs of ASEF Standing Committees

a. Lunch Talks and Other Lectures Committee – Chair, Judith Aronchick

- i. March 18 (Monday) at 4:30-6 PM: Dr. Vonderheide to give the Vicki Mulhern lecture at Law Auditorium (JMEC)
- ii. April 16 (Tuesday), 12-1 Lunch Lecture, by Dr. Steve Treat. SMILOW 12-146AB
- iii. May 21, 2024 (Tuesday), 12-1, Lunch Lecture, by Kevin Mahoney. SMILOW 12-146AB

iv. Council's preferences for speakers for Lunch Talks in FY25

Paul: Paul would like to hold the month of September 2024 for having a luncheon panel with several speakers to talk about how ASEF members can volunteer with UPHS-affiliated free and community clinics. There's about 100 ASEF members that indicated some interest in this, so this lunch talk would be primarily aimed for them. Judi said that's fine, and we should start planning now to advertise during the summer. Judi wants to aim for this talk to be held closer to the end of September, and after Labor Day.

Judith: The list of potential speakers for AY 2025 lectures was sent out the week before by Jana. Paul and Judi discussed the list. She requests that the council read through the names and bios, and think about who should be invited. A survey will be sent out to the council to rank the speakers in order of whom you're interested in the most. We will

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probably invite 6 out of the 8 potential speakers. She briefly went through the list of names and described their general areas. There are a mix of clinical, and basic science speakers. One (Dr. Lenrow) specializes in back pain.

Paul: Since one of the potential speakers, Sarah Tishkoff, studies gene diversity of the African sub-continent, she can be invited to present during black history month. She's a white scientist, thoughts from the council? Joan and Arberetta think it's a good idea. Dr. Heyner suggested film called *lo Capitano* (I am the Captain) still on at the Ritz at the Bourse, it's highly rated and based on 2 young Senegalese men.

Judith continued with the list of speakers. Paul said Dr. Megan Lane-Fall is a rising star in UPHS. She's an anesthesiology and critical care specialist. Fran said she's a wonderful speaker. Arberetta noted that she was the former Vice Chair of Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity. Micheal Kahana – not in PSOM, but research is neuro-based. Paul says Abbas Alavi is measuring inflammation of the entire body, very enthusiastic and a renowned scientist.

Paul notes that there are 7 spots for luncheon lectures, and not all speakers may agree to present.

v. 3rd Annual Vicki Mulhern Lecture (likely in October 2024) (Speaker will be Scott Halpern)

Paul: The Law and Rubenstein auditoriums are available on most days that Dr. Halpern is available; we're waiting on Vicki and her family's availability. The Law is preferred because it's smaller.

b. Newsletter Committee – Chair, John Hansen-Flaschen

John: What came out was very workable; there were some obstacles along the way with formatting and efforts were made mostly towards proofreading. Paul emphasized Arberetta's and Priscilla's efforts. It will evolve over time. Joan asked if there's a way to see how many people viewed it, to get their feedback. John scheduled a meeting of the Newsletter Committee immediately following the end of the ASEF Council meeting in the same room.

c. Website Committee – Chair, Joel Greenberg

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1) We've incorporated a newsletter tab. Joel asked how many versions of the newsletter we could include on the main page under its tab before moving things to archive. Arberetta suggested 4 on the front page and then archiving the rest. Paul suggested we could have current and prior academic year on the main page, then archive everything else.

2) Joel invited all members of the council to visit the site and send him their comments about the website.

3) Peter and Joan both asked about possibility of getting analytics for the website, to get insight on what the members' interests are, and possibly getting their department. Peter suggests that if a particular webpage is frequently being visited, that we could report that in the newsletter to get membership visiting the website. Priscilla will find out what's available from the web team and share that with Joel, and we'll hear their report in April's meeting. Judith asked what will initiate someone visiting the website? There's a link to the website in Encore, there's also a link in the luncheon lecture flyers. The website will be added as a hyperlink on the lecture flyers with additional language to bring more attention to it.

d. Special Events (includes the Joint Spring Reception for Retirees with PASEF and other ASEF sponsored events) – Chair, Yvonne Paterson (Paul Lanken and Fran Barg)

- i. Joint ASEF-PASEF Spring Reception for FY24 Retirees: **Monday, May 6, 2024 (4-6 PM) in JMEC lobby**
- ii. **List of PSOM Retirees FY24**
- iii. **Request that ASEF Council members to encourage selected retirees to attend reception and send bios and headshot**

Yvonne was not present to speak. Paul presented instead. He is hoping that everyone will come to the Spring reception, it's well-organized and catered. There will be formal invitations going out through email. Paul emphasized finding people you know on the list of retirees going around and encouraging them to attend. He hopes that when you receive the email invite, you can reply to it while cc'ing them and invite them.

iv. Update re posters and registration numbers for Special Events: (Priscilla and Arberetta)

1. Lantern Theater show (Sat, March 2, 2024) (2-4:30)
2. AVA visit (Friday, March 8, 2024) (11-2)

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3. Lazaretto tour and talk (Wed, May 15, 2024) 10:30 am start at Lazaretto

Judith: 34 have registered so far for the AVA visit. When we did this 5 years ago, it filled immediately and there was even a waitlist. She encourages everyone to think about going or of people who'd like to go, please do so. An idea is to notify current registrants to bring additional guests. About the AVA visit, Peter asked who will communicate the final RSVPS to AVA? Paul says Priscila will report to Jason, the AVA correspondent. Peter also suggests that someone from ASEF and PASEF express their gratitude to AVA on the day. Paul agrees and says one of the PASEF council members will do that along with the \$1000 check.

Priscilla sent a draft of the Lazaretto tour event to Paul and the council. Paul thinks it needs some more enrichment in the flyer, some more information about the history professor who's leading the tour..

John: In the past, we did a social gathering event. We can do that again, hopefully with better turnout this time. Maybe in June. Arberetta suggested not ordering the lunch, but instead a having a nice meal afterwards. Peter suggests having the social right after an ASEF council meeting, and having the meeting start later like at 3pm or 3:30pm. Paul will take it under advisement. John had an idea to invite past speakers, Paul agreed. Arberetta recommended that we included it in the budget, and we should get the date out as soon as possible. Paul says we can make the meeting start earlier like 11:30am. Some ideas for location: Wood room, outside the Wood Room with the portraits, BRB 14th floor. Paul will consider these.

5. Reports from Ad hoc Committees

a. Committee to Revise Bylaws: Fran (chair), Priscilla.

i. Results of ASEF membership voting for approval/disapproval of revised by-laws

Priscilla: All 9 people who submitted the survey approved the by-laws, so we're assuming the rest approved as well. Paul notes there's unanimous agreement, the changes were not monumental. This version will be posted on the website, with subtitle "approved March 4th".

b. Membership Engagement committee (Fran and Priscilla)

- i. Results of survey of ASEF membership-plans in response
- ii. Update status of checking on accuracy of ASEF Listserv

Fran will have more details at the end of the week.

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c. Community Outreach committee (Fred Henretig, chair)

Fred was not present to speak. Paul: Hopefully in September we'll have a panel on the clinical site volunteering opportunities. Ana Lia spoke about a PASEF community outreach project with the 40th and Walnut St free library. The next presentation for that site is about a new technique that uses optical methods to view the ancient Mayan ruins underneath the Central American jungles. Trying to set the meeting to be on a Wednesday, once the library director confirms the day, they'll put start advertising at UPenn and the library. You are all invited if interested.

d. Presidential Commission invitation for feedback and visit to April 2024 ASEF Council meeting (Joan Von Feldt)

Paul says this is Larry Jameson's appointed committee to respond to accusations of hate on campus. They are invited to our April ASEF meeting to get our input on how to improve perceptions.

A) Joan spoke about the document titled "Presidential Commission on Building Community and Countering Hate" that was circulated by Paul. She responded to the questions on the document. For Question 1, she put together a long list of Penn values she found by searching online. She's open to suggestions on how to reduce this list. For question 3 about how we may feel excluded, the council mentioned: Penn email being deleted without warning, lack of department communication with retired faculty resulting in being unaware of colleague deaths for example, meetings being only in-person. The presidential commission is focused on the whole university so they might not focus on us specifically. John suggested the idea of putting things together and seeing if Lisa Bellini will take it to the Dean's attention. John also mentioned that he feels excluded by the inability to get to HUP through old entrance via the Gates Building, which is discriminatory against people with limited mobility. Information on how to access all buildings and libraries after retirement should be clear and accessible to all retirees.

B) ASEF council is asked to reflect on these questions and send your feedback to Joan. Fran will oversee narrowing the list down to 6 values based on council feedback.

6. List of Members of Committees

Note: Council members are welcome to join any committee.

- a. Lunch Talks and Other Lectures Committee – Chair, Judith Aronchick. Other Members: Lesley Carson, Iris Reyes, Paul Lanken.

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- b. Newsletter Committee – Chair, John Hansen-Flaschen, Other Members: Judith Aronchick, Arberetta Bowles, Melpo Christofidou-Solomidou, Fred Henretig, Susan Heyner, Judith Mckenzie, Steve Sondheimer, Joan Von Feldt.
- c. Website Committee – Chair, Joel Greenberg, Other Members: Judith Aronchick, Jeff Field, Peter Wilding, Paul Lanken, John Hansen-Flaschen, Steve Sondheimer, Lesley Carson
- d. Special Events Committee – Chair, Yvonne Paterson. Other Members: Peter Wilding, Susan Heyner, Paul Lanken
- e. Ad hoc Committee to Revise Bylaws – Chair, Fran Barg. Other Members: Yvonne Paterson, Arberetta Bowles, John Hansen-Flaschen,
- f. Ad hoc Community Outreach Committee – Chair, Fred Henretig. Other Members, Judith Mckenzie, Iris Reyes, Ana Lia Obaid, Paul Lanken, Joan von Feldt
- g. Ad hoc Membership Engagement Committee: Chair, Fran Barg. Other Members: Steve Sondheimer, Paul Lanken
- h. Nominating Committee: Chair – John Hansen-Flaschen. Other Members: Yvonne Paterson, Paul Lanken.

7. Other Business

There was some group discussion about the Penn Board of Trustees and recent issues. Peter highlighted that there's a document signed by many faculty expressing their concern over the recent resignation of the President. Paul has a copy and can distribute that to ASEF Council members

Meeting adjourned at 1:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jana Alrayes

Administrative Coordinator, PSOM Office of Academic Affairs