BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Hilton Hotel Convention Center
Baltimore, MD
Saturday and Sunday, April 13-14, 2013

Present: Elonda Clay, John Esposito, Jack Fitzmier, Warren Frisina, Melanie Harris, Susan Hill, David Kim, Linda Moody (by phone for part of meeting), Roberto Lint Sagarena, Jin Park, Thomas Tweed, Laurie Zoloth, Nellie Van Doorn Harder

Staff: Deborah Minor, Steve Herrick

1. Call to order 9:10AM

2. Review of Agenda

3. Minutes

Laurie Zoloth moved (seconded)
Motion: That all Board votes be recorded by name. Seconded
Action: Passed Unanimously

Laurie Zoloth moved (seconded)
Motion: That all motions involving a task have person attached to the task; seconded

A friendly amendment to the motion was offered by David Kim.
Amendment: That each motion have a time line attached to it.
Accepted by motion’s author.

Finalized Motion: That all motions have a person attached to the task and that each motion have a time line attached to it.
Action: Approved Unanimously

Warren Frisina moved (seconded): That the February 2, 2013 Board Minutes be accepted with the following corrections:

On p. 26, Melanie Harris abstained from the vote on the grounds that the discussion was not yet full enough for a decision.

Corrections were also made to the following names on page 17 (bold indicates correction):

Ingrid Maxim
Shaun Casey
Josef Sorett

Motion: To accept the February 2, 2013 minutes as amended.
Action: Approved Unanimously

4. President’s Report: John Esposito

   a. Otto Maduro’s Upcoming Retirement
      Discussion: Otto’s contributions to the AAR, Drew University and the
      Field of Religion were noted
      TASK: Letter to Otto by Jack Fitzmier

   Laurie Zoloth moved: That we ask Drew to honor Otto Maduro by offering a
   comp room to the AAR meeting for a graduate student in their department
   that most thoroughly embodies Professor Maduro’s work, in perpetuity.
   (Seconded)
      Discussion: It was suggested that before we move ahead that further
      investigation into plans regarding what may be afoot at Drew was
      warranted. The possibility of partnering with Drew was also
      suggested as this might lead to a joint tribute that Drew would
      administer.

      Action: Motion withdrawn by its author

   Action Item: Jack Fitzmier will check with Drew about current plans to honor
   Professor Maduro and report back to the Board by April 30th

   b. Special Panel on Pope Francis
      With the election of Pope Francis, President Esposito is pursuing the
      creation of a special panel to discuss the significance of his election.

5. Jack Fitzmier, Executive Director’s Report Part I

   a. Conflict of Interest Policy
      Board must certify that they don’t have a conflict of interest.

   b. JAAR Editorship
      We will need to initiate a new search for JAAR editor.

      Executive Director Report suspended until after the completion of the
      Finance Committee Report.
6. Finance Committee Reports Linda Moody, Treasurer & Deborah Minor

AAR Director of Business and Finance Deborah Minor and AAR Treasurer Linda Moody presented the Finance Committee. They reviewed the:

   a. Balance Sheet
   b. Revenue/Expense Report (highlights)
   c. 2013-14 budget

During the course of this discussion it was noted that membership is trending downward and reducing revenue in that area. Other areas seem either steady or slightly up. Overall, the AAR’s budget remains in balance, though caution is called for given the membership numbers and the relatively flat amounts collected in donations from members and others. The AAR’s Theology Summer Workshops are coming to the end of their funding cycle with Luce.

Task: The Executive Director will send the final Luce Report to the Board in anticipation of another approach to Luce or other funders to continue the workshops.

Task: The Executive Director and President will add fund raising discussion to subsequent meeting agenda

Task: A report identifying amounts within the AAR’s marketable securities that are restricted/endowed funds will be prepared before the next meeting.

Motion to approve the budget
Action: Approved Unanimously

7. Chief Information Officer Report: Steve Herrick:

   a. Website Development  There are 4 websites currently under development or revision: Oasis (the AAR administration database); Papers (the AAR proposal system); Employment Services (a joint site with SBL); E-touches (the join AAR-SBL registration/housing system). Launch dates for these projects are on or ahead of schedule.

   b. Information Security  An outside consultant was brought in to help improve Internet security strategies.

   c. THAT Camp  The AAR Will be sponsoring a THAT Camp that brings together people with technology bent and those in the humanities. We are partnering with Center for History and Media at George Mason University.
d. Proposal Glitch
The night of the deadline for the 2013 paper proposals the bandwidth usage jumped 50% higher than it had ever jumped before. Unable to handle the volume, the system went down for a period. To accommodate those who had problems submitting, the deadline was extended.

8. Digest of Committee Reports: Vice President, Thomas Tweed

This digest groups reports into three categories:

a. Reports requiring action:
   i. Nominations Committee
   ii. Status of Committees (i.e. Status of Women in the Profession; Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession; Status of Lesbian, Gay, bisexual, Transgender, Intersex & Queer Persons in the Profession)

b. Reports requiring high attention but no action:
   i. Academic Relations Committee
   ii. History of Religion Book Award and Juries
   iii. Employment Committee
   iv. Graduate Student Committee
   v. International Connections Committee

c. Reports requiring attention but no action
   i. Finance Committee
   ii. Program Committee
   iii. Jury for Religion and the Arts
   iv. Publications Committee
   v. Theological Education Committee
   vi. Regions Committee

Two committees did not submit reports in time to be discussed at this meeting.
   i. Teaching and Learning
   ii. Public Understanding of Religion

a. Reports from Committees Requiring Action

Nominations Committee report raised concerns regarding a perceived communications gap between the AAR Board and the Nominations Committee. This led them to make two motions.
Motion 1. From the Nominations Committee: That the chair of the Nominations Committee meet every fall with the Executive committee of the Board of the annual meeting.

Motion 2. From the Nominations Committee: The Executive Director will meet with the Nominations Committee each year at their annual winter meeting at the opening dinner to brief the committee of its particular charge for the year.

The Nominations Committee also had concerns regarding maintaining the continuity of their discussions from one year to the next and this led them to make the following motion:

Motion 3. From the Nominations Committee: For the sake of continuity (one of the most important characteristics of the Nominations Committee), we propose that the Chair of the Nominations Committee be extended from one year to two. To make this possible we propose adding one more appointed member to the Nominations Committee which will increase the number of appointed members from three to four. We also propose extending the time of service from three years to four. The terms of service can remain staggered so that every two years two Committee members will be replaced by two new members. Of the new members, one will be designated to serve as committee chair after two years on the committee. This designation will take place at the time of appointment. (This is based on current chair, Jonathan Walton, stepping down after 2013, Scott Kline assuming the chair of the Nominations Committee in 2014, and current member Deanna Thompson rolling off with Scott Kline in 2015 after four years without having served as chair. The current chair (Walton) will be replaced with two new members in 2013, one of which who will be designated as chair. From this point forward, two will roll off and two will join every other year.) **

Status of Women in the Profession, Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession, and the Status of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Transgendered, Intersexed and Queer Committees jointly propose the following motions having to do with the AAR process for appointing Board committee members.

Motion 4. From the Status of Committees: We move that the appointments of the members and chairs of CREM, SWP, and LGBTIQ, as well as that of the member advocate, be shifted from a calendar year to an academic year.

Motion 5. From the Status of Committees: We move that the following requirements be added to the procedural rules regarding committees: 1. Except in the case of a new committee, the chair of a committee shall have served on that committee for at least one year immediately prior to her or his appointment as chair; 2. The committee chair shall be selected through election by a simple majority of those who are members of the committee in
the year prior to the beginning of the chair’s term, and who are not running for the position of chair; 3. In cases where more than one committee member wishes to serve as chair, and the vote of the committee members is tied, the current AAR president will cast the tie-breaking vote; 4. In the case where no continuing committee member is willing and available to serve as chair, the committee will nominate at least five external candidates, from which the president will appoint a new chair.

Motion 6. From the Status of Committees: We move that the procedure for appointing new committee members be altered in the following way: After considering nominations from the committee in question and from the general membership, the AAR president shall develop a list of the top five candidates for appointment, with rationales for each, and shall forward that list to the committee in question at least two weeks in advance of the time when s/he intends to make a final decision. The committee will then have the opportunity to make recommendations to the president as to the qualifications of each of the final nominees.

Discussion/Action re: the 6 motions:

Motions 1 and 2 were handled without vote as the Executive Committee and the Executive Director agreed to meet with the Nominations Committee at the times indicated in their motion.

Action: The Executive Committee agrees to meet with the chair of the Nominations Committee at the Annual Meeting.

Action: The Executive Director agrees to meet with the Nominations Committee at their annual winter meeting.

There was a general discussion of Motions 3-6, including a review of the process of appointing members to committees, committee member terms, etc. Several goals were articulated including a general desire for transparency on the one hand and discretion on the other. Also noted was the fact that under the current system, the President is elected by the membership and charged with recommending appointments to a board which includes members who are themselves largely elected.

Discussion of motions 3-6 was temporarily suspended to allow the board to continue reviewing other items in the Vice President’s Digest of Committee Reports

After some general discussion of the other reports it was agreed that before taking up the motions on the table from Nominations and the Status of Committees that the Board would hear the report from it’s Sub-Committee on Review of Committees
9. **Sub-Committee on Review of Committees – Roberto Lint Sagarena**

This sub-committee was charged with designing a process for providing regular support and evaluation of the committees so as to ensure that they are functioning at a high level. The report of their initial findings included the following:

That AAR Committees be grouped as follows:

i. **Representational Committees**: SWIP, CREM, LGITIQ, Disabilities, Graduate

ii. **Juries**: Books, Public Understanding of Religion, Religion and arts; Marty Award, Teaching award

iii. **Sector committees**: Academic Relations, Teaching and Learning, Theological Education, International Connections, Public Understanding of Religion

iv. **Programming Committees**: Program, Regions, Employment, ALHR Sponsorship, Publications

That we poll similar ACLS organizations about their committee structures and evaluation processes.

That we develop criteria, including a self-study template for each of the proposed areas.

That this proposal be shared with the Committee Chairs in each area for feedback.

Discussion: The general discussion of these initial ideas revealed consensus that this plan was heading in the right direction. The goal is to initiate a process where each committee undergoes a regular review every 3 years, beginning in spring 2014. This discussion also sparked deliberation over the place of the Board’s Planning Committee in this structure.

Task: Executive Director Jack Fitzmier will arrange a teleconference call of the Planning Committee to begin thinking about how things went with the last Strategic Plan and what we might do going forward toward a new plan.

Task: The Committee on Evaluating Committees will pursue the steps outlined above.

**TASK:** Executive Director Jack Fitzmier will send a report to chairs of committees that did not provide a report saying we expect a report.
At this point the Board returned to a discussion of the Status of Committees’ Motions 4-6 (see above p. 5-6):

After extended discussion it was suggested that the implications of these proposals were too large to be digested in one sitting. It was also noted that as they involve by-law changes, a decision by the Board to accept these proposed changes would still require ratification by the membership. With this in mind the following motion was made by David Kim:

David Kim moved that we approve the following response to these three motions: The Board acknowledges the motions from SWP, CREM, and LGBTIQ and has initiated a discussion and evaluation of their implications. As these may involve significant changes from past practices and could entail by-law changes, we cannot fully respond to all of their implications at this meeting. We promise to continue our discussion of these motions, to give them full consideration, and to come to a decision regarding them at our fall meeting.

Vote: Passed Unanimously

Task: The Executive Committee agrees to take up discussion of the proposals from the Status of Committees and bring back to the Board recommendations regarding their contents.

Task: Member Advocate (Melanie Harris) agreed to write up the concerns that had been relayed to her and send them to Jack Fitzmier who will share them with the Executive Committee.

The Board returned to Motion 3 from the Nominating Committee (see above p. 5):

Discussion: After extended discussion there was a consensus that the Board needed additional information about the context of this request. To move the discussion forward the Executive Director Jack Fitzmier agreed to contact the chair of the Nominations Committee to gather additional information regarding the committee’s concerns on this subject.

Warren Frisina moved: That the Nominating Committee’s motion be tabled until such time as the Executive Director has had the opportunity to review the situation with the Nominations committee Chair.

Votes for: Elonda Clay, John Esposito, Jack Fitzmier, Warren Frisina, Susan Hill, Melanie Harris, David Kim, Roberto Lint Sagarena, Jin Park, Laurie Zoloth, Nellie Van Doorn Harder
Votes against: Thomas Tweed
Motion to table passes.

Task: Executive Director Jack Fitzmier agrees to contact the chair of the Nominations Committee to relay the news that The Board acknowledges the motion from Nominations and has initiated a discussion and evaluation of its implications. While we cannot fully respond to all of their implications at this meeting, we promise to continue our discussion of these motions, to give them full consideration, and to come to a decision regarding them at our fall meeting.

10. Timing of our Business Meeting and Presidential Address

President Esposito, presented concerns regarding the timing of the business meeting and Presidential Address. Both occur at times that are inconvenient for members.

Task: The Executive Director agrees to bring alternatives regarding the timing of Business Meeting and Presidential Address back to the Board.

At this point the Board returned to items not yet discussed in the Executive Director’s Report

11. Executive Director’s Report, part II

c. Board Meeting Schedule.
The board will continue to try to work out a schedule of at least three gatherings a year: one in the Fall, a brief meeting at the Annual Meeting, and a longer meeting in Spring.

d. Proposal to Create an AAR Code of Conduct For Research
Vice President Thomas Tweed and Executive Director Jack Fitzmier, proposed to the Program Committee that we establish 3 year seminar to pursue the question of whether the AAR should have an explicit Code of Conduct for Research, what might go into such a code and how it might be implemented. This proposal has been accepted by the Program Committee.

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e. American Lectures in the History of Religion
The American Lectures on the History of Religion has been re-established successfully via a series of presentations made by John Gager at Agnes Scott, Georgia State, Spelman and Morehouse, Emory, and at a Center for Hellenic
Studies. The endowment has resources to cover an event like this every other year. There are plans to turn Professor Gager’s lectures into a book with Columbia University Press.

f. *International Connections Committee*
Various efforts are underway to improve our services to international members of the AAR including: enhanced web-based communications tools, webinars and podcasts designed to dispel some of the mystery of surrounding the proposal selection process.

g. *Status of Persons with Disabilities in the Profession*
This newest of the AAR Committees has a chair and membership and is already meeting electronically and in person.

h. *Speaker’s Program*
Efforts continue to establish a new AAR Speaker’s Bureau. The kick off group of AAR scholars will be asked to address the importance of the academic study of religion. This program is modeled on a structure that has been successful with other organizations.

*Task: Jack Fitzmier will continue to pursue this plan and report back to the Board on progress toward setting up such a speaker’s bureau, and amending the letter so that it can serve both to advocate for the field but also to market this new service that we are making available.*

**Move to adjourn till Sunday morning 6:00PM**

**Meeting Called to Order by President Esposito – 8:15AM**

Continuing the Executive Director’s Report

i. *Report on Task Force on Labor Progress and Baltimore Situation*

a. *Task Force on Labor Update*
Jack Fitzmier reported on joint efforts with SBL Executive Director John Kutsko to implement the policies outlined in the Task Force’s initial report. This involves continue to pursue changes to the language of existing and new contracts so that we can reduce or eliminate our business with a hotel where there is an ongoing labor dispute, staying on top of the labor disputes in the cities where we have contracts, and keeping the members informed as the situations develop.
b. The Situation in Baltimore

There are two labor hot spots in Baltimore that we must continue to attend to. There is the Marriott at the City Center where there has been a labor dispute where an initial agreement seems imminent.

The situation with the Hyatt is different, as that dispute has not been settled at this time. Therefore, we are implementing our plan to:

i. Alert members to the situation via the registration process.

ii. Begin conversations with the hotel about reductions of all liabilities involving attrition rates.

iii. Insist that none of our members can be “walked” to a hotel that has an active labor dispute.

iv. Explain to the Hyatt owners what we are and that our members will express their concern by refusing to use their facility.

Warren Frisina moved that Jack Fitzmier and John Kutsko be asked to draft a letter to the Baltimore City Council (cc’d to Chamber of Commerce and the Convention Bureau) expressing our concern and asking their help.

Action: Passed Unanimously

j. Budget Planning

AAR budget is balanced but ongoing reductions in membership revenues have caused us to begin thinking about staffing and workload issues. This process revealed a rather amazing amount of work produced by a relatively small group of AAR staff members.

k. Curriculum for Board Orientation

Jack Fitzmier is at work on a new plan for orienting new Board members to the Board and the AAR staff.

TASK: Jack Fitzmier will send an organizational chart outlining the AAR’s structure to the Board for its review.

12. Program Committee – Nelly Van Doorn Need Harder
Program Committee chair Nelly Van Doorn Need Harder reported the following information regarding the committee's work and the Annual Meeting:

a. They continue to work on increasing transparency of our processes regarding how you propose presentations, why someone is rejected, etc.
b. Supporting the work of the chairs in their efforts to create a community of listeners, participants, and fields, both inside and outside the U.S.
c. Cluster programs that use virtual presentations via Skype are going well and a good tool for bringing prominent scholars into our discussions when their physical presence is either not possible or prohibitively expensive to arrange.

d. The Program committee continues to be concerned with the following questions and programs:
   i. How can we include local NGO’s professionals working in field of religion in the AM?
   ii. How can we better use our Tuesday’s better?
   iii. A program with representatives from NGO’s who have indicated an interest in the way religion intersects with the following areas: guns, marriage law, immigration, and poverty in current economy will take place in Baltimore. This is meant to extend the AAR’s impact to a broader public but also to showcase careers outside of academe for Ph.D.’s in religion.

Task: Jack Fitzmier will bring back a proposal to the board to promote awareness of the New Academy and specifically the many different types of careers that may be open to Ph.D.’s in the study of religion.

e. President Elect Laurie Zoloth’s Presidential Theme will be: Global Climate Change and its Impact on the Poor.

f. Program Committee’s Best Practices Sub-Committee
   This group looks to think through what we do, and provide support and education for chairs who carry on the work of producing their segments of the annual meeting.

g. International Meeting Opportunities
   At present, the Program Committee remains in conversation with IAHR about the possibility of extending the AAR’s presence beyond the U.S. boarders via international meetings. Opportunities exist with SBL as well.
h. Reducing Duplicate Program Units
When the AAR and SBL stopped meeting both organizations created new units to fill in gaps. As a result we now we have competing double units. The program committee is investigating how we might bring them together?

13. Related Scholarly Organizations
There are three requests for approval as related scholarly organizations

Melanie Harris moved that the AAR accept the requests by the Religious Education Association, The Society for Comparative Research on Iconic and Performance Texts, and the Associacion de Cientistas Sociales de la Religion del Mercosur to become Related Scholarly Organizations.

Action: Motion Approved Unanimously

14. National Science Foundation
The AAR Board agreed to consider adding the AAR's name to a list of ACLS organizations protesting the recent decision by the National Science Foundation not to support research in the area of political science.

Task: Jack Fitzmier will send the ACLS statement to the Board and ask for confirmation of our willingness to add the AAR's name to the others protesting the recent decision by the National Science Foundation not to support research in the area of political science.

15. Socially Responsible Investing
The proposal for a socially responsible investment strategy comes from the Finance Committee to enact the plan worked out with our investment partners Sun Trust.

Melanie Harris moved to move forward with the previously distributed plan to adjust our investments so that we divest ourselves from firms doing business in guns and ammunition, tobacco, gaming, pornography, and coal, and favor investments in firms pursuing renewable energy and clean technology and whose philosophy promotes reinvestment in local communities and human rights.

Action: Approved Unanimously

There has been a request for the AAR to take a position in the dispute regarding Mellon Press. The Board opted not to step into the discussion at this point.

17. **Lawrence Kant Case**

The AAUP is going to file an amicus brief on his behalf. The AAR cannot add our names to the brief because we do not have proper standing with that court.

18. **Executive Session – President John Esposito**

President Esposito outlined the rationale and procedure he will follow when calling the Board into executive session.

Such sessions are appropriate in two instances:

a. When the Board (including the Executive Director) wants to have an open ended off the record conversation of any kind about the AAR’s future.

b. Executive sessions are also appropriate (without the Executive Director) at any point when the Board is evaluating the performance of the Executive Director.

19. **Executive Director’s Evaluation Schedule**

The Executive Director’s evaluation is typically done annually and it begins with a conversation with the Executive Committee that serves as the equivalent of the AAR’s personnel committee.

20. **Executive Session.**

**Meeting Adjourned**
Motions and Tasks

Laurie Zoloth moved (seconded)
Motion: That all Board votes be recorded by name. Seconded
Action: Passed Unanimously

Laurie Zoloth moved (seconded)
Motion: That all motions involving a task have person attached to the task; seconded

A friendly amendment to the motion was offered by David Kim.
Amendment: That each motion have a time line attached to it.
Accepted by motion’s author.

Finalized Motion: That all motions have a person attached to the task and that each motion have a time line attached to it.
Action: Approved Unanimously

Warren Frisina moved that the February 2, 2013 Board Minutes be accepted with the following corrections:

On p. 26, Melanie Harris abstained from the vote on the grounds that the discussion was not yet full enough for a decision.

Corrections were also made to the following names on page 17 (bold indicates correction):

Ingrid Maxim
Shaun Casey
Josef Sorett

Action: Approved Unanimously

Laurie Zoloth moved: That we ask Drew to honor Otto Maduro by offering a comp room to the AAR meeting for a graduate student in their department that most thoroughly embodies Professor Maduro’s work, in perpetuity. (Seconded)

Action: Motion withdrawn by its author

*Action Item: Jack Fitzmier will check with Drew about current plans to honor Professor Maduro and report back to the Board by April 30th*
Motion to approve the budget
Action: Approved Unanimously

Motion 1. From the Nominations Committee: That the chair of the Nominations Committee meet every fall with the Executive committee of the Board of the annual meeting.

Motion 2. From the Nominations Committee: The Executive Director will meet with the Nominations Committee each year at their annual winter meeting at the opening dinner to brief the committee of its particular charge for the year.

Motions 1 and 2 were handled without vote as the Executive Committee and the Executive Director agreed to meet with the Nominations Committee at the times indicated in their motion.

Task: The Executive Committee agrees to meet with the chair of the Nominations Committee at the Annual Meeting.

Task: The Executive Director agrees to meet with the Nominations Committee at their annual winter meeting.

Task: Executive Director Jack Fitzmier will arrange a teleconference call of the Planning Committee to begin thinking about how things went with the last Strategic Plan and what we might do going forward toward a new plan.

Task: The Committee on Evaluating Committees will pursue the steps outlined in their report.

TASK: Executive Director Jack Fitzmier will send a report to chairs of committees that did not provide a report saying we expect a report.

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election by a simple majority of those who are members of the committee in the year prior to the beginning of the chair’s term, and who are not running for the position of chair; 3. In cases where more than one committee member wishes to serve as chair, and the vote of the committee members is tied, the current AAR president will cast the tie-breaking vote; 4. In the case where no continuing committee member is willing and available to serve as chair, the committee will nominate at least five external candidates, from which the president will appoint a new chair.

Motion 6. From the Status of Committees: We move that the procedure for appointing new committee members be altered in the following way: After considering nominations from the committee in question and from the general membership, the AAR president shall develop a list of the top five candidates for appointment, with rationales for each, and shall forward that list to the committee in question at least two weeks in advance of the time when s/he intends to make a final decision. The committee will then have the opportunity to make recommendations to the president as to the qualifications of each of the final nominees.

Action: David Kim moved that we approve the following response to these three motions (4, 5, & 6 above): The Board acknowledges the motions from SWP, CREM, and LGBTIQ and has initiated a discussion and evaluation of their implications. As these may involve significant changes from past practices and could entail by-law changes, we cannot fully respond to all of their implications at this meeting. We promise to continue our discussion of these motions, to give them full consideration, and to come to a decision regarding them at our fall meeting.

Vote: Passed Unanimously

Task: The Executive Committee agrees to take up discussion of the proposals from the Status of Committees and bring back to the Board recommendations regarding their contents.

Task: Member Advocate (Melanie Harris) agreed to write up the concerns that had been relayed to her and send them to Jack Fitzmier who will share them with the Executive Committee.

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appointed members from three to four. We also propose extending the time of service from three years to four. The terms of service can remain staggered so that every two years two Committee members will be replaced by two new members. Of the new members, one will be designated to serve as committee chair after two years on the committee. This designation will take place at the time of appointment. (This is based on current chair, Jonathan Walton, stepping down after 2013, Scott Kline assuming the chair of the Nominations Committee in 2014, and current member Deanna Thompson rolling off with Scott Kline in 2015 after four years without having served as chair. The current chair (Walton) will be replaced with two new members in 2013, one of which will be designated as chair. From this point forward, two will roll off and two will join every other year.)

**Warren Frisina moved:** That the Nominating Committee’s motion be tabled until such time as the Executive Director has had the opportunity to review the situation with the Nominations committee Chair.

**Votes for:** Elonda Clay, John Esposito, Jack Fitzmier, Warren Frisina, Susan Hill, Melanie Harris, David Kim, Roberto Lint Sagarena, Jin Park, Laurie Zoloth, Nellie Van Doorn Harder

**Votes against:** Thomas Tweed

**Motion to table passes.**

**Task:** Executive Director Jack Fitzmier agrees to contact the chair of the Nominations Committee to relay the news that The Board acknowledges the motion from Nominations and has initiated a discussion and evaluation of its implications. While we cannot fully respond to all of their implications at this meeting, we promise to continue our discussion of these motions, to give them full consideration, and to come to a decision regarding them at our fall meeting.

**Task:** The Executive Director agrees to bring alternatives regarding the timing of Annual Business Meeting and Presidential Address back to the Board.

**Warren Frisina moved that Jack Fitzmier and John Kutsko be asked to draft a letter to the Baltimore City Council (cc’d to Chamber of Commerce and the Convention Bureau) expressing our concern and asking their help.**

**Action:** Passed Unanimously

**TASK:** Jack Fitzmier will send an organizational chart outlining the AAR’s structure to the Board for its review.
Task: Jack Fitzmier will bring back a proposal to the board to promote awareness of the New Academy and specifically the many different types of careers that may be open to Ph.D.’s in the study of religion.

Melanie Harris moved that the AAR accept the requests by the Religious Education Association, The Society for Comparative Research on Iconic and Performance Texts, and the Asociacion de Cientistas Sociales de la Religion del Mercosur to become Related Scholarly Organizations.

Action: Motion Approved Unanimously

Task: Jack Fitzmier will send the ACLS statement to the Board and ask for confirmation of our willingness to add the AAR’s name to the others protesting the recent decision by the National Science Foundation not to support research in the area of political science.

Melanie Harris moved to move forward with the previously distributed plan to adjust our investments so that we divest ourselves from firms doing business in guns and ammunition, tobacco, gaming, pornography, and coal, and favor investments in firms pursuing renewable energy and clean technology and whose philosophy promotes reinvestment in local communities and human rights.

Action: Approved Unanimously

Motion to Adjourn
Action: Approved Unanimously