

# MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL AND GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY FOR HISTORIANS OF THE GILDED AGE AND PROGRESSIVE ERA

Friday, April 12, 2013

San Francisco, California

President Maureen Flanagan, Illinois Institute of Technology, called the council Meeting of the Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era to order. In addition to President Flanagan, the following SHGAPE Council, other members, and guests attended the meeting:

Lloyd Ambrosius, University of Nebraska, Lincoln

Kornel Chang, Rutgers University, Newark

Laura Etheredge, Cambridge University Press

Rosemary Feurer, Northern Illinois University (via Skype)

Wendy Gamber, Indiana University, Bloomington

Julie Greene, University of Maryland, College Park

Julia Irwin, University of South Florida

Benjamin Johnson, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

John McClymer, Assumption College

Jacqueline Moore, Austin College

Christopher Nichols, Oregon State University

Elaine Franz Parsons, Duquesne University

Nicole Phelps, University of Vermont

Phil VanderMeer, Arizona State University

Nancy Unger, Santa Clara University

Kidada Williams, Wayne State University (via Skype)

Maureen Flanagan reviewed minutes from the previous Annual Meeting (April 20, 2012). Minutes were adopted.

### President's Report (Maureen Flanagan).

Maureen announced that SHGAPE has made great strides over the past few years. SHGAPE's relationship with Cambridge University Press put the Society on sound financial footing and increased the visibility of the *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era*. Maureen noted that Laura Etheredge has submitted an application for *JGAPE* to be included in the Social Science Citation Index. Inclusion in the index means that *JGAPE* will receive an Impact Factor.

Maureen thanked incoming President Julie Greene for agreeing to assume the presidency after serving only one year as Vice President.

Maureen announced that the 2013 Vincent P. DeSantis Prize was awarded to Julia Ott (The New School) for *When Wall Street Met Main Street: The Quest for an Investors' Democracy* (Harvard University Press, 2011). Maureen thanked the members of the DeSantis Prize Committee (Nina Mjagkij, Ball State University, Chair; Benjamin Johnson, and Elaine Franz Parsons) for their hard work and successful efforts.

Maureen announced that *JGAPE* Editor Alan Lessoff is the 2013 recipient of the Roger D. Bridges Distinguished Service Award for a member of the Society who has contributed especially valuable and distinguished service to SHGAPE. The Award will be presented to Alan at the 2014 SHGAPE Luncheon.

Maureen thanked the Nominating Committee (Robert Cherny, San Francisco State University, Chair; Kate Masur, Northwestern University; Nicole Phelps; and John David Smith, University of North Carolina, Charlotte) for successfully recruiting Lloyd Ambrosius as Vice President/President Elect and three new Council members: Kornel Chang (Rutgers University, Newark), Rosemary Feurer (Northern Illinois University), and Axel Schaefer (Keele University).

Maureen thanked Nancy Unger for her outstanding service as *JGAPE*'s Book Review Editor and welcomed Elaine Franz Parsons, who has agreed to serve as Interim Book Review Editor.

Finally, Maureen noted that she has enjoyed serving as SHGAPE's President for the past three years. She explained that her long association with SHGAPE has enriched her scholarship and provided her with an important professional community. All present thanked her for her exceptional contributions to SHGAPE.

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Incoming President Julie Greene chaired the remainder of the meeting.

Julie thanked Maureen for her many contributions to SHGAPE. She also thanked Cambridge University Press, especially Journals Editor Laura Etheredge, for excellent service and for raising the profile of both the journal and the Society.

Julie proposed that she create a new ad hoc committee on fundraising and development. After the preceding meeting of *JGAPE*'s Editorial Board, Board member JoAnn Argersinger (Southern Illinois University) proposed some useful ideas for ways to raise funds, and agreed to chair such a committee. JoAnn is especially interested in connecting SHGAPE with initiatives such as History Day and with AP History teachers. The Council agreed with Julie's proposal.

In the interest of maintaining continuity, Julie suggested a new tradition: the outgoing President chair the Nominating Committee. Maureen graciously agreed to do so.

The Council then reviewed and acknowledged the written reports from committee chairs and editors that had been pre-circulated.

### Executive Secretary's Report. (Wendy Gamber).

Wendy reported that Cambridge University Press continues to do an excellent job of serving the needs of SHGAPE members. She thanked CUP staff members, including Laura Etheredge, Susan Soule, Alex Engel, Sam Murphy, Jonathan Geffner, James Conroy, and Helen Sunakawa for their prompt and efficient assistance.

Wendy reported that SHGAPE may want to consider switching to a bank that can accept electronic deposits.

Wendy reported that the shift to new online election software, Election Buddy, was successful. She thanked Laura Etheredge of Cambridge University Press for providing her with a list of SHGAPE members/eligible voters on short notice.

Finally, Wendy thanked JoAnn and Peter Argersinger, who once again made a generous donation to SHGAPE's Endowment Account, for their support of SHGAPE.

### Treasurer's Report. (Phil VanderMeer).

Last year Phil reported that SHGAPE's financial position had improved as a result of its relationship with Cambridge University Press, which brought the Society financial stability and reduced its expenses. This year SHGAPE's position is even stronger. The income generated from the Society's arrangement with CUP has increased its operating funds and reduced its expenses. SHGAPE can therefore comfortably meet its obligations, including prizes, the OAH reception, memberships in professional associations, and occasional office expenses. Even though low interest rates have reduced interest income, SHGAPE has surplus income. Discussions of uses of that surplus are included under "Other Business" below.

### Vice President/President-Elect, Program Committee. (Lloyd Ambrosius).

Lloyd Ambrosius, Vice President/President-Elect and Program Committee Chair, presented the report of the Program Committee (Lloyd Ambrosius, Kristin L. Hoganson, University of Illinois, Raymond Hyser, James Madison University, and Robert Kane, Niagara University). The Committee approved SHGAPE co-sponsorship of five proposals for the January 2014 annual meeting of the American Historical Association and two proposals for the April 2014 annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians.

The Program Committee will submit additional panel proposals solely sponsored by SHGAPE to both conferences. The Committee will consider sponsoring sessions that were proposed for but rejected by the OAH or AHA, and will accept other submissions as well.

### Membership Secretary (Julia Irwin).

Julia reported that SHGAPE currently has 149 Regular members, 31 Student members, 11 Patron/Sustaining members, and 29 Lifetime members. These numbers will rise over the course of the current year as delinquent members renew. Julia organized two membership renewal campaigns, which entailed sending personalized letters to each lapsed member.

Julia appointed a Membership Committee (Nathan Hallam, Arizona State University, Elaine Franz Parsons, and Rebecca Rix, Princeton University). Over the past year the Committee discussed means of increasing membership and making membership more attractive to both members and non-members. Julia stressed the importance of attracting more graduate student and junior faculty members. She also emphasized the need to reach out to prospective members who work in the period encompassed by SHGAPE, but who do not identify themselves primarily as scholars of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era.

With the support of the Membership Committee, Julia launched several initiatives. She created a SHGAPE Facebook page, which has approximately 180 members. She organized a group of volunteers to attend and report on SHGAPE-sponsored panels at the 2013 AHA and posted the reports to SHGAPE's Facebook page and H-SHGAPE. She also will post photos of the SHGAPE reception and luncheon to both pages.

### Annual Report, *JGAPE* (Alan Lessoff).

Alan's report summarized the contents of volumes 11 and 12 of the *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* and the tentative contents of volumes 13 and 14. His report also highlighted the initiatives that Cambridge University Press and Journals Editor Laura Etheredge have undertaken to publicize both *JGAPE* and SHGAPE. Alan also reported on future initiatives planned by Online Editor, John McClymer.

Alan's report noted the possible need for a *JGAPE* interim editor.

Wendy Gamber reported on behalf of the *JGAPE* Search Committee (Lloyd Ambrosius, Wendy Gamber, Julia Irwin, Kate Masur, Northwestern University, and Phil VanderMeer). The Committee identified and contacted potential candidates and advertised the position widely. The Committee received some very promising applications and is confident of making a successful appointment.

### H-SHGAPE (Jacqueline Moore, Julia Irwin, and Christopher McKnight Nichols).

Jacqueline reported that H-NET plans to adopt new software which will have implications for both H-SHGAPE and *JGAPE*. She also stressed the need to clarify the relationship between the H-SHGAPE Editors and the H-SHGAPE Editorial Board. In addition she discussed the desirability of developing means of better connecting H-SHGAPE and the online version of *JGAPE*. Suggestions included online seminars, hybrid book review (longer reviews on H-NET, shorter versions published in *JGAPE*), enhanced online versions of selected *JGAPE* articles, and article reviews.

Julie Greene appointed an ad hoc committee, consisting of Jacqueline Moore, John McClymer, *JGAPE*'s Online Editor, and Christopher Nichols to evaluate and improve SHGAPE's web presence and clarify the composition and responsibilities of H-SHGAPE's Editorial Board. They were advised to recruit two additional members of the committee.

### Other Business:

Those in attendance considered and approved the following recommendations.

- Create an additional book prize (\$500), this one not limited to first books.
- Annually offer \$250 awards to support travel to the OAH for up to five graduate student members who have had papers accepted on SHGAPE sessions. Award recipients will also receive complimentary tickets to the SHGAPE Luncheon.

The possibility of creating a dissertation prize and a lifetime achievement award was also discussed.

Finally, Julie reminded those present that the Nominating Committee must include one member of the Council and that she will need to constitute committees to select the recipients of the Fishel-Calhoun and *JGAPE* Article Prizes. It was suggested that past winners be asked to serve on these committees.

Julie Greene declared the meeting adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Wendy Gamber (Executive Secretary)

May 3, 2013