

ABS Board Meeting – Minutes

Date: 8 April 2015

Time: 15.00 – 18.00 p.m.

Location: Hawthorne Room, Marriott Downtown Waterfront Hotel, Portland, OR, USA

Prepared by: Paul Fryer

Attendees: OFFICERS

X **Martin van der Velde**, President

X **Akihiro Iwashita**, President-Elect and Program Chair

X **Victor Konrad**, Past President

X **Martha Patricia Barraza de Anda**, First Vice-President

X **Guadalupe Correa-Cabrera**, Second Vice President

X **Jussi Laine** Executive Secretary and Treasurer

X **James Scott**, Vice Executive Secretary

X **Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly**, JBS Editor (arrived 15.52)

ABS BOARD

X **Christophe Sohn** (New) (arrived 15.11)

X **Joan Anderson** (New)

X **Adriana Dorfman** (New)

X **Francisco Lara-Valencia** (arrived 15.15)

X **Kathleen Staudt**

X **Naomi Chi**

X **Paul Richardson**

Anne-Laure Amilhat Szary (absent)

X **T. Mark Montoya** (arrived 15.22)

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X **Christopher Brown**, Bylaws Revision Committee, Chair (arrived 16.55)

X **Paul Fryer**, secretarial assistant

1. Welcome

1.1 Call to order by **Martin VDV** at 15.07

1.2 Attendance **Jussi L**

Attendance is taken. According to the bylaw, we need more that 50% of members attending, which we have, so have the right to proceed. But we will have proper introductions when all arrive (no objections).

1.3 Introduction of Board Members, 2nd VP **Martin VDV**

Congratulations to **Guadalupe CC** as new second vice president.

1.4 Approval of agenda, additions **Martin VDV**

Asks **Kathy S** to ensure rules are followed.

Agenda approved at 15.10 (Motion by **Martin VDV**, seconded by **Jussi L**)

2. Review of Previous Minutes

2.1 Approve/Edit Previous Minutes **Martin VDV**

Review of previous minutes, some typos but general assent that they acceptable.

Minutes approved at 15.13 (Motion by **Martin VDV**, seconded by **Victor K**)

2.2 Matters arising from the last meeting **Martin VDV**

Are there any issues from the last meeting?

Martin VDV – issues from last time are all on today's agenda and include:

- the phasing out print copies
- travels grants
- re-evaluation of the ABS executive and if a separate treasurer is needed?
- UVic funds that have been transferred
- re-evaluation of sponsoring
- editorial board/female editor for NA

2.3 Actions taken since previous meeting **Martin VDV**

- 2.3.1 President **Martin VDV** – easy year, no major issues
 - have been trying to increasing visibility of ABS globally, ABS India was a good step, ABS in China is gaining a toehold, ABS Europe will be in Luxembourg in 2016, Tony Payan organising a conference on the Mexican-Guatemalan border
 - some room to improve the ABS organisation in terms of defining tasks, part of bylaws to clarify, have some propositions to be discussed later
 - **Kathy S** comment – thanks to **Martin VDV** for leadership, has been responsive, good representation
- 2.3.2 Executive secretary **Jussi L** – has been working with president, nothing new
 - financial matters to be discussed in Section 3.
- 2.3.3 Nomination Committees **Martin VDV** – will be discussed in Section 11.
 - student award committee had no submissions

2.4 Items to be completed **Martin VDV**

- 2.4.1 ABS Bylaws revision - will have a report at 17.00 on bylaws by **Christopher B**

1.3 Introduction of Board Members and attendees (postponed from earlier) **Martin VDV**, **Christophe S**, **Paul F**, **Jussi L**, **Martin VDV**, **Mark M**, **Victor K**, **Adriana D**, **Francisco LV**, **Guadalupe CC**, **James S**, **Patricia B**, **Paul R**, **Naomi C**, **Kathy S**, **Joan A**, **Akihiro I**

3 Annual Report 2014

3.1 Treasurer's report **Jussi L**

Detailed slides with full financial details provided.

- 3.1.1 ABS 2014 account **Jussi L**
 - One issue is that the UEF admin is still paying operating costs of ABS, meaning that we have some extra budget.

- 2014 exceptional year because of the ABS world conference, which brought 111 new members and new revenues.
- WSSA still charges \$2200 for our participation even though numbers have increased.
- Q - **Kathy S** – 2 questions 1) how common is it to invest in editorship in other associations? 2) last year discussed new policy about people in programme having paid dues only – has it been applied?
- **Jussi L** 1) can't answer. **Victor K** notes that most journals receive some support from associations, usually find a mixture of money for editors, stipends because so much time, and then some money for assistants who do daily work. This is basic for all journals. **Kathy S** points out that Routledge provides copy editors, but **Victor K** answers that there is so much work beyond the copy editors. **Joan A** notes that in the past some universities paid for assistants. **Martin VDV** points out that board meetings are combined with editorial meetings. **Jussi L** points out that up until 2013, there were separate accounts for ABS and JBS, so now ABS gets the revenues directly to our account.
- **Jussi L** 2) we have implemented the payment system, but there are always people who try to get out of it. Also people complain about the 2 payments, but WSSA a completely separate issue. **Kathy S** suggests that other associations have strict payment deadlines, we could do the same.
- Q - **Francisco LV** – contribution of UEF – what is it? **Jussi L** – the funding is only for the management of the secretariat that can only be spent on costs within the university, though some costs are also covered including printing, travel, etc. **Francisco LV** notes that this is very efficient, would be good if this could be replicated in the future. **Jussi L** states that the UEF's annual support is twice the budget of the entire ABS – wouldn't be possible to run if we didn't have institutional support. **Martin VDV** notes that this is an important issue – must be clear that running the secretariat means that institutional support is necessary. **Francisco LV** – important as the association's prestige grows and other institutions may want to be associated with it. And allow the journal to grow.
- Q - **Patricia B** – important issue to discuss is how to increase membership and institutional support? **Martin VDV** – we will return to this in Section 8.1. **Patricia B** – but we received 111 new members last year? **Jussi L** – more details later.
- 3.1.2 Prognosis in-between reports **Jussi L**
 - Don't have a huge profit, about €6000, so approximately €2300 is put aside for the running of the secretariat. But last year the secretariat didn't take any of this amount due to the support of the UEF – but maybe in future.
 - **Martin VDV** – important to have prognoses, even if approximate because we need to be able to handle special requests. **Jussi L** has been asked to provide accounts every 4 months – not detailed, but basic figures.
- 3.1.3 Requests accepted **Martin VDV**
 - these were handled by e-mail. **Emmanuel BJ**'s request to be discussed later and **Jussi L**'s request for €3000 for running costs. This latter request was accepted, but will be withdrawn because there the 40% maximum rule.

- 3.1.4 Currency alteration and its effects **Jussi L**
 - because of the drop in the value of the euro, some costs are higher. But this cannot be avoided.
- 3.1.5 T&F agreement **Jussi L**
 - We want to withdraw the printed copy of the journal. Last year T&F noticed that most people not taking printed copies, so new addendum from T&F to take payments from people who only take online version.
- 3.1.6 Update of dues review **Jussi L**
 - most people opting for online version

3.2 Secretary Report **Jussi L**

Detailed slides provided.

- 3.2.1 Membership update **Jussi L**
 - many changes in numbers and composition. Perhaps fewer members this year because ABS World was a peak.
- 3.2.2 Non-profit status ABS **Jussi L & Martin VDV**
 - should we update our status, still be registered in NM?
 - **Jussi L** doesn't think that we should change things, it is beneficial to ABS, we just have to remember to pay for registration in NM. Some practical issues now that the Secretariat is in Europe, but overall it is a good arrangement.
- 3.2.3 Future plans and co-operation with UACJ **James S**
 - before the end of last year UEF made an agreement of co-operation with UACJ, now need to fill it with content. An issue is that the UEF is not interested in co-operation at the Bachelor's level, but there will be a seminar in the autumn.
 - **Patricia B** – we tried to participate in Horizon 2020, but Mexico is not involved, so we are working and looking for other opportunities. Looking at opening up a PhD in Border Studies at the university. It takes time, but we have the agreement.
 - **Martin VDV** – but this is only UEF-UACJ, we need to think about broader ABS participation.

Jussi L – proposes motion that Emmanuel speaks now. 16.20 (seconded by **Martin VDV**)

7. Journal of Borderlands Studies Emmanuel BJ

Detailed slides provided by speaker.

- 7.1 & 7.2 Annual Report from editors and reappointment of the editors **Emmanuel JB**
 - list of regional editors, all have been worried about the work, he expects that some of current editors will step out after 1 year. So need to look out for people who can speak languages and can bridge languages, and who have excellent English. He will have statistics on the work that each people do (number of articles that they review, etc) next year. Now that almost all submissions are through the website, the

challenge is to speed up the review process and plan for less than 1 year production. At the moment, it is at 1 year of production. Reminder of 1 thing that has been bothering him all year – someone to replace him for the North American editor. **Heather Nicol** has almost accepted, but tasks will be split with **Kate Friedman**. He will screen papers now and reject some – before they used to send all to review, but now can't. They are also broadening the scope of the journal.

- **Joan A** agrees that this is a good idea.
 - Q – **Victor K** – if the journal is going to be expanding into the humanities, then don't we need to have an associate editor from humanities? **Emmanuel JB** – Yes, that will be done.
 - Q – **Paul R** – what about open access – will we move there with Routledge? **Emmanuel JB** – doesn't want to answer this, it would be expensive, his goal has been to make it a journal for the world.
- **Emmanuel JB** – has requested a renewal of funding for 2015.
 - Big issue – it is approx. 4 months average amount of time from submission to first decision, but this is coming down. Review of the numbers of submissions, etc. Over the next couple of years there will be 2 special issues per year.
 - Q – **Victor K** – for the book award, I use the reviews. But there are so few book reviews – could we have more book reviews or allow us to go outside the book reviews to determine the award? **Emmanuel JB** – hope for up to 20 book reviews in future, working with **James S**.
 - Q – **Joan A** – because people mainly subscribe online, will people get e-mails informing them when something is published? **Emmanuel JB** – he will be sending out e-mails about going to the website.

9. Presentation by WSSA Executive Secretary Larry Gould

Martin VDV – many thanks to WSSA.

- 9.1 WSSA-ABS relations
 - we are happy with our the relationship, what can we do for ABS to make things better? We want to facilitate your needs, but we need to hear from you. Very interested in getting feedback.
- 9.2 Internet and audio-visual needs
 - – last year we have improved this, have projectors in every room. But this is expensive, and maybe next year we will have to increase the fee by \$10. But overall prices dropping.
 - Internet – we only have internet if someone is in an officially disabled category – too expensive otherwise.
- 9.3 Guestroom pickup; overflow; VIP accommodations
 - some people haven't registered, but we sorting it out. They were able to arrange the overflow easily this year, but in future we have to think about what we can do – in Denver we were charged extra because we didn't make our quota. Will be working

with a marketing director to grow, ABS is growing, which is good but charges may change in the future.

- Will have expensive hotels coming up – San Francisco, San Diego – we will try and get discounts but no promises.
- 9.4 Scheduling; last minute changes to the program
 - we have tried our best, hopefully no major problems.
- 9.5 Catering
 - biggest cost, gone up a lot.
- 9.6 Future conferences
 - don't know yet, we have lots of ideas. We're also interested in knowing where you want to go, have had good feedback from some ABS members.

Jussi L – time running out, we need to go on.

- 3.2.4 Call for next ABS secretariat **Martin VDV**
 - Current UEF secretariat ends in 2017, we need some time for transition, need to think about how to organise the next call. What needs to be in the call? Time frame – good to have an overlap, so if the term ends in May 2017, need a transition of 6 months according to **Jussi L**, so by autumn next year we need to have a decision. So we should prepare a call, as time is needed to approach and encourage candidates to write proposals. I am proposing a 2-tiered process – first statements of interest, then they can go on. Schedule – draft in September 2015, so that we can have statements of interest by the next ABS meeting and can select the candidates to go on. In autumn 2016 we can have a Skype meeting to make the decision. Is this feasible and if so, who will draft a call? There is the old one to follow.
 - **Jussi L** – have been discussing this with **Martin VDV**, last time for UEF it was too short of a period of time, too much work to get the bureaucracy done, too much stress, and then we were expected to pick up operations immediately after the decision.
- **Martin VDV** – Motion: should we send a call out in September 2015? 17.57 (motion by **Martin VDV**, seconded by **Jussi L**) Yes (no one opposed)
- **Martin VDV** – Volunteers to draft the call, which will then be sent around to all for comments? **Joan A, Jussi L, Francisco LV and Naomi C.**

8. Task Force Report

- 8.2 Revision of ABS Bylaws Christopher B
 - 2 e-mails with detailed information were sent to **Martin VDV** and **Jussi L** 2 days ago and were then forwarded to other ABS members.
 - Based on existing bylaws, changing bylaws can be passed by the Board with a simple majority then bring decision to membership.

- Splitting the job between the executive secretary and treasurer. In the bylaws these should be separate, but in practice they have been combined in 1 person.
- The executive – according to the bylaws, the president has a lot of power – but the practice has been that the board shares the power. But what happens if we want to remove the president?
- In the bylaws we have no possibility for Skype, phone, e-mail participation and/or voting – we need this. At the moment, this is not allowed unless you have an executive decision.
- Suggestion to remove board members who miss 2 meetings is permissible.
- bilingual publications – doesn't have to be in bylaws, up to the Board.
- opening up meetings to the membership? Would be too unruly, but up to the Board.
- If we would have the bylaws really cleaned up, then many issues would not be presenting themselves today.
- Q - **Martin VDV** – what do you suggest that we do now?
- Q - **Victor K** – another issue concerning the executive secretary and treasurer – auditing, do we have checks and balances?
- Discussion on what to be brought to the membership on Friday, 10 April 2015.
- Should we keep the executive secretary and treasurer together? **Jussi L** says that the tasks are interrelated, more complicated if separated, but a lot of work for 1 person. **Joan A** suggests that we need a separate audit committee to maintain checks and balances. So will keep them together and put into the bylaws (Motion by **Joan A**, seconded by **Kathy S**)
- Who makes the decisions? Board and officers should have the power. **Victor K** says that this has always been the case. Need to clarify in the bylaws.
- E-mail/Skype – yes, allow it, add to bylaws.
- if absent twice, then someone can be removed.
- Q – **Adriana D** – as ABS expands, it makes participation in this decision making difficult, thus disenfranchising many people. How can we ensure their inclusion? Digital voting by membership?
- Bilingual issues – does this need to be in the bylaws? **Jussi L** – we don't have the time or resources, even if it's a good idea. Not for the bylaws.
- Need an auditing committee. Each executive committee member will take a turn to be the auditor.
- Don't need to have an *ad hoc* committee of past-presidents in the bylaws.
- **Guadalupe CC** – **Christopher B** should continue in his role working with the bylaws.
- **Christopher B** will prepare a short concise statement to present to the membership.

4. Sponsoring

- 4.1 Granting funding requests **Martin VDV**

- ABS sponsored, they received \$2500 (more than allowed), but Japan-US seminar, if need funds, can have them. Aki is asking for nominal funding so that ABS can be named.
- Q – **Adriana D** – how can we get funds sent to them for their conference? **Martin VDV** – will discuss in future.
- 4.2 Review of protocol and policy for funding requests **Martin VDV**
 - Want to revise protocol for grants. Currently only 1 deadline per year for 2 requests for up to \$1000 – want to get rid of this, no deadlines, first-come, first-served basis. Can go up to \$2000 per grant depending on what the treasurer says is possible.
 - **Victor K** - against having unlimited sum – need to have a guideline. Martin VDV says that the treasurer will protect this.
- General discussion - Don't cap the number of grants, just the amount. We will think about this.
- Q - **Christophe S** – a deadline is necessary, otherwise how do you balance the budget? **Martin VDV** thinks that the deadline didn't work in the past; requests were always received after the deadlines. We will write a proposal and then share it.
- 4.3 Non-financial endorsements, visibility
 - ?

5. Policy proposals Martin VDV

- 5.1 Linking ABS with project, conferences
 - 5.1.1 Non-financial endorsements, visibility
 - 5.1.2 ABS representation
- **Martin VDV** – we will make proposals in writing and maybe carry them to the next board meeting.
- 5.2 Regional development, chapters
 - People are proposing regional chapters, including **Akihiro I** is proposing a Japanese one. But do these need to be in the bylaws?
 - **Akihiro I** says that border studies increasing in Japan, doesn't want a bylaw, but maybe an ABS chapter where they speak in Japanese. People will join the main ABS, but then we will have separate Japanese events. It will be tried out this year.
 - **Francisco LV** says that there has to be a procedure in the bylaws for chapters. This process should be formalised.
 - **Martin VDV** says that we need a group to work on this and then suggest bylaws. And not just on regional chapters, but also speciality groups. **Akihiro I** (assisted by **Naomi C**) and **Francisco LV** and **Adriana D** will form this committee.
- 5.3 presidential tasks **Martin VDV**
 - suggestion that vice-president would be responsible for organising all the committees. Past president for book award.
- 5.4 ABS support for the Secretariat **Martin VDV**

- want to change the amount so that it 40% or up to €7000. This can be renegotiated in future depending on the next host secretariat. (motion by **Francisco LV**, **Jussi L** seconds). Passed, no one opposed.

6 ABS conferences

- 6.1 Regional conferences **Martin VDV**
 - Members are making reports at this conference in sessions, please listen in the sessions about their success.
- 6.2 Prospects for the next World Congress **Jussi L**
 - Call for next ABS World Congress, lots of detail, can't force anyone to accept, can we amend the idea that it has to circulate?
 - 6.2.1 Received Statements of Interest
 - 3 good European statements of interest already. If we need to get it out of Europe, then how can we reject these? Or what could be the new instructions?
 - Current proposals:
 - 1) Vienna – Budapest (100th anniversary of end of Austro-Hungarian monarchy)
 - 2) Chemnitz – Czech borderlands
 - 3) Budapest Think Tank – no other partner/ border element
 - **Francisco LV** – good reasons to reopen the call for proposals, need to diversify, need to be proactive by members of the board, we have time.
 - **Guadalupe CC** – we can help, keep the final deadline, but extend the call for statements of intent.
 - **Martin VDV** – but we have a 2-tiered system, so how will we maintain this by inviting new institutions?
 - **Victor K** – thinks that institutions have had enough time, people are afraid of the work.
 - **Jussi L** feels that we will not get any other applications – lots of interest, but people afraid of the work.
 - **Patricia B** – good call, but not easy to meet the requirements, so we should just take the ones we have.
 - **Guadalupe CC** – but we need to have diversity, if people need to follow all the requirements then all future congresses will be in Europe or the US.
 - **Jussi L** – but this is only the biggest ABS event, regional ones meet other requirements for other regions
 - **Paul R** – massive message on choice, so does it send out the wrong signal if only European proposals?
 - **Victor K** – we need to honour the proposals, we have to go with one of them, but we should internationalise the call. The winning call will be asked to have representatives on the org committee from other regions – internationalises the call, and builds experience in some regions to be used for future calls.
 - **Adriana D** – it important that the winning proposal's location is easy to get to.

- Q – **Kathy S** – the third proposal doesn't cross a border, can we propose that it merges with first? Do we have the right/ don't breach confidentiality?
- **Francisco LV** – we can still extend the first call without dishonouring the received calls.
- Motion to extend current call for statements of interest until the end of May (by **Martin VDV**, seconded by **Francisco LV**). Passed unopposed

8. Task Force Report

- 8.1 Update: Stage II – Guiding ABS Growth and diversity **Victor K**
 - Suggestion – look at last *La Frontera*, he has written about the suggestions. Only contentious issue – do we leave or stay with WSSA?
 - **Guadalupe CC** – I am against leaving, we don't have the capacity, we've had a good relationship.
 - **Victor K** – some people thought that maybe we were already grown up and could do it on our own. But do people agree that it would be a good thing?
 - **Martin VDV** – suggestion to change the task name for the implementation committee, we will return to this in next issue of *La Frontera*.

10. ABS Awards

- 10.1 Lifetime Achievement Award **Jussi L**
 - This year given to Ellwyn Stoddard
- 10.2 Student Paper Award **Martin VDV**
 - no submissions
- 10.3 Best Paper Award **Kathy S**
 - 1 submission, it was good enough to win. We have \$500 for it, but perhaps it wasn't worth such an amount.
 - After a discussion, it was noted that the award is not funded with ABS money so the decision stands.
- 10.4. Past Presidents' Book Awards **Victor K**
 - 15 reviews, 4 finalists, committee read the books. Will have one last meeting on Thursday for the final decision. **Victor K** has a recommendation that next year they can go outside the JBS reviews for evaluation process.
 - **Francisco LV** – the book editor has to be more pro-active to get books.
 - **James S** – constraints in number of reviews, or else we can pre-select the books for review. Or can we limit the book awards to ABS members?
 - **Guadalupe CC** – a committee could select the list of reviews.
 - **Francisco LV** – need a well-crafted process.
 - **Martin VDV** – we can justify that it was the best book of those reviewed in JBS.
 - **Victor K** – but what's the message that we are giving out to the border studies community if we limit ourselves to the few that we review? Next year we need to increase the number of reviews.

- 10.5 Re-evaluation of the procedures **Martin VDV**
 - Need to have separate calls for best paper and best student paper awards in January, at the moment the calls are hidden.

11. Nominating Committees and Procedures Martin VDV

- 11.1 Reconsideration of the current selection and election system
 - 11.1.1 2nd VP elections **Martin VDV**
 - Problem in past years that only 2 candidates, so proposal of self-nominations, 2 tiers
 - **Jussi L** – need more time, better to have more than 2 candidates.
 - **Martin VDV** – first round candidates no later than September.
 - **Akihiro I** wants to hear **Francisco LV**'s opinion. **Francisco LV** thinks that it is an improvement.
- Q – **Patricia B** – need to have this in the bylaws? **Martin VDV** – yes, good idea.
- **Paul R** – to avoid many people, need at least 2 members to support their nomination. (Motion by **Jussi L**, seconded by **Naomi C**; amended by **Martin VDV** and seconded by **Francisco LF**). Passed, no one opposed
- 11.2 Nominating committees **Martin VDV**
 - following people have been selected as heads of committees:
 - 11.2.1 For 3 new members – **Guadalupe CC**
 - 11.2.2 For election of 2nd VP – **Guadalupe CC**
 - 11.2.3 For Past Presidents' book awards, Lifetime achievement award – **Victor K**
 - 11.2.4 For student award – **Guadalupe CC**
 - 11.2.5 For Best Paper Award – **Guadalupe CC**
 - Q – **Guadalupe CC** – should I have helpers with my committees? Do I choose them? Yes, then inform the president.
 - Q – **Patricia B** – is the procedure for choosing the best student paper/ paper working?
 - **Martin VDV** – the big problem is that the calls aren't very visible and should be opened earlier.
 - **Akihiro I** – need some sentences in the main call.
 - **Kathy S** – we should think in future about having a student caucus.

12. ABS 2015 Annual Meeting Report Akihiro I

- read la Frontera

13. Other notes or Information

- Q – **Patricia B** – for the annual meeting could we ask for the full conference papers in advance? This a lot of work, but is it good for ABS?
- **Martin VDV** – up to the programme chair, if you want to do that next year then you can.
- **Akihiro I** – it is too much work.

14. Next meeting Martine VDV

- It will be in Reno NV next year.

15. Adjournment

- **Martin VDV** makes motion, **Jussi L** seconds, none opposed. 18.48