

ABS EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND BOARD MEETING - MINUTES 2016

Date: Wednesday, 13 April 2016, 14:30 – 18:00

Shasta Meeting room, Grand Sierra Resort and Casino, Reno, NV, USA

Prepared by: Paul Fryer 9.5.2016

ATTENDEES:

Officers

Akihiro Iwashita, President

Martha Patricia Barraza de Anda, President-Elect and Programme Chair

Martin van der Velde, Past President

Guadalupe Correa-Cabrera, First Vice-President

Francisco Lara-Valencia, Second Vice President

Jussi Laine, Executive Secretary and Treasurer

James Scott, Vice Executive Secretary

Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly, JBS Editor (arrived at 17.00)

ABS Board

Dhananjay Tripathi (New)

César M. Fuentes (New)

Laurie Trautman (New)

Christophe Sohn

Joan Anderson

Paul Richardson

T. Mark Montoya

Paul Fryer, secretarial assistant

Absent Board Members:

Adriana Dorfman

Anne-Laure Amilhat Szary

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ABS BOARD MEETING

1. Welcome (14:55)

1.1. Call to Order by **Jussi L** at **14:55**

1.2. Attendance taken by **Jussi L**, including introduction of Board members.

1.3. Introduction of new Board Members by **Guadalupe CC**

The process for selecting new members was explained, highlighted that the new members represent the world as ABS extends to all parts of the world. No problems experienced in the process. The 3 new members – **Laurie T**, **César F**, **Dhananjay T** – introduced themselves.

Jussi L – additionally, **Francisco LV**, won the election to vice-president, which he formally assumes after this meeting.

1.4. Approval of the Agenda by **Jussi L**

Members received the draft by e-mail 20 days ago, comments were received and incorporated, the final agenda was sent out 7 days ago so should be OK to be approved at **15:01**.

2. Review of Previous Minutes (15:02)

2.1. Approve/Edit Previous Minutes by **Jussi L**

I did not bring them along, I asked for comments by e-mail earlier. The board confirmed the approval of the previous minutes at **15:02**.

2.2. Matters arising from the last meeting by **Jussi L**

Most are detailed as own items in agenda and will be discussed in order.

- Bylaws are the key issue, for which you've seen a draft prepared by **Christopher Brown** who was unable to come.
- Therefore, there will be a special bylaw meeting on Friday, 15.4 at 17-18.00, taking place just before the general business meeting in order to report to the membership.
- We will need to make a board decision soon, which can be done electronically – we do not have to wait 1 year, had a slow start but now have momentum. No reason to postpone it. I will explain the process later in the agenda.

2.3. Actions Taken Since Previous Meeting

Jussi L – overview of actions taken, there should be no surprises.

- 2.3.1. President **Akihiro I**
 - Welcome back to Reno, good place to have debates and work because you can't leave the hotel. Warning to **Francisco LV** that the most difficult position is the president elect, afterwards things were easier because of the secretary' work.
 - ABS chapter-making, after the last meeting we tried to make a trial Japan chapter, which will be discussed later, but I believe that it has worked out well, it helped to organise the Oceania meeting in New Zealand.
 - It is important to expand globally, but also need to have balance with the original US-Mexico border focus.
- 2.3.2. Executive Secretary **Jussi L**
 - What I do is pretty standard, actions taken together with the president, involved in making ABS visible.
 - I helped to organise the Juarez meeting, I have been co-operating with BRIT, made links with other networks and have tried to get them more involved in, e.g. ABS World, have tried to get more people involved – the end result has been good, but it is a long-term process – my work is reflected in an expanding membership.
 - Secretariat organised elections and took part in award processes, e.g. life-time achievement for Paul Ganster.
 - Not really many big issues to report on, rather small everyday issues that cannot wait for the annual meetings – I approach the board more often to try and take care of small issues throughout the year.
 - Q – Do people like dealing with issues electronically, is it formal enough? Yes, most people agree. Is it transparent and formal enough? Most concur, **Guadalupe CC** suggest that at this point it is fine and can be re-examined in future if necessary.

- I know that every year our association with the WSSA comes up – I feel that we are independent, but it very nice to have them organise everything for our meetings, it is too difficult to organise conferences if one is not physically present.
- 2.3.3. Nomination Committees by **Patricia BdA/ Guadalupe CC**
 - **Guadalupe CC** – for the student or best paper award, we did not get any submissions at all, people do not prepare papers in advance. Maybe we need to be more selective?
 - **Patricia BdA** – we invited people to publish papers in a CD and we received 8-10 abstracts – we need to change the culture, to do something.
 - **Guadalupe CC** – problem with the structure – we want to conference to be well attended, we need the organisation to be growing, but we need to find an answer to this contradiction if we accept all the papers.
 - **Jussi L** – a structural problem, but not an easy question. Participants do not just come to present but to network, and as you pointed out this meeting is important for attendance and membership. So the harder the requirements, the fewer people come, so our revenues go down, our activities go down. We should ask for papers, but we need to offer something back – people are too selective about where they send their papers.
 - **Christophe S** – at the RSA, everyone who sends an abstract can attend the conference. But they organise competitions/ awards for those who send their full papers. **Jussi L** – so should we have more attractive awards? **James S** – getting a RSA award is incentive enough. But asking for full papers will shut people out, no one does this anymore. But what happens is that some associations will organise conferences with the target to publish a special issue of a journal. But this would need planning how to organise.
 - **Laurie T** – if you do not receive enough student papers, then can you base the award on the student presentations? This is more feasible for students as many are working on their dissertations and have no time to prepare written papers. **Martin VdV** – then we would have to have student sessions, where everyone could evaluate the presentations. **Guadalupe CC** – how many students actually attend? **Jussi L** – I do not know, because membership does not mean attendance. This info exists, but the WSSA has it.
 - **Mark M** – could we set due dates? Also, could we have separate types of sessions that would differentiate between people with papers vs those just giving presentations? **Francisco LV** – good idea, if we did that then we could involve practitioners and increase our membership. Workshops would also attract these types and students. **Laurie T** – with workshops then you might have concrete outcomes.
 - Q – **Francisco LV** – since we are doing this as a part of WSSA, do we have the autonomy to organise different types? **Jussi L** – yes. **Francisco LV** – maybe we need a committee to think about how to get people more engaged?
 - **Dhananjay T** – 2 points – we need to think about incentives, need to increase the cash prize. Also we could promise a student a publication, then they may be more interested. Publications are so important.
 - **Patricia BdA** – are you thinking to discuss the new online submission system of WSSA that we may adopt later? **Jussi L** – I have opted out in order to see how it works, but we have leverage – they ask our opinions.

- **Jussi L** – regarding a requirement to submit papers – in our bylaws and on the website, it states that with membership you have access to the annual meeting. So if you make a paper submission a requirement, then we would nullify our bylaw. We all need publications, but it is difficult to guarantee a publication, JBS is packed, at the moment you may wait 2.5 years to see it in print.
- **Joan A** – we can promise that a paper will be considered and submitted to a journal, but still has to go through a review.
- Q – **Paul R** – do papers for the book award still have to go to the journal Regions and Cohesions as stated on the website? I would not want my paper to be published in this particular journal, this can put people off. **Jussi L** – nothing in the bylaw, this is a personal deal between **Emmanuel BJ** and **Harlan Koff** that we have followed, but it does not have to be so. **Paul R** – then this should be changed on the website. **Christophe S** – the issue of linking awards to publications is tricky, sometimes the quality is questionable, sometimes you do not want to have it published in that particular journal. It really is not a question of money, but we need to make the award symbolic with prestige – then we will have submissions. Also, if we start to organise more subcategories of papers and presentations, then the annual meeting will be more complicated to manage.
- Q – **Jussi L** – would the short-term solution be to simplify the process of student papers and just have 1 award and pool the money? No one else supports the awards financially, just ABS.
- **Francisco LV** – I agree with **Christophe S**, so we should put more money towards travel. We can then publicise that the award winner will be supported financially to attend the meeting. This can have a deadline attached. Q – How do we increase the student participation in the conference? Can we link the student participation to professors who attend? Another issue is how to make people who attend bring a paper – it should not be a condition because we would be hurt financially, but we need to find a way.
- **Laurie T** – we want to use the student awards to get more students involved in the organisation. **Jussi L** – if we focus on the student papers, then the prestige with an award should be enough, but students do not attend because they do not have money to attend. **Francisco LV** – can we separate the submission of student papers in order to make it early enough so that we can identify the best ones and pay for their travel/ attendance? **Joan A** – that is a reasonable idea, put the call out in September, have a committee to select the best ones. **Jussi L** – do we need to create a committee for student awards? Q – **Patricia BdA** – for students, we require a letter from their supervisor and last year I had many queries about this – do we really need it?
- **Christophe S** – and a committee for the best paper award, the text at the moment is very confusing and very narrow – unappealing.
- Q – **Patricia BdA** – What I have seen from other associations is a volume of published proceedings – is this too crazy? **Guadalupe CC** – it lowers the quality of a journal.
- **Jussi L** – do I make a proposal to redesign the awards? Volunteers – **Francisco LV**, **Christophe S**, and **Laurie T** – and **Guadalupe CC** will be the committee chair.
- **Jussi L** – proposes, **Francisco LV** – seconds at **15:53**

2.4. Items to be Completed (15:54)

Jussi L – there just one issue to discuss.

- 2.4.1. ABS Bylaws revision
 - Something that will take more time than today, will have the extra meeting on Friday, but you received the draft.
 - **Christopher B** in charge of this process, the timing did not synchronise well and I did not get many comments, so I told him to go ahead. I received **Francisco LV's** and **Joan A's** comments 10 minutes before he sent the draft. Good comments. Are people able to attend on Friday?
 - One issue is why do we mention the WSSA so often in the bylaws? We should not mention it because we choose to associate with them, but are independent and may change our minds in future. **Jussi L** – do we all agree on this? General agreement.
 - **Guadalupe CC** – I get many comments in Mexico about the double registration fee – it keeps people away and should not be in the bylaws. **Jussi L** – we can organise our meetings separately but then it is more work. Easy to say let's do it, but then when people get busy... So we can propose to **Christopher B** to remove these issues – we will discuss this on Friday. We can add things like ABS World, regional chapters, etc... but it better to keep things simple.
 - **Guadalupe CC** – the bylaws are good, well-considered, just some small things. **Joan A** – issue about the second vice president, what is necessary in the bylaws? **Paul R** – about dues, could you state that if the rise goes above X%, then you would need to **Joan A** – no, keep it out, just set the procedure. **Jussi L** – yes, the fees need to be removed. **Joan A** – and also about dues changes needing 2/3 majority – maybe simple majority? 2/3 board members? **Francisco LV** – did **Christopher B** get help? **Jussi L** – yes, but unclear who helped. **Joan A** – the bylaws are important because we need to keep our tax-free status. **Jussi L** – I think that everyone is on the same page on bylaws and we will discuss this on Friday. I made a change that the currency of the ABS needs to be in the national currency of the secretariat, otherwise it is too difficult.

3. Annual Report 2015 (16:13)

3.1. Treasurer's Report by **Jussi L** (supplemented by PPT)

- I will go quickly through this, it was sent in advance, and I have tried to keep you up to date.
- As you know, the secretariat is supported financially by the UEF, my costs are paid by the UEF, etc. None of this is in the ABS financial report because it separate, but want to acknowledge it. We made €10000 revenue last year, mainly because the UEF covers the costs. But our revenues are higher than our costs – the big expenses are what we pay for the journal, some secretarial costs, i.e. websites, online payment system, last year's annual meeting, donations to some smaller meetings, travel expenses of people who are invited to the annual meeting.
- Royalties have gone up, Routledge payment has gone up. The contract with Routledge expires next year so we can renegotiate to get more revenue.
- Most revenues come from membership dues. I see the tendency that revenues are increasing.
- Q – **Laurie T** – can you estimate what your costs are, since the secretariat will move next year? **Jussi L** – this is difficult, have been discussing this, if I put all my costs to ABS (including

social costs), this budget would sustain us for 3-4 months in Finland. Perhaps longer in another country.

3.2. Secretary's Report by **Jussi L (supplemented by PPT)**

- This is about the membership. Our membership peaked in 2014 because of ABS World, and while it fell in 2015 we kept about half of those new members. Also, our membership has been getting broader, involving more countries.

11. Presentation by **WSSA Executive Secretary Larry Gould and Michèle Companion (16:25)**

- Welcome to Reno, ABS is always welcome, not just because of numbers, but also due to the internationality that it adds.
- I shared with **Jussi L** some of the places that we are planning to go, including New Orleans in 2021 – would ABS be interested? We want to include you as much as possible, we consider the size and location of the airport, we will do a survey. We still want to do something in Mexico but difficulties with this. Canada is expensive for catering. Probably we will not return to Reno because attendance is down due to location. **Michèle Companion** – if you come up with another candidate, we will think about it. **Larry G** – Seattle will not bid. The closer we are to the Mexican border, the more Mexicans attend – closer to the northern border, more Canadians attend. There are trade-offs.
- **Larry G** – In future, we need help – we are having problems getting bilingual student helpers.
- **Michèle C** – just wanted to say hi, if you have problems/ feedback, please let me know. Especially last year we had problems with the online submission procedure, so we can talk.

4. Call/ Transfer of the ABS secretariat by **Jussi L and Akihiro I (16:38)**

- **Jussi L** – As you know, we advertised the call for the transfer rather early because we know that the transition is difficult and last time was rushed. You need to know how we work. So we organised a 2-phase process, the deadline was a couple of days ago for statements of interest, and full applications are due by September. Officially, the applications were to the president.
- We had 1 statement on the deadline from the University of Southern Denmark. I know that they do good work, but I have my doubts because the people there have not been involved in ABS. Very few of their researchers have been to our meetings even, so no knowledge – maybe it could be a positive thing, but it is a concern. That is the only response that we received.
- As you know, the terms of the secretariat are not defined in the bylaws, so the UEF is responsible if no other candidate is found. But the university has only committed itself until the end of the current term, and I cannot do the work if no funding exists.
- **Francisco LV** – could an extension be negotiated with the UEF? Would they be open to it? **Jussi L** – our university is going through changes, closing things down, so not likely. **James S** – there is an outside chance, but not likely unless we get some new large and prestigious grants that would convince the rectors. But we cannot count on this. **Francisco LV** – we have our own funds so we could pitch in some money, not enough, but something? **Jussi L** – the problem is the cost of running things in Finland.

- **Francisco LV** – we probably have to reach out to universities and get new applications, we need to reach out to university leaders and say that we are looking out for a new home. We have time, but we have to move on this.
- **Akihiro I** – background to the transfer – we have been very fortunate with the current situation, but there were some problems when transferring continents. But because of the good people at the UEF, we have trusted in this and we are now stronger. So it is a very important issue – we all have to think of this issue more seriously and consider a new secretariat.
- **Jussi L** – my point is not to put you off the SDU proposal, but when I took over I already knew many things and if I did not have that background, it would have been very difficult. Unless they take over and I remain in the position for another year. **Martin VdV** – I share the concerns that their involvement with ABS could have been stronger, so we will have to inquire of them why they were not more involved, how can they make up for this? We have some funds so maybe we can keep **Jussi L** in the job a few more months until they are ready.
- **Jussi L** – but of course the deadline for final proposals is not until September so if another candidate comes forward, if you can convince institutions that are considering a proposal to move forward with their applications... **Martin VdV** – or even new candidates, then it is possible that a better location may be found.
- **Christophe S** – what is the procedure once you have the proposals? Are we going to wait until we all meet in San Francisco? This cannot be done by e-mail, we can exchange ideas but there are things that cannot be debated properly electronically. **Jussi L** – it will be decided at the next board meeting. **Martin VdV** – last year we set a time schedule, after the deadline for final proposals in September we planned to make the decision in January, giving us some months before the actual handover.
- **Jussi L** – when we have the full proposals, I would be keen on making the decision as soon as possible so that we can start the transfer. **Guadalupe CC** – last time we had little info, the decision was made at the board meeting and not everyone even knew the options, perhaps this should be put into the bylaws, there were some problems, we must do better.
- **Joan A** – if we have a deadline in September, the applications can be sent out by email and discussed so that by the time we meet and vote on it, we can have dealt with the questions already. It should make the process easier when we have the board meeting. **Akihiro I** – I agree, but we should have someone who is in charge of this issue, but not be **Jussi L**. **Joan A** – it should be the president who handles the transition. **Laurie T** – would there not be value in discussing this earlier? **Akihiro I** – we should have people review the applications and write reports to send out to everyone. **Guadalupe CC** – we need to discuss some rules, put the process in the bylaws, decide how we transition.
- **Jussi L** – I propose that we discuss this at the bylaw meeting.

5. Sponsoring by Jussi Laine (16:59)

5.1. Granted Funding Requests

- We have been able to do this successfully by e-mail, we decided last year that we evaluate proposals 1x1. This year we gave 2 grants, the BRIT in Hamburg/Southern Denmark and ABS in Luxembourg.
- We just received a new proposal for Canada in October.

5.2. Policy for funding requests

- Because of the new proposals, I have included this point in our discussion. The trend is that the sums are getting bigger, we get bigger requests and need a policy.
- **Francisco LV** – last meeting did we not discuss setting a cap? **Jussi L** – yes, but we did not decide on a policy, and this year the cap has been reached. **Francisco LV** – we need to set a deadline for applications. **Jussi L** – we used to do that, but also problems – do we go back to that policy, or have 2 deadlines?
- **Christophe S** – maybe we need criteria – what is the quality and what is the impact for the ABS? Can we have our logo there, co-sponsor, etc... **Martin VdV** – we do that, of course quality is difficult to decide in advance. Perhaps what **Jussi L** said about 2 deadlines, but keeping flexibility? I also think that the role as treasurer helps, so that we have all the info. 2 deadlines make it easier. **Francisco LV** – I hate deadlines, so maybe we need a limit/ roof. If we go above, do we go 10% above it? **Joan A** – is the new request from people active in ABS? **Jussi L** – I will send all the info to you soon.

6. ABS Conferences by Jussi L (17:07)

6.1. Regional conferences

- I wanted to talk about the regional conferences in India and New Zealand, but this info has been circulated through La Frontera, so the big issue is to discuss is the next world conference.

8. Journal of Borderlands Studies by Emmanuel BJ (17:08) (supplemented by PPT)

8.1. Annual report from the Editor

- I have 2 documents to pass around that should be kept confidential, we are preparing 9 special issues, 1 in press, and have the contents for the next 6 issues (until July 2017).
- Last year, you asked me to look at 4 things, including finalising North American editors, increase number of books reviewed to 20, reduce delays in review process and publication time, and to expand into articles from the humanities. I have addressed all these issues. 2 NA editors, but they are busy. Our most active editors are for Asia and Africa. Best thing is that we have a larger number of reviewers. Difficulty with associate editors is that they are very tough, and reject many articles especially from young or non-native speakers. I will try to work with them. So next year I want to work with the editors to have criteria on how to reject articles. Since last year we had 74 submissions, which is a bit down – 17 in review, 3 on the waiting list and 3 await decision. 9 special issues, 7 in review process. We have had a problem with the special issue to be published for 30.4 – so we are 10 weeks late. The special issue 32.1 is the cross-over to arts/humanities and we hope to have another one soon. We average 3 months for review to decision, down from 3,5-4 months. This is an average. So by next year, we should be on time for all of the issues within a week or 2.
- This year, I spent a lot compared to last year – spent on my assistant to clear up all the backlog and to work with all the associate editors. I ask for a renewal of funding, not as much as last year, but perhaps €3000. **Jussi L** – the funding request is legitimate, but we will deal with it via e-mail due to time.
- **Joan A** – a suggestion – many have moved to the online version of the journal, so my request is that we receive the table of contents when a new journal number is published. **Jussi L** – I can help with this, but would it be you or Routledge.

- **Emmanuel BJ** – I have been holding back on publishing single articles until I see the special issues. The publisher will publish individual articles before the entire issue is ready and I do not want this, I need to keep control over the table of contents, but maybe by next year.
- **Guadalupe CC** - congratulations for the wonderful job, but people have told me that they want to know when their reviews will be published? **Emmanuel BJ** – **James S** has increased the number of reviews, I may go to publishing 6 per issue, but not so many more. Maybe we need to let people know that it will take 9 months.

8.2. Report from the Book Review Editor by **James S**

- Lots of books are coming in, maybe we need to be more selective based on impact, relevance? It is going smoothly with the online process. One question - could we publish online versions earlier than print? **Emmanuel BJ** – we can do this, Routledge can print them early.
- **Martin VdV** – is there a limit on the age of books published? **James S** – I try to have recent ones, but sometimes topics mean that older books are reviewed. **Martin VdV** – maybe we can put the book reviews online as soon as they are ready. **Emmanuel BJ** – yes, we can do this.

Continued from above...

6.2. Prospects for the next World Conference by **Jussi L (17:34)**

- We return to this issue – you know the discussion, I was authorised to represent the board, as sometimes it is easier for me to discuss these things myself, but I have tried to represent everyone’s opinions. Last time I sent a very direct e-mail, because we need to be very clear about things when you organise big conferences, or else someone loses a lot of money.
- Our aim was to get the world conference outside Europe, for which I lobbied a lot, but it is difficult to organise such a conference, it is expensive. We received 3 statements of interest, but only 1 proposal from Hungary and Austria. My concern with the proposal – the date, because the one proposed was too close to the ABS annual meeting, and the alternative was at the beginning of January, which is bad because the month previous to the conference is very busy. They are going to have a meeting on 22.4, I will participate via skype.
- They are committed and have the money, they have done much very well, but a few issues are outstanding. Like who handles the losses – I will not sign anything that may hurt us. They are trying to make it work, they should get it done, but I just want everyone to know the situation. I will keep you posted. I ask for your authorisation to represent the board. **Joan A** – you have done a good job, there have been good comments. Motion by **Guadalupe CC**, seconded by **Francisco LV** at **17:39**

6.3. Future World/Regional ABS Conferences by **Jussi L**

- (not discussed due to time restraints)

7. Policy Proposals (17:40)

7.2. ABORNE proposal by **Jussi L**

- Emmanuel has had more discussions with ABORNE but they have decided that it is not time to become associated with ABS yet, but we will keep them involved. Their funding from the

ESF is coming to an end, so they are considering becoming an ABS chapter, but this will be discussed next year.

7.1. Japan chapter by **Akihiro I**

- The Japan chapter is not only for Japan, but also for its neighbours in Asia, so this is a trial.
- The main activities you know well, including supporting Asian membership, particularly last year when we organised the New Zealand conference, so it is becoming Asia-Pacific. These activities are important for getting more memberships, and this is an aim, so I think that other chapters can follow the Japanese example.
- Secondly, how we have organised the chapter – all activities should be supervised by the president, all activities are under ABS. I ask that you sanction the Japanese chapter under ABS.
- **Jussi L** – the Japan chapter has been created and is active, but what has not been decided is the relationship with ABS. We need a formal decision about this relationship, not only for Japan but for any future chapters. The chapter has made very specific bylaws for itself, but I think that the main body of ABS should remain in charge. Because in future if we get all kinds of separate chapters all over the world, then this would leave NA/Europe isolated again, which is what we have been trying to avoid. So we need to decide now any future process.
- **Joan A** – do Japanese members pay dues to ABS? **Akihiro I** – yes, but we have been trying to get associate members to later become full members of ABS. **Jussi L** – I see the chapters as a way of attracting new members and spreading the news about the association. I see that the chapters are important because many people do not know why they should join if they cannot attend the annual meeting – a good question. They do not join just for the journal, helps us get members in regions where we cannot be as active. **Christophe S** – then should representatives from each chapter be on the main ABS board? Something for the bylaws? **Paul R** – but if we later get 20 chapters, would they then all be on the board? This would get messy. **Francisco LV** – but the chapters are represented by the ABS, so they do not need to be individually in the board. They are not really different from regular members, just represent a regional interest. **Laurie T** – maybe people could give reports to the board, and have a separate meeting during the annual meeting?
- **Jussi L** – so everyone agrees that we support the efforts of the Japan chapter and see it as a good development? **Joan A** – if a chapter decides to organise a special meeting, then it can apply for ABS funding, and invite us to attend just like any other organisation. **Jussi L** – for the remainder of my term, I will support a good dialogue. I need to know what is going on in the chapters, we need an information exchange because we still run the general association and would need to answer questions on what is going in the chapters.
- **Francisco LV** – maybe we need to make an announcement to the general membership that this is possible, for the creation of regional or topical chapters? This goes on in other associations. **Martin VdV** – maybe the Japanese chapter can provide a report about the first year's activities so that we have a guide for any other possible chapters. **Joan A** – it is a very positive development.

9. Bylaws Revision (17:55)

- This was discussed above in sections 2.2 and 2.4.

10. ABS Awards (17.55)

- This was discussed above already in section 2.3.

10.4. Past Presidents' Book Awards by Martin VdV

- We will keep the process as it is, even though last year we discussed that it could be extended to other books.

12. Nominating committees and Procedures (17:57)

12.1. 2nd VP elections by Jussi L

- Last year we decided that people could self-nominate themselves in hope that there would be more than 2 candidates, which means that it does not get personal. But no flood of nominees, just 2 candidates. But it is nice to have the option. Do we continue with this system? Motion in favour by **Jussi L**, seconded by **Joan A** at **17:58**

12.2. Nominating committees by Guadalupe CC

- **Francisco LV** will be running the nominating the committee for board members, he will ask a few people to help.

13. ABS 2016 Annual Meeting Program Report by Patricia BdA (17:59)

- At this meeting, we have 33 panels, we received 119 proposals for presentations, about 12 cancellations, but still about 100 presentations. 22 countries represented. **Jussi L** – thank you, it went very smoothly.

14. Other Notes or Information Jussi Laine 18.00

- None

15. Next meeting by Jussi L (18:00)

- Next meeting in San Francisco.
- **Patricia BdA** – participants from Columbia want to meet to invite us to their conference. We hope to send 10 people. **Jussi L** – great idea, looking forward to meeting them.

16. Adjournment by Jussi L at 18:03