

**Minutes, RSA Board meeting**  
**March 26, 2004**  
**Conference on College Composition and Communication**  
**San Antonio, Texas**  
**Hyatt Regency Hotel, Chaps Restaurant**

In attendance: Bizzell, Davis, Eberly, Jarratt, Selzer, Wells,  
Zarefsky (voting members); Clark (non-voting member)

Bizzell called meeting to order at 8:20am.  
Bizzell noted a quorum and added that she anticipated no  
official action but important discussion.

**1. BUDGET REPORT:**

Bizzell said Kathie Cesa (KOC Member Services and TCS services)  
is costing \$1200-\$1500 per month.  
Henry is working toward an annual budget which he will present  
in Austin  
RSA has tax exempt status.  
RSA does not have to file a tax return for 2003.  
RSA has established a separate bank account for life memberships  
-- will accrue interest.

**2. RSQ REPORT:**

Report from Clark on RSQ and electronic database services:

1. Redesign of journal in process: will appear for April issue.
2. Summer issue: essays invited from people who were leaders of  
4 ARS discussion groups plus afterword.
3. RSQ presence on databases:  
EBSCO anxious to move ahead -- have a new database for comm as  
well; they'd put us on all; no cost to us. we get a royalty.  
acc to their stats, putting journal in their database does not  
affect subscriptions.

Questions remaining about EBSCO:

- will they digitize all our back issues? Sometimes they do--they  
will let us know if they consider us worthy. Greg has another  
possibility, discussed below.
- embargo new issues for three months/david z suggests a year.  
--sign nonexclusive contract.
- ProQuest and Project Muse are the other two commercial  
services; Clark has been in touch with them as well.
- noncommercial: ASCUS -- they're putting a contract together  
for us.
- J-STOR: a different animal, a nonprofit archive of scholarly  
articles: you need to be selected -- they are going to  
initiate the process of considering; they would do an entire  
digitized run

So sooner or later we'll have an archive digitized through EBSCO or JSTOR or both

Board agreed: tell EBSCO, JSTOR, ASCUS to go ahead

Does ASCUS charge a fee? Clark will tell us  
Clark will negotiate the arrangements for negotiating and copy to Bizzell, Henry, Zarefsky, and Eberly.

Board thanked Clark heartily for taking the time to do all this -- something he had requested support and help with several months ago.

### **3. AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Report from Wells -- Awards Committee  
diss -- 20 nominated; four finalists; david gold won

book -- Jarratt chaired subcommittee:

Report from Jarratt on Book Award Subcommittee:

nine entries for the book award

subcomm: jarratt, laura gurak, ekatarina haskins

estab'd explicit criteria: signif contribution; creative or innovative work in framing, methodology, stylistic verve

each subcommittee member did three of the books, exchanged responses via email, met yesterday

difficult: 3 histories, 3 single-author theory, 3 rhet analysis

two other criteria emerged from discussion of these 9 particular books: potential for the book to reach 1. other fields, 2. general public.

subcomm had clear disciplinary differences in initial reactions, good discussion

Leah Ciccerelli -- Shaping Science with Rhetoric won

Bizzell and Board would welcome a proposal from the awards committee that these criteria be instantiated

Davis wondered if these would be described as potential criteria, not entirely predetermined

Bizzell suggested the Board call them guidelines

Bizzell said the criterion of widening the audience fits well with RSA's work

it's what distinguishes our award from other book awards but shouldn't overdetermine other criteria

Wells will make email report to Board about Yoos and RSA Fellow awards by next week

Bizzell said all previous yoos award winners will be made fellows.

Clark suggested that something additional be done to honor Hauser at RSA. Bizzell asked Prize Committee to consider, for example, if committee wants graduate student awards named after Hauser--must be circulated for board approval before the conference.

#### **4. Reports on affiliate status:**

Bizzell: MLA -- three years in a row, panel in the name of the organization but in the open competition -- if we want affiliate status we have to start sending in proposals: let our membership know that, suggest it -- pat: see what happens.

Zarefsky: NCA has an application process -- send a letter requesting affiliation, copy of constitution and bylaws, RSQ, letter of agreement bet NCA and RSA specifying the nature of the agreement -- needs to be done by August -- goes to exec comm, leg assembly in nov: all affiliates receive a certain number of program slots. no costs involved. NCA currently has no process for periodic review of affiliate organizations. 15 or 18 affiliates.

idea is that these affiliations will be reciprocal  
pat: part of the idea is to establish protocols for how other organizations might get affiliate status with RSA  
Bizzell and Zarefsky will work up a proposal to go before the full board re what would be entailed in other orgs getting affiliate status in RSA -- go with this proposal in hand  
B and Z will bring that proposal to austin  
FemRhets also mentioned; need to keep that organization squarely in mind, share info

#### **5. Bizzell report on off year institute:**

sara newmann at kent has sent in proposal for off year / march 31 is deadline to apply.

will memphis and colorado be applying?

we're on track more or less; we'd like more proposals

RSA 2006: colo, minn, memphis were intersted as of jan

Walzer and Henry need to be in touch re off year and 2006

Board needs to let them know this

#### **6. Bizzell report on RSA 2004**

475 people registered

final number will be 500 people -- we accepted 575

we exceeded our hotel contract

three scholarships to graduate students \$100 plus fee deferred awarded by lot -- automatically entered in the drawing

Bizzell added that RSA 2006 should consider larger differential between memb and nonmemb registration fee

### **7. Eberly report on membership**

**Total individual memberships (persons): 562**

Regular 357

Sustaining 19

International 8

Student 163

Lifetime 5

Enhanced Lifetime 9

Honorary 1

**Total institutional subscriptions 217**

Individual memberships moved to "inactive" 172

Eberly has contacted each one of these via email, resulting in at least 20 renewals.

Eberly reports that working with Cesa/KOC Member Services has been wonderful in terms of membership management. Still worries about cost and how to increase membership to offset costs. The challenge now is how to continue to get inactive members to become active again and how to recruit new members. Hopes Board will discuss this in Austin. The good news: no more "deadwood" members are getting RSQ bc of Cesa's services.

### **8. Bizzell report on ARS action items**

At the September 2003 ARS conference at Northwestern, ARS member organizations were urged to take the following initiatives in support of rhetoric:

1. "Stay on message": arrive at a common definition of "rhetoric" and promote it.
2. Make use of information exchange infrastructure—now via ARS website.
3. Promote rhetoric in the academy by recruiting across disciplinary lines for reading groups, sponsorship of speakers, etc.; and keep international perspective alive.
4. "Protect the base": develop good rhetoric pedagogy, especially for teaching argument, assert its importance, request professional development funds to support, etc.
5. Develop partnerships with secondary schools to support rhetoric instruction there, e.g. through debate, mock trial competitions.

6. Seek a more public status for rhetoric scholarship through consulting for non-profits; achieving category status in grant applications, indices, publishers' lists, etc.; creating public archives for rhetorical documents, especially rhetoric of marginalized groups; instituting awards for good public rhetoric; pushing students into more public sphere involvement.

#### **9. Eberly drafts Davis and Aune to form website committee**

Eberly's graduate student Ross will start promoting "teaching resources" and "article discussion" (and "bibliographies"?) nodes of RESOURCES topos on website

Ross will email Board for suggestions of how to proceed  
Ross's research assistantship will end at beginning of May, so sustainability is an issue to address with website committee and Board.

If we want the website to become more active, we need to be ready to promote it before and after RSA 2004, when it is likely to attract the most attention and become sustainable.

#### **10. Zarefsky: we can address ACLS in austin**

#### **11. NEW BUSINESS:**

Jarratt noted Bazerman's rhetoricians for peace list/organization

Jarratt suggested an RSA subcommittee for public action, analogous with doctors w/o borders, scientists for the public interest -- we are disciplinary professionals, too

Board said LET'S DO THAT

Eberly and Jarratt will followup

Bizzell -- this should be a BOARD committee to begin with; general membership later

Clark: follow the pattern used in the league of women voters nonprofit, nonpartisan

**Meeting adjourned way late, but we were ok with that**  
**Respectfully submitted.**

**rx**