



# LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

## Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Executive Council (EC) Meeting February 7-8, 2004

### Action Items

1. The minutes of the March 26, 2003 meeting of the Executive Council are unanimously approved.
2. LASA will schedule an audit to review the association's financial affairs. It will use this opportunity to gather advice on sound administrative practice and financial affairs in order to develop a durable and transparent model for its use, and as a precursor to acquiring a new (accounting) consultant.
3. A working group will be created to discuss the possibility of collecting data on LASA members' race/ethnicity and national origin. An interim report will be presented by the committee at the October meeting of the EC. George Yudice will chair the working group.
4. The Nominations Committee report is accepted as presented.
5. A sub-committee is appointed to review the *LASA Forum*. The committee should redefine editorial policy; recommend the constitution of a new editorial board, including suggesting names; consider if the *Forum* is appropriate for future publication on the website; address monetary issues, and in general, consider how the *LASA Forum* might best meet the goals of the LASA Strategic Plan. Committee chair is Arturo Arias; members include Marysa Navarro, Peter Ward, and Merilee Grindle.
6. The EC commits itself to having the 2009 Congress in a South American city; a sub committee of the EC will work with the Secretariat to bring to the EC concrete suggestions at its next meeting in October 2004. The committee consists of George Yudice, Marysa Navarro, John French and Merilee Grindle.
7. Amendments to resolutions may be presented at the LASA Business Meeting. If accepted by a duly empowered person present at the meeting, the resolution will be sent out for a vote to the membership. If not accepted, the resolution will be sent out for vote in its original form.
8. The following wording will be added to letters sent to future travel grantees: "In accepting this award you are committed to reimburse LASA in the event of cancellation."

### **Consensus**

1. Because of the many venues available in Las Vegas, a Gran Baile will not be held at LASA2004. The Secretariat should select two shows and obtain tickets, preferably at a lower group rate. Trips such as one to the Grand Canyon should be explored. After LASA2004, the Secretariat should obtain feedback via email from members on whether or not to continue holding the Gran Baile at future congresses.
2. A letter will be published in the *LASA Forum* telling all Congress attendees that the association commiserates with them on the problems they may encounter in traveling to the Congress. In addition, three letters will be sent to grantees 1) a letter with instructions for the individual grantee, 2) an official letter for the embassy and 3) another official letter for the institution of the participant.
3. The EC reaffirms its commitment to meet in Latin America every third congress.
4. The request by Scholars at Risk will be referred to the LASA Committee on Academic Freedom and Human Rights.
5. Recipients of travel grants for LASA2003 who cancelled without justification and without repayment to LASA, will not receive travel funding in the foreseeable future.

**— End —**