



LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

**Meeting of the LASA Executive Council (EC)
Caribe Hilton, San Juan PR
June 18-19, 2005**

Action Items

1. The minutes of the October 2004 EC meeting are approved as amended.
2. The reserve fund will be increased to \$one million.
3. The endowment manager will be asked to review the investment portfolio semi-annually to determine if socially responsible funds are part of the portfolio.
4. The sum of \$18,000 will be moved from operating funds to the section accounts.
5. Ways and Means will do an analysis of finances to decide whether, based upon current projected budget imbalances, there should be a membership fee increase.
6. The budget for 2005-2006 is accepted.
7. The slate of the Nominations Committee is accepted as presented. At its March 2006 meeting the EC will further systematize the procedures of this committee.
8. The LASA2006 program will make use of option #3, with sessions beginning on Wednesday and making use of additional rooms at the Normandy Hotel.
9. The results of the section survey will be provided to section chairs and the Secretariat will create a listserv to allow section members to respond to the survey.
10. The initiative to new and under-represented constituencies as presented by Hale and Stephen is endorsed by the EC. Up to \$20,000 will be provided in seed money for the Otras Americas initiative.
11. The issue of collection of data on member race, ethnicity, and national origin is tabled for consideration at a future EC meeting.
12. The sum of five thousand dollars is allocated to the proposed research workshops for young scholars and is provided for the next three congresses contingent upon the securing of outside funding. The initiative should fund eight to ten young scholars for each congress. Elizabeth Jelin is appointed to serve as committee chair.

13. The proposal submitted by the LASA Cuba Section for funding senior members to a meeting with President Bush to discuss travel to and from Cuba is denied. However, the EC feels strongly about the issues and advises the Cuba Section to work through the Cuba Task Force.
14. Ward's request for additional funding for *LARR* is denied, however, LASA is prepared to provide up to \$20,000 in the case of a justified operational expense. The request that LASA increase its institutional membership rate is also denied. Lastly, for the new bid cycle the articles of understanding will be revised to reflect more accurately the relationship between LASA and *LARR*.

Consensus

1. There was consensus on the above recommendations: 1) The Cuba Task Force will seek funding outside the United States for Cuban visa application; 2) There will be close review of the work of ECDET with an eye to aligning LASA with the group; and 3) Area studies associations and other interested groups will be approached to co-sign for an ad in the New York Times regarding travel restrictions.
2. The LASA Cuba Task Force will continue its work through March 2006; further continuation will then be reevaluated. Navarro should advise Alvarez if task force members are not responding to communications.
3. LASA will begin now to organize a public information network with current staff. At its March, 2006 EC meeting the EC will review what additional staff is needed to properly address media outreach and public information issues.

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