



LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

**LASA Executive Council (EC) Meeting
The Renaissance Hotel, Pittsburgh PA
June 28, 2008**

Action Items

1. The minutes of the September 2007 meeting are approved as revised.
2. Section dues are raised to \$10, with \$4 of this amount going to the Secretariat's operating fund to service the Sections. The *LASA Forum* should contain a note about the increase in Section dues and the recommendation that some funds be allotted for Congress travel grants.
3. The LASA By-Laws are amended to permit the write-in of candidates for both the Executive Council (EC) and the vice presidency. LASA members will receive two communications. The first will inform members of the change in the nominations procedure and indicate that the nominations process is open. Members will have six weeks in which to nominate candidates. A second communication will present the approved slate and encourage members to submit the names of write-in candidates. A minimum of 200 signatures will be required for each write-in. Members will then have six weeks to submit additional names. To be included on the ballot, the candidate must be a member in good standing and must meet the conditions of the By-laws. Members will have six weeks to respond to this second communication. The final ballot presented for vote will indicate which candidates were on the approved slate and which are write-ins.
4. Any public statement regarding the change in the nominations procedure should emphasize that "the EC is committed to finding a way to increase participation in the process, to codify the process and to publicize it."
5. All proposed revisions to the LASA Constitution and By-laws are accepted.
6. The budget for 2008-2009 is adopted.
7. LASA will provide \$25,000 in seed money for Phase II of Otros Saberes, conditioned upon the receipt of additional funding.

Consensus Items

1. A draft of the portion of the minutes dealing with the discussion on membership will be sent to Armony, Delgado and Rabasa for their review and additional suggestions about what to do for follow-up. This item will be on the agenda of the EC meeting in Rio de Janeiro.
2. The ramifications of going to two-year memberships as well as the possibility of decreased dues for multiple year memberships will be put on the agenda for the Rio meeting.
3. The names of candidates for vice president and for the EC should be sent to both the committee chair and to E.D. Pereyra. The Nominations Committee should then have at last two months to come up with a slate.
4. The special grant monies owed will remain as they currently are noted on the books as a part of institutional memory.
5. Of the amount usually taken from the Endowment for Congress participation of Latin American and Caribbean residents, for LASA2009 15 percent will be allocated to travel grants for non-Latin American/Caribbean student participants.
6. LASA will seek the services of Sara Doty of SSRC, or another individual familiar with the licensing process, to serve as a consultant in the preparation of individual licenses for Cuban grant applicants selected by the track chairs. The application should first be submitted to the EC for review, but should then be submitted without any follow-up.
7. Coatsworth as Chair of the Commission for Academic Freedom is asked to review the language as it refers to the work of fact-finding delegations and to recommend any revisions.
8. LASA will contribute the remaining funds needed to enable the Diskin Dissertation Fund to reach \$25,000 if additional contributions are not secured.
9. Yashar and Rabasa will communicate with Coatsworth regarding a set of possible core tracks for 2010 and beyond.
10. Pereyra will investigate implementing an electronic bulletin board or a blog to assist individuals to connect with others to form a panel for LASA2010 and report back to the EC.

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