



LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

LASA Executive Council Meeting
Hilton Toronto; Opus
October 5, 2010

Action Items

1. The minutes of the February 27, 2010 meeting are approved unanimously as revised.
2. E.D. Pereyra will determine what it will cost to commission a study to identify current Latin Americanists in the United States as well as to determine who among them are LASA members. She will report this to the EC via email.
3. The newly-elected LASA treasurer will participate with voice and no vote in EC and Ways and Means meetings before officially taking office.
4. The resolution on Cuba is approved to be sent forward with one change: Item no. 4 is modified to read “This resolution will be mailed to relevant authorities in the United States and Cuba.”
5. The resolution on Honduras is approved with some changes: “Whereas: the United States rejected the attempt of the OAS to resolve the crisis” becomes “Whereas: the United States undercut the attempt of the OAS to resolve the crisis”.

Item no. 3, “The Latin American Studies Association urges the U.S. government to support the call by broad popular sectors in Honduras for a referendum on holding a constitutional convention with delegates democratically selected to represent the full spectrum of Honduran civil society” is removed.

Lastly, “Whereas: the process of the November 2009 presidential election was neither free nor fair yet the election was legitimated by the Obama administration and praised by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton as a “successful conclusion” to the Honduran crisis” is changed to read “Whereas: the procedures of the November 2009 election occurred in an environment in which constitutional guarantees were not uniformly respected but was nevertheless legitimized by the Obama administration and praised by the secretary of state”.

6. The resolution on Obama Policy is not approved to go forward. Vice president Maria Herminia Tavares de Almeida is asked to convey that the EC wants a more focused resolution from the proponents. There were multiple criticisms and some thought that in its current state it was inappropriate for the association. Proponents, however, should not be required to get signatories for each part of the current resolution. It is important for the committee to work with the resolutions committee in preparing a final version of the resolution to resubmit.

7. The following changes to the LASA membership dues structure are approved: Raise payment for joint membership to \$35. The fees for "regular members" will become \$45, \$60, \$70, \$80, \$90, \$100, and \$125. For Latin American members they will be \$30, \$45, and \$60.
8. The move to an annual International Congress is approved beginning with 2013. At the next meeting of the EC the Secretariat should present a report on how to implement the move (a calendar).

Consensus Items

1. Following this meeting the Secretariat will provide the EC with information on the difference in the renewal rate for 2010 between US and Latin American resident members.
2. LASA will stop printing the *LASA Forum* and go to a web-based version instead. It will be made available in pdf format to allow for printing. The email announcement of each new issue will carry a link to the pdf.
3. The Mellon grant funds will be used for workshops (increasing them from three to four) and for the use of the LASA president and program chairs for special Congress sessions.
4. Eric Hershberg will continue as chair or co-chair of the Mellon Committee and someone from the EC will be appointed as a member of the Committee.
5. At its next meeting in San Francisco the EC will discuss the next phase of possible funding from the Mellon Foundation. To be determined is what LASA would like to do that coincides with the foundation's priorities.
6. Non-Latin American and Caribbean student grants should be increased to \$600 for San Francisco and then should be re-evaluated following the Congress. Non-student travel grant applicants should be asked to provide a budget and indicate what support they will get from their institution or other funding source. In those countries where it is known that no other funding will be provided the full amount for travel and Congress stay should be budgeted. LASA staff are asked to recommend how this will be implemented.
7. Pereyra and her staff are asked to prepare a report to include the implications of opening up travel grant opportunities to non-Latin American and Caribbean faculty in the United States.
8. Either in the LASA By-laws or in its guidelines regarding the resolutions process, the EC needs guidance (on content and process) as to what its role should be. This should be discussed at the next EC meeting.
9. At its next meeting the EC should think about revising the procedures for approval of resolutions by voting. Should there be a minimum vote required for passage of a resolution?

10. Tommie Sue Montgomery-Abrahams will be advised that she may raise funds for relief for Isla Robinson Crusoe by advertising at the LASA Business Meeting and collecting funds at her booth.
11. EC members will give thought to who might serve as EC representative for the Otros Saberes initiative. Charles R Hale will continue to assist with fundraising and in finding a coordinator. The EC will consider any recommendation from Hale on co-chair of the project. Hale should present a proposal to the EC for seed money for the third round.
12. For LASA2012 track chairs should be encouraged to maintain a wait list of individual papers that have met a threshold of quality.
13. LASA2010 Co-chairs Nina Gerassi and Javier Corrales are to work with E.D. Pereyra to benchmark against other associations who are charging fees for congress submission to prepare a proposal regarding requiring a fee for Congress paper submission. The status quo will be maintained until after an analysis has been completed of the success of a 12 month Congress.
14. The following recommendations from the LASA2010 program co-chairs are approved:
 - a. Track chairs should be urged to show up at the orientation process during the congress
 - b. Maintain a panels-wanted website and a roommates-wanted website
 - c. Two deadlines for track chairs should be maintained
 - d. Panel chairs should be given responsibility for finding replacements for panelists who fail to pre-register.
 - e. LASA should clarify and emphasize the rule for not pre-registering after acceptances are sent out. (Panels with fewer than three participants are merged with other panels and if a good fit cannot be found the panel will be cancelled.)
 - f. Track chairs should be encouraged to maintain a wait list of individual papers that have met a threshold of quality.
 - g. It should be emphasized to everyone that once a paper/panel is rejected that decision is final.
 - h. Local good will should be cultivated by not rejecting an untoward number of local panels and papers. Program co-chairs should have the discretion to rescue a local panel or two turned down by track chairs.
 - i. The Pre-congress program should be preserved.
 - j. A budget of \$5000 is approved for use by the program co-chairs
 - k. The Secretariat should put someone in charge of fundraising for congress sponsorships.

The following recommendations are rejected:

- a. Travel grants for Europeans
- b. Abstracts may be submitted anonymously
- c. Allocation of a small budget amount to recognize the track chairs. (Acknowledgments such as certificates and invitations to a special recognition reception should be employed instead.)

15. San Juan, Puerto Rico is approved as the site for LASA2013.

16. Claudia Ferman is reappointed as Director of the Film Festival. She is encouraged to name an advisory committee and should recommend two to three people to work with her on the committee.
17. Philip Okhorn is reappointed for another five year term as Editor of *LARR* beginning in January 2011.
18. E.D. Pereyra may proceed to work with LASA's attorney to develop plans for forming a private enterprise, with its own board of directors, to negotiate with hotels and get the 10 percent paid by hotels to conference organizers. This enterprise would provide a similar service to other organizations, retaining five percent for LASA and giving the other five percent to the client organization. An individual would be hired and their salary paid from the profits. Pereyra will take the initial steps to create the enterprise and report to the EC in February for final approval.

— End —