

SAFN Executive Board Meeting

November 19, 2015

Present: Rachel Black, Amy Trubek, David Beriss, John Brett, Joan Gross, Ruth Dike

- A. Brief overview of past year- membership numbers, etc.
 - a. We have 180 professional members and 57 student members
 - b. Not enough engagement throughout the year
- B. Strategies for maintaining and growing membership
 - a. How do we create value for our members? Students and regular memberships
 - i. Memberships are going down and young members do not join because they do not need access to journals and you have to join the AAA to join a section
 - ii. Socialization: Meet-up's? Social media? ASFS/AFHVS? Why join? Join to meet people
 - 1. We could make our facebook group more lively (ASFS' group is quite lively)
 - 2. SAFN listserv is not interesting most of the time>move to a closed forum?
 - a. We have had the listserv be lively in the past and some people say it's too much and ask to be taken off, it's a question of moderating and keeping stuff going
 - 3. ASFS is for food studies people, not anthropologists specifically
 - iii. Make the blog more essential
 - iv. Professionalization: graduate students meeting great people
 - v. Society for the Anthropology of Europe does roundtable lunches with specific anthropologists at a restaurant nearby or the conference hotel
 - b. March/April is a critical time when people consider joining SAFN
 - i. We should have a new membership drive/raffle (cider, pork, wine)
 - 1. People could get a ticket for newly signing up to join SAFN and/or if you get someone else to sign up
 - 2. How many sections do people usually join?
- C. Lowering student membership fees and encouraging more student engagement (Ruth Dike)
 - a. Ruth voiced her concern about the student membership fee (\$20) being too high. We are one of 7 sections that charges students \$20 out of 40 sections and well above the \$10.78 student fee average
 - i. \$20 doesn't seem like much money at all
 - ii. This shouldn't hurt our budget much so we can cut it in half to \$10
 - iii. Everyone agreed to change the student membership fee to \$10 instead of \$20

- b. Marketing to Students
 - i. Reach out to the Graduate Food Studies Association?
 - ii. We have 2 students apply for Marchione and 9 apply for the Christine Wilson Award (for comparison the National Association for the Practice of Anthropology received 4 submissions this year and awarded none)
 - iii. Need more professors to tell students that they should apply and join SAFN
- D. Food Anthropology blog- becoming the go-to place on the Internet for the Anthropology of Food and Nutrition (David Beriss)
 - a. David created a board of 7 people to post on the blog 2 times a month each including Rachel Black, Craig Hadley, Greg de Maurice, Lauren Moore, Ashante Reese (Spelman), Andrea Wiley, and David Beriss
 - b. Lauren does the Pedagogy series and a new What Food Anthropology is Reading Now series (both are quite popular)
 - c. They have a calendar with lists of topics to cover on certain days
 - d. We want the blog to be a place where the anthropology of food is defined
 - e. Still need: a Book Review editor, an archaeologist (Amanda Logan from Northwestern working on colonial Ghana is a possibility?), and more graduate students
 - f. Had a conference call at the end of October; need to keep up the momentum and hammer social media
 - g. The blog should be a place for community and engagement
- E. We need to recruit a Program Chair (Arianna will not be doing it next year because 2015 was her second year)
 - a. Will ask for volunteers at the business meeting
- F. Creating a quasi endowment – dissertation/thesis prize (John Brett)
 - a. We had about \$40,000 extra hanging in our bank account and would like to lock it up to create a quasi endowment for a student award (discussed during 2014's exec meeting as well)
 - b. We can put how much ever we want into the quasi endowment and get about 4% interest yearly to be used for an award
 - i. If we REALLY need the money, we can take it out (but will face fines)
 - c. We want it to be for a more open award, for any kind of research
 - d. We will put in \$25,000 into the quasi endowment for a fieldwork research/dissertation enhancement award (which will mean the actual award will be \$1000 annually based on 4% interest) and leaves about \$10,000 cushion as a cash reserve
 - e. Applicants will need to submit a CV, Research Statement, and an Advisor letter (similar to the Marchione Award) and be finished with qualifying exams/comps/proposal defense
 - f. Tentative Name: SAFN Graduate Research Travel Award
- G. Marchione Prize – strategies for increasing number of applicants – review guidelines (John Brett)

- a. Website says the prize is \$600 but this is wrong
- b. We have \$22,282 (and increase of \$176 because we got 5% in interest?)
- c. We have about \$1000 to distribute for this
 - i. We could give \$600 for the 1st place and \$400 to the runner up?
 - ii. We don't want to set a precedent for two prizes if we can't be consistent every year
- d. Both applicants did well this year but Jessi had more connection to food security/sovereignty
- e. We should move the deadline up so that does not get lost during the semester
 - i. CWA was initially in late September
 - ii. June 1st and June 15th brought up as possible new deadlines
 - iii. June 15th new deadline for Marchione and Christine Wilson Award for consistently
 - iv. We still won't announce winners until meetings because we can give them a check then
- H. Membership survey – do we still want to do this? If so, goals and objectives of survey
 - a. Not discussed in-depth
- I. ASFS/AFHV/SAFN meeting – discuss sponsorship and activities at the 2016 meeting in Toronto (Amy Trubek)
 - a. Will continue to support this conference
 - b. Have a SAFN dinner at ASFS?
- J. Discuss possibility of changing role of VP to President-Elect
 - a. Amy (Vice President) actually did a lot in her role this year that was not in the bylaws but she added a new description spelling out her responsibilities including taking care of the awards
 - b. We would like to change the Vice President position to a President Elect position
 - i. Need 2/3 votes to change bylaws
 - ii. Will vote online with AAA elections
 - iii. President Elect should sit on the board for at least one more year (or 2)
 - iv. Former President sits on the board for 2 years after term ending
- K. 2016 election for President and VP position – possible nominees?
 - a. Not discussed in-depth
- L. Creating more elected positions- student rep., others?
 - i. We should expand committees or move to elected positions
- M. Idea for next year's distinguished speaker – Minneapolis, MN
- N. We need to recruit a Program Chair (Arianna will not be doing it next year because 2015 was her second year)
 - a. Will ask for volunteers at the business meeting

Submitted by Ruth Dike