

The regular monthly meeting of the LAPA General Assembly was held on Wednesday, January 10, 2007 at 12:00 PM in Siderooms A & B of the Otowi Cafeteria. LAPA President Jason Stairs was the presiding officer. The agenda was changed such that the proposed bylaw amendments would be covered under Old Business, and the amended agenda was approved. The minutes from the previous meeting (12/13/06), which had been posted on the LAPA webpage, were approved without corrections.

The Treasurer's report was given by Kevin Houston (chair, Finance Committee) in the Treasurer (Laura Stonehill)'s absence. The Secretary's report was given by Chandra Savage Marsden. A motion was unanimously approved to allow the Secretary's customs to dictate how and when a voting member's voting status is revoked.

Committee reports were given by Joseph Hickey (chair, Career Committee), Nenad Velisavljevic (chair, Social Committee), and Melissa Lucero (acting chair, Policy Committee). Nenad had been appointed chair of the Social Committee, replacing Michael Demkowicz, at a previous committee meeting. After the Policy Committee report, there was a discussion about the process of amending the bylaws and the manner in which to incorporate the changes. A motion was approved by a vote of 13-1 such that when the Policy committee proposes the bylaw amendment regarding the Executive Committee, they will also recommend how to include it in the bylaws. The motion also specifies that each matter will be voted on individually. A separate motion was unanimously approved to give the Policy Committee an additional month to formulate the amendment.

The remainder of the meeting was used to discuss LAPA's representation at the upcoming National Postdoc Association (NPA) meeting. A motion was approved by a vote of 12-1 to select two people who will apply for NPA travel awards. If these people are not awarded travel funds by the NPA, LAPA will pay to send them out of the travel budget. Two alternates will also be selected, and will attend at LAPA's expense if the primary representatives receive travel awards. Nominations were opened for possible attendees, and five people were nominated. The nominees in the order in which they were nominated were: Jason Stairs, Melissa Lucero, Laura Stonehill, Nenad Velisavljevic, and Chandra Savage Marsden. By unanimous consent, a motion was approved such that all the nominees would apply for a travel grant. Those who do not receive funding from NPA will be ranked to determine who will attend using LAPA funding. A committee was formed to rank the applications, consisting of: Rod Fry, Chris Diaconu, Vincent Pons, Nate Mara, Michael Demkowicz, Kevin Houston, and Joseph Hickey. Joseph was appointed the committee chair. It was announced that the committee would set a deadline of Jan. 22 for receiving applications, and that the entire postdoc association would be invited via email to submit applications.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 PM.