



SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

COMMITTEE/TASK FORCE CHAIR MARCH 2024 REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Due to your Board Liaison on March 19, 2024, for inclusion in the materials for the Board of Directors Meeting in New Orleans. Your report serves to inform the SAA Board of the committee/task force's accomplishments and as background for the action items.

- The Board asks all committee and task force chairs to use this Word document to report to the Executive Director (oonaschmid@saa.org), the SAA Secretary (Barbara.roth@unlv.edu), and your Board Liaison.
- Reports are required for the BOD meeting at the Annual Meeting of each year and optional in the BOD September meeting.
- **Please cc: all committee and task force members are carbon copied on the transmittal email.** If committee members have comments on the report to the Board, please contact the Committee/Task Force board liaison within 3 days.
- **Starting in 2022, Coordinator, Membership and Meetings, posts reports on Committee pages to improve transparency and assist incoming future chairs.** This means that
 - Committee chairs are responsible for making sure the entire committee has reviewed the report prior to submission
 - Reports do not include ad hominem attacks or otherwise defame, insult, or libel another person or group
- If you are able to join us in person, Committee and Task Force chairs are invited to join the Board for **breakfast on Saturday April 19, 2024.**

Report of the	Publications Committee
From Chair	Lynne Goldstein
Date	March 19, 2024

1. Membership and terms for your committee:

So that the SAA Office's records are as complete as possible, please list your committee members and their terms here. Please also note if there are anticipated changes in a member's status before their term end date.

Note: all committee members must review the report prior to submission

Lynne Goldstein, Chair (2024); Geoffrey Braswell (2024); Charlotte Cable (2024); Christine Szuter (2024); Horvey Palacios (student member) 2025

After 2024 annual meeting, new committee: Mitch Allen, Chair (2027); Christine Szuter (2027); Jess Beck (2027); Chris Pool (2027); Horvey Palacios (student member) 2025

Ex officio: Debra Martin (AAQ); Geoff McCafferty and Cecilia Sanhueza (LAQ); Sarah Herr, Christina Reith, Sjoerd Van Der Linde (AAP); Jennifer Birch (SAA Press); Christopher Rodning (tSAR); Dan Sandweiss, Maria Gutiérrez (Board liaisons)

2. Executive summary of Committee's/Task Force's activities over the past year:

Please note that the activities summary should not exceed 250 words. Should the committee or task force be responding to a Board request for a draft document or report, refer to it in the summary and forwarded with this form as an attachment. If no such document was requested by the Board, the executive summary should be confined to the word limit.

Note: no report should include ad hominem or denigrating comments about another party or individual. These reports are shared publicly to facilitate transparency among the organization, (such as helping future chairs understand the main policy concerns of the Committee or Task Force.)

1. **Official document that details what the Publications Committee does.** We have a first draft of this document and will continue to work on it.

2. Several editors have identified a need for a **better system of training and transfer of responsibility from old to new editors**. This is especially true in terms of scheduling the transition as well as allowing for overlap. The Committee is working on this.

3. **Style Guide issues.** The Committee approved additions to the Style Guide concerning Indigenous Tribal collaborators and citing them in the bibliography, as well as several other issues. Goldstein asked the Committee on Native American Relations to comment on changes and we did not hear from them. Goldstein thinks the change was lost when the CNAR changed chairs. Goldstein sent the document to them again, and they have promised to return comments. The new CNAR Board Liaison, Kurt Dongoske, sent the revisions to them once again (third time), and at least one member said they are fine. The Committee discussed this at length, and the problem is that we need the new Style Guide in place NOW to address various issues and critiques. The Publications Committee proposed that the Board approve the revisions to the Style Guide and if there are concerns by CNAR, we will address them. Since the Style Guide is under continuous examination and revision, we see this approach as reasonable. These changes have already waited for more than a year, and we frankly look bad making no comment on how Indigenous people and references should be included in articles. The Board passed this at the Fall 2023 meeting, but we still have not heard from the Committee on Native American Relations.

4. **Latin American Antiquity parity.** The problem here is the general problem with the CUP Transformative Agreements and is NOT limited to Latin America. In too many countries, the agreements are not with institutions where archaeologists work, so they do not have access to Open Access. This is a problem not only for reading, but also for publishing. The Committee's main problem with Open Access and the Transformative Agreements is parity and access. Perhaps the Board should consider pushing on CUP.

5. **tSAR question.** Chris Rodning will complete his second term as Editor in 2025. We are actively searching for a new editor, and have a few people have expressed interest. The Board should also promote this

position and encourage people to apply. Members of the Publications Committee have talked with about 10¹ possible candidates to date, but we have no formal proposals. 53-55

6. Open Access. The Committee saw no reason not to approve making *Advances* a fully Open Access journal - it opens certain advantages for AAP (especially waivers of APC fees) and makes some things clearer. The SAA has traditionally used AAP as a way to test various endeavors, and the Publications Committee unanimously recommends that *Advances* move to Open Access as soon as possible. We see no advantage to waiting or to saying no. Since it is already the case that members do not specifically pay for *Advances*, switching it to Open Access is relatively simple. The SAA Board approved this recommendation on September 15, but we doubt that members know about it.

7. New policy on use of generative AI. The following is already adopted by CUP and will be integrated into our Style Guide. It does NOT require Board approval since it is already CUP policy. [AI use must be declared and clearly explained](#) in publications such as research papers, just as we expect scholars to do with other software, tools and methodologies. AI does not meet the Cambridge [requirements for authorship](#), given the need for accountability. AI and LLM tools may not be listed as an author on any scholarly work published by Cambridge. [Authors are accountable](#) for the accuracy, integrity, and originality of their research papers, including any use of AI. Any use of AI must not breach Cambridge's [plagiarism policy](#). Scholarly works must be the author's own, and not present others' ideas, data, words, or other material without adequate citation and transparent referencing.

9. Alliance for Open Scholarship. In Fall 2023, the Committee heard of the 'Alliance for Open Scholarship' and noticed that the American Anthropological Association was already a member. It might be suitable for the SAA to also investigate. Other organizations include the American Geophysical Union (AGU) and the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB). Here is the website (<https://www.all4os.org/>) and here is their mission statement: "The Alliance for Open Scholarship (All4OS) aspires to operationalize open scholarship principles, tailoring discipline-specific guidance on core considerations like supporting and sustaining open infrastructure; providing training on good open research and scholarship practices; and aligning awards and recognition schemes to promote a culture of open research and scholarship." NOTE: No fees or dues are required to participate in All4OS. The Committee argues that it might be good for SAA to have a representative to share information about what other major societies are doing to support open scholarship in their communities.

10. New Editor for *American Antiquity*. As noted in her report, Martin's 5 year contract will expire at the end of the SAA meetings in 2026. The new editor should have a full year to "shadow" Martin in 2025 starting at the SAA meetings, and also to begin processing new submission during January of 2026. The Board has until the 2025 SAA meetings to advertise and select a new Editor.

11. Book reviews and *American Antiquity*. As noted in Chris Rodning's report, he is considering whether book reviews might be published online only. There are pros and cons, but the development of Open Access publishing started this discussion and may push the Committee's recommendation one way or another. We are simply alerting the Board to this discussion.

12. SAA Press. Jen Birch will be stepping down as Editor of SAA Press at the end of the 2025 Annual Meeting. There is not a formal procedure in place for recruiting Press Editor, and Birch will be happy to assist in the transition. It would be helpful to introduce some form of structure to this editor's role. The Publications Committee will discuss, but it will likely require a Board action. This editorial position does not even have an MOU.

13. Citation Style Language. The Committee has a quote for creating a citation style language (CSL). It's \$350, which is a good value and something that the membership will very much appreciate. The citation

style language project is run by volunteers which is why the quote comes from an individual. The website is <https://citationstyles.org/>. They will use our style guide to develop the CSL. The updated style will be available on the CSL style repository (from which it is automatically distributed to Zotero, Paperpile, Mendeley, etc.). This will enhance the workflow for our authors. 153-55

3. Items for Board Consideration, if applicable. These are recommendations and requests that specifically require Board approval.

These items range from statements that you may wish to be disseminated, requests to undertake projects, requests to disseminate results, or any other action for which a committee or task force needs specific Board guidance/approval. Please do not embed such items in your activities summary. These items must be separately listed in this section. These are actions you are asking the Board of Directors to take. Please also include a discussion of fiscal impacts, if any, but note that budget requests occur in advance of the Fall Board meeting (and not as part of this report).

Should you have questions about whether any of your Committee's items require Board approval, please consult with your Board Liaison prior to submitting your report. We also recommend that you run a draft of your report by your liaison before you "officially" submit it.

Note: no report should include ad hominem or denigrating comments about another party or individual. These reports are shared publicly to facilitate transparency among the organization, (such as helping future chairs understand the main policy concerns of the Committee or Task Force.)

Details for each of the items are explained above:

- Provide direction on finding new tSAR Editor. New editor should be appointed before 2024 meeting so there will be overlap with Chris Rodning. Fiscal implications will not likely change. We have talked with a number of individuals. Not yet clear who will apply. Hope to recommend someone prior to Spring meeting.
- Join Alliance for Open Scholarship? The Committee argues that it might be good for SAA to have a representative to share information about what other major societies are doing to support open scholarship in their communities. There is NO fee to join.
- The Board should welcome Mitch Allen back to the Publications Committee – he will take over as Chair of the Committee after the annual meeting. Goldstein goes off the Committee.
- The Board should advertise and promote the shift to Open Access for *Advances*, as well as promote the new Style Guide.
- The Board should advertise and promote the various editorial positions now open for application and proposals. The Board needs to create processes for replacement of some positions, as well as MOUs.
- Approve the \$350 cost of creating a Citation Style Language for SAA publications.

4. Draft motions, if appropriate. (Optional)

Drafting a suggested motion or motions for any requests noted above will help the Board more clearly understand your request and increase the "fit" between the request you make and corresponding Board action. Please keep in mind that suggested motions may be revised or not accepted by the Board, whose responsibility it is to consider the full range of member needs. If you choose to include suggested motion(s) with your report, it is essential that you work with your liaison before you submit your report. They will be able to provide examples of motions that you can use as models for the ones you create.

The SAA Board moves to approve proposed changes to the *Style Guide*, especially in regard to issues concerning citation of Indigenous Tribal collaborators. The Committee on Native American Relations will once again be contacted to provide their input, but the importance of the policy requires implementing changes immediately. *Was this done??*

Explore joining the Alliance for Open Scholarship to keep up to date on organizational changes and developments in Open Access. *Again, was this done? Goldstein did not receive notice, one way or another.*

The Board moves to create a Task Force to search, advertise, and propose a new Editor for *American Antiquity*. The new editor should be in place at the 2025 Annual Meeting so the new editor has a year to learn the process and take over the operation, as has been done in the past. This is also true for SAA Press Editor.

Approve spending \$350 for development of a Citation Style Language for SAA Publications.