



President's Report from the Board

On St. Patrick's Day (March 17th), the SAS Board met virtually via Zoom. This is our second meeting of 2024, after a quick special meeting in January to approve presenting the membership with a motion to eliminate the Treasurer position in favour of creating a formal audit and risk management report. That information was communicated in the February edition of the Quarterly and will come up for a vote at our AGM on April 17th. The March board meeting is used every year to review and approve the draft audit to present to our membership at the AGM and this is our third year working with McLelland Debusschere. It was a clean audit with no concerns and the draft statement was approved for presentation to the membership, as well as a recommendation to engage McLelland Debusschere for next year's audit. It was noted that they have been excellent to work with. On the financial side of things, we will be receiving notification of our Annual Global Funding results in the coming days which will help determine our operational for the next three years.

The Board has reviewed our current meeting schedule and agreed to revise it in order to better correspond with deadlines for board decision items or activities. There will now be six board meetings a year, including a short introductory meeting immediately following the AGM. The schedule was moved and passed by the Board and is available to view in the Arch 17th meeting minutes.

The Governance Working Group (GWG) has been busy working on policy and also meeting with three chapters that requested individual meetings regarding a restructuring proposal that went out last fall. At the time of the March board meeting, the GWG had already met with APSAS and RAS, and a meeting with SAPA was scheduled. Primary issues that were identified at the meetings with the first two chapters included not only concerns with the restructuring proposal, but also with the transparency of the SAS and SAS board, with the move to a policy governance model and with the lack of geographical diversity on the Board.

As such, the SAS was asked to reconsider the restructuring proposal to retain the seven chapter representative positions and allowing each chapter to nominate their chosen representative. The nominees would then be elected at the AGM by the membership in hopes of fulfilling the legal requirements of the Non-Profit Act. Additionally, a proposal was made by the chapters that the Board consider holding a semi-annual members meeting to solicit feedback and input on the issues du-jour. Finally, they requested a widening of the scope of the SAS nominations pool, recommending that the SAS actively seeking potential board members from various regions of the province.

In response, the Governance Working Group brought the following recommendations to the board for discussion and approval:

- 1) To address transparency, the SAS President will provide a written report within 30 days of the board meeting to be posted on the SAS website along with a draft copy of the meeting minutes.
- 2) The GWG will plan on hosting a pilot meeting in the fall of 2024 with the membership. Hopefully, this will give an idea of how best these meetings can be utilized to the benefit of the SAS and its members.
- 3) The SAS will formalize their nominations policies and processes to ensure efforts are made to expand diversity on our board.

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- 4) The GWG and the Board will continue its work around organizational restructuring as it pertains to chapters. An update will be provided to the chapters in the spring once there has been a chance to meet with SAPA and the GWG will be taking the summer to work on other governance areas and will pick up the restructuring work again in the fall.

Normally, a board meeting would be held in early summer, however, due to the CAA conference being held in Saskatoon this year, the next full board meeting will be in August. The SAS staff has been working tirelessly to bring this conference together and we hope that you can join in to hear about some of the wonderful and interesting things happening in Canadian Archaeology! As always, be sure to check out our website, sign up for the e-Voice and check the *Quarterly* for upcoming news and events.

Yours in heritage,

Loni Williams
President