

American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies

Annual General Meeting

Saturday, October 13, 2007, 5:30-6:45
Madison Concourse Hotel, Senate A

Present: Chandra R. De Silva, Arjun Guneratne, Steven Kemper, Caitrin Lynch, Jeanne Marecek, John Rogers, Bambi Chapin, Jeffrey Samuels, Charles Hallisey, Brad Clough, Deborah Winslow, Amita Shastri, B. Sasikumar, Vidya Samarasinghe, Mark Whitaker

Jeanne Marecek presented bylaw changes passed at board meeting regarding the need delete the bylaw regarding quorum for the annual meeting and to allow for the possibility to use e-mail as a way of conducting business. The bylaw revision was as follows:

1. Delete the following by-laws:

1.3 Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by any two (2) members of the Board upon notification to the President and Secretary of the Board. Forty-eight (48) hour prior notice shall be required for such special meetings.

1.4 The quorum for meeting of the Board of Directors shall be a majority of its membership.

2. Add a new by-law, as follows:

The annual meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held in conjunction with the Annual South Asia Conference at Madison, WI. Urgent business that may arise between meetings shall be conducted by email.

[Other parts of Section 3 remain unchanged.]

The motion was ratified.

Caitrin Lynch presented the treasurer's report.

John Rogers discussed AISLS activities and programs for 2007 and 2008, including awards and fellowships and Colombo office programs and services.

Bambi Chapin discussed panel possibilities for the upcoming AISLS forum at the AAS annual meeting.

John Rogers discussed the need to think about ways of increasing the number of papers dealing with Sri Lanka at the South Asia Conference in Madison.

Thanks were given to John Rogers for all he has done for AISLS throughout the year..

New Business.

C.R. de Silva made a motion (Jeffrey Samuels seconded) to pay tribute to Jeanne Marecek for the work she has done for AISLS over her past two terms as president. John Rogers read the following passage from Mary Ellen Lane, Council of Overseas Research Centers.

Tribute to Jeanne Marecek

American overseas research centers can be judged by the kind of people they elect to lead them. The American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies, AISLS, although relatively new, has had exemplary and inspiring leadership since its founding. The presidencies of CR De Silva and most recently of Jeanne Marecek have assured AISLS's survival and success in promoting advanced research in and concerning Sri Lanka. The six years of Jeanne's presidency have seen the expansion of services by AISLS to Sri Lankan and American scholars and the rapid creation of new knowledge based on these scholars' research. The tiny community of scholars present at AISLS's creation can now point proudly to the field of Sri Lankan studies and AISLS's contribution to its development. We honor Jeanne not only for the academic rigor and energy she has brought to AISLS, but also for the compassion and devotion to the people of Sri Lanka that she and her work reflect. Her service to CAORC has also contributed to our work in supporting the mission and goals of member centers. She is currently in her second term on our Executive Committee and chairs the Fellowship Committee. I am grateful to Jeanne for all she has done and appreciate the opportunity to know her and to benefit from her counsel and example.

Bambi presented gifts to Jeanne for all her work over the years.

The motion was approved.