

Minutes of the Business Meeting of the AAG-RTS, San Francisco, April 2016.

1. Minutes from last year approved.
2. Quick overview of RTS group. Sum of online presence: Wordpress page, etc. Official AAG-RTS members at 250 right now but ranges between 230-300+
3. Financial Report: Current balance is just below \$2200, down about \$500 from last year. Part of this is due to new student awards which cost \$700 per year. Sustainability is an issue down the road. We bring in about \$500-\$600 annually and spend about \$1000. Consensus is to increase dues to \$7.
4. Student paper award. This year there were no applications. We need to do a better job of publicizing. Question about moving beyond Wordpress to publicize. Also questions about contacting directors of graduate programs and advisors. Also suggested is more organic way of doing it with chairs of sessions publicizing, plus other organic ways of publicizing.
 - a. Also push for more advanced notification.
 - b. Do we want to change the amount of the award? One suggestion is to compare our awards with those of other groups. Another suggestion is promise or hope to publish a winning paper in a journal.
5. Social media update. Wordpress and history of that summarized. It's an alternative to the knowledge community.
 - a. Google Plus community. About 50 members. Reposts of FB mainly.
 - b. Facebook page: now 224 friends. People are contributing events and the like to the wall. The total has more than doubled.
 - c. Question on the China Firewall. Possibility of LinkedIn to publicize.
 - d. Knowledge Community: Anyone can add a discussion post. These are being used more and more by other sections.
 - e. Twitter account exists. (@travelography). It is currently a bit unruly and is also not interactive. Mary raised the issue that others are tweeting during panels, highlighting issues that come up or they want to emphasize. Members encouraged to do so using: #AAGRSTS
6. Social gathering reflection: Report that about 20 attended a social get together the first night of the conference. Rudi Hartmann made a reservation for dinner tonight and invited group members to attend.
7. Featured speaker reflection: Margaret Swain. Estimates of 60-65 average attendees (peaking a little higher) despite the fact that it was not placed in the program as a special event. It also clashed with another RTS session. Thanks to Alan Lew and *Tourism Geographies* for co-sponsoring and thanks to Rudi Hartmann for taking the lead to organize. Thanks also to Mary Mostafanezhad, Alison Gill and Kevin Hannam for participating.
8. Collaboration with IGU and CAG for 2018. IGU will be in Quebec in 2018. Dieter Müller, currently chair of tourism section, spoke of the Quebec conference. They also organize pre-events. The hope is to make it a big event prior to the main event in QC. One can join through joining a listserv. Now about 660 geographers from more than 70 countries. IGU's Tourism Commission often co-sponsors AAG-RTS sessions at the AAG Annual Meeting.

9. Election information for 2017. We met and discussed some ideas for how to conduct future elections.
 - a. Currently the board has 6 members plus student member plus chair
 - b. In Boston we will have new elections
 - i. Idea is to stagger terms for board members, replacing two members every two years.
 - ii. We'll ask for volunteers to step down and if not, will ask those who have served longest to step down
 - c. Proposal is also to elect a Chair separate and before electing a board
 - d. We also want to elect everyone prior to the business meetings with elections organized electronically, a month or two prior to meeting.
 - e. Thoughts of members are invited in writing and will be shared.
 - f. Introduction of current board. Thanks to Stephanie, who with Kathleen, put together a survival guide. New structure is to work in pairs with two people
 - i. Frederick Zimmermann and Tometi Gbedema: international collaboration
 - ii. Mary Mostafanezhad and Kathleen Seal: work on communication: FB and other social media
 - iii. Piotr and Michael: Secretary/Treasurer
10. Terms of references for our group: We function as basically an ad hoc group.
 - a. Patrick has started a big list: Action list for next chair and next board.
 - b. Question from the floor: Will we need bylaws mainly for elections? Patrick will check with other chairs but it seems we do not need any.
11. Remembrances
 - a. Victor Tay from Arizona State University. He did great things, and was with our group for roughly 25 years. There is a remembrance on Tourism Geographers
 - b. John Urry's death
12. Any other business?
 - a. We had 32 sessions this year. Next year we will make sure to not clash our featured speaker session (if we have one) with other RTS sessions.
13. Official close of meeting
14. AAG-RTS Awards 2016
 - a. 2 awards regularly given out.: Alan Lew speaks about first one. Roy Wolf Award for outstanding contribution.
 - i. Wolf a pioneer in Recreation Geography. Xu Honggang the winner this year. PhD in Thailand in 1999. Is widely published in all the big journals and a regular attendee of this meeting.
 - b. One further award will be presented on Friday.

Appendix 1 - list of attendees at AAG-RTS Business Meeting 2016

Name	Affiliation	E-mail
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