

**Society for Ethnomusicology, Southern California and Hawai'i Chapter
(SEMSCHC)**

General membership business meeting minutes

February 19, 2011
Azusa Pacific University
Azusa, CA

Submitted by Amy Corin, Secretary-Treasurer (outgoing)

The meeting was called to order at 3:34 by president Jonathan Ritter. President Ritter thanked Kimasi Browne and his assistant Carole, as well as Azusa Pacific University for hosting this year's conference. He also thanked other members of the Local Arrangements Committee (Roberto Catalano, Beto Gonzales, Roberta King, Dennis Royce, and Nathan Watkins), as well as the Program Committee (Angeles Sancho-Velasquez (chair), Katherine Hagedorn, Charles Sharp, and Ken Habib). It was noted that this year we have featured musical performance at the conference and not simply talked about it. Acknowledgement and thanks were made to all musicians who performed, including: *Musicantica* with Roberto Catalano and Enzo Fina; *Mariachi de Uclatlán* (UCLA); the *CSUN Mbira Ensemble* led by Ricardo Alviso and guest Lisa Richardson; the *APU Jazz Ensemble*; and pianist William Chapman Nyaho.

Regrets were extended from those who unable attend, including: René T.A. Lysloff, Roger Savage, Paul Humphreys (will attend Sunday), Dave Novak, Loribeth Gregory, and Anthony Seeger.

The Chapter is happy to have no necrology to record this year.

The next order of business was the approval of the 2010 minutes, which were approved pending revisions. The minutes will be posted to the Chapter website within 24 hours. Revisions to be sent to the Board and the minutes will be revised and posted within one month.

President's Report

President Jonathan Ritter reported that the chapter is in excellent shape, financially and organizationally. This is our 45th annual meeting, making us one of the oldest SEM chapters. Special thanks were given to our new web editors Charles Sharp and Chris Adler for their exceptional work and vision in creating our chapter's new website (www.semschc.org). The decision to move to a commercial server has given us much more flexibility, space, and options for use of the site, though it has also incurred new costs, currently just under \$100/year. Please send any concerns or suggestions about the site to the web editors or the SEMSCHC board. Scott Marcus noted that the old web site does not point users to the new one; Charles noted that we must wait for Rene Lysloff to return to update the old site. The SEM chapter page is up to date.

We have also updated our financial operations as a chapter. After decades of secretary-treasurers opening an account for the chapter in their own names, we have established a non-profit small business account at Chase Bank. This long overdue move will greatly facilitate future transfers between officers, and has also allowed us to move to an online conference registration system through our website and PayPal. Professionalization also comes with a cost, currently \$144/year (\$12/month) for the account. If our balance, currently at around \$4000, were to rise above \$5000, the monthly account fee would be waived, so that goal may be worth pursuing over the course of several years.

Vice-President's Report

Kimasi Browne gave the Vice President's report, presenting the Ki Mantle Hood Student Paper Prize for the best paper read at the 2010 SEMSCHC conference. Catherine Appert was declared the winner. The full text of the report read:

Each year, the Ki Mantle Hood Prize is awarded for the most distinguished paper read by a student at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology Southern California and Hawai'i Chapter.

This year's recipient of the Ki Mantle Hood Prize presented a paper at the SEMSCHC conference last year at Scripps College in Claremont, CA. This paper problematizes hybridity as a form of Eurocentrism. The essay draws upon native scholarly voices and Hip-Hop practitioners to argue for a different hybridity, arising between Africa and its Diaspora rather than between Africa and the "West." Hybridists sometimes uncritically reassert colonial groupings, as with the West African griot tradition, which the literature has both homogenized and reified as a colonial "other." In this commendable presentation, this student convincingly deconstructed these assumptions.

For her paper titled: "Hybridity in African Popular Music," please join me in congratulating the recipient of the *2010 Ki Mantle Hood Prize*: Catherine Appert, UCLA

Sometimes, one of the papers read by a student at the Annual Meeting is so excellent that the Hood Prize Committee decides that Honorable Mention' status must be awarded for it.

This year, the Committee awarded Honorable Mention for a paper in which the student proceeds from a grounded discussion of ethnographic details, to uncover the subtle and multiple ways in which informants assert their social agency through musical performance. This case study of the Ash Grove club and its founder Ed Pearl reinforces ethnomusicological approaches to historical enquiry. This excellent presentation explored notions of community and geographical space while also presenting a gripping ethnography of the past.

For his paper read at the 2010 Annual Meeting at Scripps College, titled: "Real Encounters with Imagined Communities at the Ash Grove," please join me in congratulating this year's Honorable Mention recipient: Joshua Brown of UC Riverside

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Outgoing Secretary/Treasurer Amy Corin presented the Treasurer's report stating that the chapter is currently good financial state. The Chapter incurred only minor expenses in the two previous years, as most expenses were covered by the host institutions, leaving the Chapter with a current balance of more than \$4000. This year, our expenses included: payout of the Ki Mantle Hood Prize; the launch of our new Chapter website, which will incur an annual fee of around \$100; and new monthly bank charges that will continue with the establishment of a new permanent bank account. We thank Azusa Pacific University for their generosity in hosting our current conference, which has again minimized costs to the chapter, though we will also incur some expenses this year. Amy thanked the chapter for the opportunity to serve as Secretary/Treasurer for the past six years.

Student Concerns Committee

Jason Busniewski (UCSB) delivered the Student Concerns Committee report. He noted that the committee members attempted to form panels for the conference that relate to music in the L.A. area, but were unable to pull them together in time and had to encourage single papers instead. The committee continues to look for ways to encourage communication and collaboration among students in the southern California region. Jason reminded everyone that the committee did organize a round table that would take place on Sunday morning, examining the presence of ethnomusicology within university curricula and its place in the broader academy. The student concerns meeting at lunch earlier in the day resulted in the election of Kate Alexander as the incoming student representative for SEMSCHC. At Pres. Ritter's urging, Jason agreed to serve for an additional year as the "outgoing" representative, to continue the precedent of overlapping two-year terms.

Election of Secretary/Treasurer:

Nominations were opened to elect a new Secretary/Treasurer to replace Amy Corin, and Shanna Lorenz agreed to be nominated by Jonathan Ritter. Nominations were opened for other nominations or self-nominations. There were no further nominations. Shanna Lorenz was elected unanimously.

Old business:

Following up on a topic that was tabled at the business meeting in 2010, members discussed the possibility of creating scholarships to bring students from Hawai'i to the SEMSCHC meeting. Tim Cooley said it is important explore this and would put forth the first \$75 to start a fund. President Ritter suggested that through Paypal we could solicit and set aside donations for a scholarship fund. Charles Sharp mentioned that such a fund might create problems because we are not technically our own non-profit. Jonathan Ritter suggested that we might want to continue to explore options to make the conference more

available to Hawai'i members through technology. Katherine Hagedorn mentioned that some of these issues came up at the national meeting too, and suggested that we should contact Steve Stumpfle at SEM too to see what options they are considering. Charles suggested a membership fee separate from the conference fee.

New Business:

1. Change in by-laws. In 2010, we voted to create a new position, the “web editor.” We elected two web editors but did not officially change our by-laws. Students also made a change in the organization of their group, but did not change the by-laws. We need to change our by-laws to reflect current practice.

Proposed changes included:

2. The SEMSCHC Executive Board shall include a President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, [Web Editor\(s\)](#), and [two Student Representatives](#), all elected at the annual meeting. The Vice President shall be elected in even years, and shall become President after serving two years as Vice President. The Treasurer shall be elected in odd years, and shall serve a term of two years. [The Web editor\(s\) shall serve a term of three years, with an election held the year that the previous term ends. In the event that two co-editors are elected, each shall serve concurrently. Student Representatives shall each serve a two-year term, staggered for election in alternate years.](#) Chapter officers must be members of SEM in good standing and shall provide annual reports to be presented at the Annual Meeting and then sent to the SEM Chapter Coordinator.
4. Student [Representatives](#) shall be elected by student members at the annual meeting for [staggered terms of two years](#). The Student [Representatives](#) shall be voting members of the Executive Board, and must be student members of SEM in good standing. If a student election is not feasible, the Chapter President shall appoint a [Student Representative for that year](#). [Student Representatives](#) are encouraged to organize student activities such as proposals for panels and performances at the annual chapter meeting.

Katherine Hagedorn moved, Deborah Wong seconded
Changes were approved unanimously.

2. Conference length and date. Pres. Ritter noted that the Chapter exists largely to host this conference, but many people can only make it for one day. Costs are also increased when we have it for two days. Should we consider having only a one-day conference? A concern was raised regarding reducing the number of paper proposals accepted to fit the shorter format. Program Committee members Angeles Sancho-Velazquez and Shanna Lorenz stated that all papers and sessions for this year could have feasibly fit into one day. Scott Marcus noted that having more simultaneous panels contradicts the desire to all meet together, and reiterated that we would not want a more competitive situation due

to time. Ken Habib noted that cost is an issue for many people, and a single day format might help. Jonathan Ritter proposed experimenting with a single day conference in 2012, and revisiting the conversation at that time. An informal poll of those present was mixed, and the decision was left to the SEMSCHC board.

3. Paul Humphreys confirmed that Loyola Marymount will host the SEMSCHC conference next year, date TBD.

4. Future Hawai'i meeting. We discussed a few years ago that we might meet in Hawai'i at some time in the future. VP Kimasi Browne has been speaking with Fred Lau to explore this possibility, and they are open to the possibility. Discussion regarding what the body thinks about this prospect. Charles Sharp noted that we should begin collecting donations for student travel. Scott Marcus argued that it goes against the concept of the regional meeting, as no one can simply drive down the coast. Many of his students will not be able to attend. Others wondered if we could host the meeting virtually. A graduate student representative asked if Hawaiian students would be willing to host other students in their homes to defray hotel costs. Tim Cooley suggested that we might want to poll students anonymously if they would be willing to go. Another member suggested that we consider where the national SEM is being held in the year we might want to go. Katherine Hagedorn expressed concerns about the economic downturn affecting decisions to travel. Tim Cooley asked whether we could do both a virtual and on-site meeting simultaneously. Jason Busniewski asked if we could do the combined meeting on a more regular basis. Final poll was inconclusive.

5. Conference Date. Scott Marcus stated a concern that we are meeting on a three-day weekend (President's Day). He moved that we do not meet again on a holiday weekend. Other members expressed support for meeting on President's Day, citing more time to attend the conference and still tend to family matters. The vote was undecided. Pres. Ritter stated that the issue will be taken under advisement.

6. Conference Attendance. Scott Marcus noted that there is a notable lack of faculty presence at the conference, and asked if the SEMSCHC president or board could issue a communiqué to all regional faculty, encouraging them to attend the conference. Pres. Ritter agreed to send such a letter prior to the next chapter meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:54 pm

Respectfully submitted
Amy R. Corin
Secretary/Treasurer
SEMSCHC