

Motion to Amend By-Laws with regard to Membership Categories

Last year, the Membership Committee chaired by Lisa Trivedi of Hamilton College conducted a very thorough review of our membership categories and the criteria for membership. As a result of their study, the following motion was presented to and subsequently approved by the Board of Directors at the Spring 2009 board meeting. This proposed amendment will be presented to the membership for a vote at the Spring 2010 business meeting. According to our by-laws, any amendment should be circulated in writing to the members at least 60 days prior to the annual business meeting. Please direct any questions or comments about this motion to Lisa Trivedi at 315-859-4980 or at ltrivedi@hamilton.edu.

Rationale

The Board of Directors recognizes that the Carnegie Foundation's 2005 revision of its higher education classification system has reduced its usefulness in determining ASIANetwork membership designations. As a result, the existing membership committee finds the ASIANetwork categories to be illogical, arbitrary, and in conflict with our mission. The Executive Board proposes these changes in order to bring our By Laws into line with our current membership practices. The Board of Directors contends that these changes to the By Laws will enable ASIANetwork to be both more equitable and more inclusive of institutions, whether private or public, who share the mission of fostering the study of Asia in undergraduate, liberal arts settings. Finally, this change in membership categories is intended to encourage membership growth and stabilize participation in our annual conference.

The Membership committee recommends the following changes to the By Laws:

1. Strike the word "private" from:
ARTICLE 2: sentence one.
ARTICLE 3: sentence one.
2. New membership categories will go into effect in the 2010-2011 academic year.
3. Replace both Full Members and Associate Members with the new category: Institutional Members. "Institutional Members" will be comprised of two kinds of institutions.

Category 1— all accredited, degree-granting institutions that define their primary mission as the provision of an undergraduate liberal arts education. In general, these will be relatively small colleges with enrollments of no more than 6,000 students. Those institutions who conform to this category will receive all the benefits described elsewhere. Annual dues: \$300.00.

Category 2—all accredited, degree-granting institutions that define their primary mission as the provision of an undergraduate liberal arts education. Typical Category 2 Institutional Members will be small universities, some community colleges, and/or other institutions with enrollments of more than 6,000 students. All benefits open to Category 1 Institutional Members are also open to Category 2 Institutional Members, except that in the case of competing applications for fellowships and grants administered by ASIANetwork, and for Board Membership, Category 1 Institutional Members will be given priority. Annual dues: \$300.00.

FAQs

1. Will the proposed changes to the By-Laws undermine the primary mission of ASIANetwork?

No. ASIANetwork will remain, as it has always, focused on the promotion of the study of Asia in undergraduate, liberal arts education. Our members will continue to share this liberal arts focus. We do not anticipate larger, research-oriented institutions joining the organization as a result of these changes, although the changes would allow us to accommodate the participation of colleges within research institutions that share our mission.

2. What happens to existing "Associates Members"?

All current Associate Member institutions will be invited to become "Institutional Members." Depending upon the institution, they will be assigned to category 1 or category 2. We will initiate a two-year grace period during which institutions can join in this new status.

3. What happens to existing "Affiliate Members" and "Individuals"?

There will be no change to these categories of membership. All benefits will remain the same for both groups.

4. Will larger, research institutions dominate ASIANetwork grant and leadership opportunities?

No. Among other criteria, we will continue to evaluate grant proposals on the potential impact that a project will have on the overall campus life of the applying institution.

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served as a board member of the Western Conference of the Association for Asian Studies, 2004-2007. Dott began his association with ASIANetwork as a visiting faculty member at Kalamazoo College in 1999. He travelled to Beijing to study contemporary Daoist practice with Jeffery Lung (Kalamazoo College) in the summer of 2000 on an ASIANetwork Freeman Student-Faculty Fellowship. He was the Whitman College organizer and sponsor for the ASIANetwork, ACLS, Center for Educational Exchange with Vietnam, and the Henry Luce Foundation, Vietnam Faculty Exchange Program which brought a visiting faculty

member to Whitman in 2007. He just completed the other portion of the exchange when he visited Vietnam for a month this past summer.

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MARY BETH HESTON

Mary Beth Heston teaches Art History and Asian Studies and is founding Director of the Asian Studies program at the College of Charleston, the public liberal arts college of South Carolina. Her course offerings include Introduction to Asian Art, surveys of Indian, Chinese and Japanese Art, Hindu Myth and Image, Indian Painting, and seminars on Indian Art, including Encounter, Accommodation and Resistance: Indian Art in the Nineteenth Century. With research focused on the visual culture of the Kerala region of southwestern coastal India, she has published on Architecture and the Public Sphere in Nineteenth Century Trivandrum; Constructions of the Body in Kerala Bronze Sculpture; Architecture and Authority in Indian Kingship; and mural painting traditions of Kerala. Her research has been supported by fellowships



from the American Institute of Indian Studies, the J. Paul Getty Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Humanities, The Fulbright Foundation, the American Philosophical Society, and the College of Charleston. Service beyond the College of Charleston includes: Vice President (1999-2004), and President (2004-2008) of the American Council for Southern Asian Art; Peer Review committee of the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (Fulbright) for India and the American Institute of Indian Studies; reader for American Institute of Indian Studies book prize; Trustee, the American Institute of Indian Studies; College Art Association Education Committee (2005-2008); Consultant, Asian Art in the Undergraduate Curriculum, ASIANetwork.

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5. Will this change affect our ability to support colleges with the greatest financial need?

We have not used financial need as a criterion in the past. Moreover, there is currently great variation in the financial resources of our members.

6. Are there any changes to benefits of membership?

No. In fact, there has been almost no difference in the benefits available to full and associate members. The proposed changes to the By Laws will not have any effect on membership benefits.

7. What will happen to community colleges?

Those community colleges that share our focus on liberal arts undergraduate education are welcome to become institutional members, although the cost of their participation will increase \$100. Currently, we have one community college among our Associate Members.