

LASA Business Meeting, May 30, 2016, 9:45 a.m.

Introduction and Report by Gilbert Joseph, President

President Joseph welcomed everyone to the association's business meeting. He began by commenting on the success of the Congress and a great year for LASA, especially in fund-raising. There is an estimate of 6,000 attendees and around 1,000 panels, and twice as many plenary sessions as in recent Congresses. The Ayotzinapa panel, which was added late in the process, was a big success. Also, after the business meeting, there will be a session on Brazil's impeachment that is expected to be very well attended. The Gala had close to 400 people attending and raised hundreds of thousands of dollars. Other highlights of the activity of the association include a new five-year strategic plan that is about to be implemented. Joanne Rappaport, as the new president, will be meeting with graduate students to assess their needs on a variety of fronts. Back to New York City, this Congress has been a big event and it has gone very well.

Report of the Secretariat by Milagros Pereyra, Executive Director

Pereyra reported that there were 6,237 preregistered attendees and approximately 300 registered on-site. Regarding future congresses, it has been approved that LASA2017 will take place in Lima, at the Universidad Católica de Lima, and Hotels Miraflores and San Isidro for lodging. She also reported that the Executive Council approved the creation of an open-access press that will function as an umbrella for the *Latin American Research Review*, which will go open access beginning next year, and also to publish books by academics, especially in Latin America and in Spanish. The same platform will be used to publish other journals about Latin America to become a repository

about Latin American studies. The student portal is another initiative led by Joanne Rappaport and also a component of the Strategic Plan developed last year. This portal will help students find jobs not only in the United States but also in Latin America. She also reported that last year in November, a group of past presidents and past Executive Council members got together to work on this plan, which has four key areas: reorganization of the LASA Secretariat, LASA's identity through branding, LASA communications, and how to better serve members outside the United States and students.

Treasurer's Report by Timothy Power, Treasurer

Power introduced himself and noted that his term would end the next day and Patricia Tovar would replace him. He noted that the main responsibility of the treasurer is to manage LASA's Endowment with the assistance of the Investment Advisory Board (Judith Albert, Mark Blum, Joseph Marques, Tom Trebat, and Kevin Middlebrook) and the investment firm Morgan Stanley in Pittsburgh. The LASA Endowment stands at \$5.1 million, a very healthy balance. Withdrawals are taken every two years to fund travel to the Congress. Otherwise, there is no other drawdown on the Endowment whatsoever. He mentioned that one of the objectives this year, the 50th anniversary year, was to have a fund-raising campaign. Part of it happened in New York with the Gala Dinner, which brought about \$500,000, or about 10 percent of the existing endowment, to recapitalize the investment—a big addition to the endowment. Power thanked Joseph and Pereyra for their work on the fund-raiser. Another \$200,000 to \$300,000 was brought in by other anniversary-associated activities (silent auction, spontaneous

donations, etc.) for a total of \$850,000 this year for the Endowment. This will come in as cash that the next treasurer will be reassigning into different investments. He noted that about 54 percent of the Endowment portfolio is now in socially responsible investments, and that percentage continuous to grow every year.

Resolutions

Joanne Rappaport presented an emergency resolution approved by the Executive Council that reads as follows:

Resolution on Brazil

Whereas: the arbitrary and casuistic manner in which the impeachment process is being carried out against President Dilma Rousseff constitutes an attack against Brazilian democracy;

Whereas democracy is an indispensable condition for attaining a dignified and socially just future for all of the region's inhabitants; and

Whereas: the international community of Latin Americanists has long stood in solidarity with struggles in defense of democracy.

Be it resolved that:

LASA denounces the current impeachment process in Brazil as antidemocratic and encourages its members to call the world's attention to the dangerous precedents that this process establishes for the entire region.

The resolution will be sent out to the membership for voting. She also noted that LASA will put together a delegation to go to Brazil to observe the impeachment process.

With no further business to discuss President Joseph adjourned the meeting. ■