Submitted By:
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Question 1

Please list your Committee, Commission, or Task Force Objective and Responsibilities as stated in your Group's charge:

“Objectives: This committee organizes and reviews the nominations for specific AAA awards and selects a recommended winner for each.”

“Responsibilities:
  to organize and review information regarding the nominations and recommend winners for the following AAA awards:
    The Franz Boas Award for Exemplary Service to Anthropology;
    The Anthropology in Media Award;
    The Robert B. Textor and Family Prize for Excellence in Anticipatory Anthropology;
    and
    The AAA/Oxford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching
  Coordinates with the SfAA for the Margaret Mead Award to ensure that winner is selected in a timely way.
  Committee members are encouraged to attend the Awards Ceremony at the AAA Annual Meetings where they will be recognized by the AAA President”

Question2

Please identify one or more of the AAA Long Range Plan (LRP) 12 main objectives, that your Group is organized to support.

Describe your Group's activities and accomplishments/products for the designated period, and how they support the achievement of LRP objectives. Account for any ways in which your Group has fallen short of supporting the achievement of these objectives. Activities of your Group that do not relate to the LRP objectives should also be mentioned and indicated as such.

I. Long Range Plan:

From the Preamble:

To further the professional interests of anthropologists, the Association shall promote the widespread recognition and constant improvement of professional and ethical standards in anthropology.

The bestowal of prestigious awards at the annual meeting serves to encourage excellence in anthropological research, service, and teaching. It promotes widespread recognition of professionalism in anthropology.

Objective No. 3: The AAA will promote quality and effectiveness in the teaching of anthropology and anthropological research at all levels.

The AAA/Oxford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching is one means to visibly acknowledge and promote quality and effectiveness in the teaching of anthropology. The
Textor prize recognizes and promotes anthropological research.

II. Committee activities and accomplishments that support the achievement of LRP objectives:

A. The Awards Committee (members Anne Grauer, Marcy Hessling [student member], Katherine Verdery, and Elizabeth Chin, with Chair Susan Gillespie), and Kathy Ano (AAA liaison) interacted by teleconference on April 16, 2012 to evaluate the nominations and select winners for the Boas Award, the AIME Award, and the AAA/Oxford Teaching Award, and to review and confirm the recommendation of the Textor Prize Panel (Anne Grauer is liaison to the Textor Panel). The results of our deliberations are as follows:

1) For the 2012 Franz Boas Award for Exemplary Service to Anthropology the committee selected Prof. Sidney Mintz

2) For the 2012 AAA/Oxford University Press Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in Anthropology the committee selected Prof. Peter Brown

3) For the 2012 Anthropology in the Media award (AIME) the committee selected Ann Gibbons.

4) For the 2012 Robert B. Textor and Family Prize for Excellence in Anticipatory Anthropology the committee endorsed the selection by the Textor Prize Panel of a joint award to Elizabeth K. Briody, Robert T. Trotter, II, and Tracy L. Meerwarth

At the May EB meeting Gillespie introduced a motion for approval of the four above-mentioned award winners. The motion passed and the 2012 winners were confirmed.

B. On July 10, 2012 the Awards Committee Chair received the report of the 2012 Margaret Mead Award Panel authored by panel chair Pam Erickson (SfAA); the other three panel members were Elaine Bennett (AAA), Elizabeth J. Chin (AAA; Awards Committee liaison), and Justin Nolan (SfAA). The panel voted unanimously to award the 2012 Margaret Mead prize to Dr. Erin P. Finley for her 2011 book, Fields of Combat: Understanding PTSD among Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. In August Gillespie introduced a motion to the EB for approval of this winner, which was voted on and passed by email ballot.

C. The Awards Committee chair created the 5-year report (2007-2011) that was reviewed and accepted by the AOC at the May 2012 meeting.

In sum, the 2012 Awards Committee achieved all of its objectives and responsibilities as laid out in the committee’s charge.

Question 3

Provide plans for the coming year in relation to existing or recommended new goals/activities and relationship to the Objective in the committee, commission, or task force Charge and Long-Range Plan (if not self-evident). Identify if they represent significant changes or elaborations on existing goals, objective activities, charge etc.
The 2013 Awards Committee is expected to fulfill its objectives and responsibilities in the same manner that it does every year. No new activities or goals are anticipated; any such would be beyond the stated committee charge, which is very narrow and specific.

Question 4
Identify and upcoming requirements for additional resources and explain how these funds would be used if approved. (Please note that formal requests for funding must be included in the annual budget proposal, to be considered with all other requests.)

not applicable

Question 5
Do you propose any changes to the Charge (Objective, Responsibilities, or Products/Outcomes) of your Committee, Commission or Task Force? If so, list the proposed changes, the rationale for the change, and additional funding that may be needed.

The committee’s charge should be expanded to match what the committee chair and members have actually been asked to do year after year, as follows:

- Provide advice where appropriate to the EB and/or AAA units regarding modifying existing award conditions or requirements and establishing new awards
- Provide the encomia for the annual award winners to be published in the AN

Rationale: The stated responsibilities should match what the award committee actually does.

Additional Funding: not needed

Question 6
Are there issues you would like raised or recommendations you would like to make to the AAA Executive Board related to the work of your Committee, Commission, or Task Force?

There is a complete lack of follow-up of recommendations formally made by the Awards Committee and the Margaret Mead Award Committee, other than confirmation of the selection of the winners. This includes recommendations that are part of the motions that are voted on by the EB. The committees make recommendations to ease problems or improve the process, but without follow-up action by the association, they are moot and the problems remain. The Mead Award presents unique difficulties because it requires action from two separate boards of directors. See the 2011 five-year report.