

AMS POPULAR MUSIC STUDY GROUP MEETING
11 November 2011, San Francisco, CA

MINUTES

Introductions of each attendee were made, and it was decided that Whitney Henderson would stand in as secretary for Jake Cohen, who was unable to attend, and keep minutes.

1) Pertaining to the minutes from last year's meeting, which were handed out:

- A motion was made to amend one detail of those minutes. The second point under "Publications" uses the phrase "ethnographically-oriented journals such as *JSAM* and *Ethnomusicology*," and a motion was passed to strike "ethnographically-oriented" from the minutes.
- A motion was made and passed to add Griff Rollefson's name to the planning committee, which was accidentally omitted from the minutes.

Following these two points, the revised minutes were approved.

2) By-laws for the Popular Music Study Group:

- Model by-laws were passed around the group (Pedagogy and Ecocriticism groups). A proposal was made to *not* write or vote on by-laws at this session, as no drafts had been written.
- Things the by-laws should establish include: officers, committees, and term-limits/procedures for elections, etc.
- Next year, we should come with by-laws drawn up, so we are able to vote next time.

3) Money/Dues:

- The possibility of charging dues was discussed. The following pros and cons were suggested:

Pros:

- It lends legitimacy to the group
- It would be beneficial to have money for group excursions and for prizes
- It would make people invested in pop music

Cons:

- It might turn off people who are more casually interested in the group
- We need to have a clear vision of what we will use the money for before we ask for dues

No final decision was made about charging dues, but the pros and cons were noted.

- The possibility of establishing a prize was also discussed. The pros and cons suggested include:

Pros:

- It would increase visibility of the group
- It would be announced at the business meeting

- The amount of the prize is less important than having one

Cons:

- We do not really need one; just having the study group is enough
- All big prizes are open to popular music topics/papers already
- It was suggested that we establish a treasurer at this meeting, since we need someone to be in charge of the money if we are going to ask for dues, but no one was appointed.
- Although we did not decide how we would raise the funds, we decided that it would be a good idea to have *some* money by next year's meeting so we can do something fun!

4) Popular Music Study Group Status and Membership:

- The question of getting our attendance numbers up was raised, in light of the small turnout for the meeting. Some ideas include:
 - Being more active on the mailing list
 - Put together a newsletter that keeps people on the listserv up-to-date with news, updates on scholarship and new publications, and other various submissions from other people on the mailing list
 - Respond to Alex Reed's email introducing ourselves to the other people on the mailing list. He will also contact the AMS newsletter about including our meeting in the next issue
 - At next year's meeting, have some interesting element to attract people. Suggestions include having a panel, an interview, or an interesting paper presented.
- Our status within the organization was clarified. We are guaranteed a spot/panel at next year's meeting.
- In terms of officers, Alex will remain as chair. The status of Paula Bishop as webmaster and Jake Cohen as secretary were not clarified, since neither was in attendance.

5) AMS/SEM/SMT 2012 New Orleans:

- Potential topics and formats were discussed. The topic of 19th century Popular Music in New Orleans was met with enthusiasm, although there were/are some reservations about having a host-city-based-theme two years in a row.
- As per 2011, the topic for the Pop Music Study Group Session will be decided by the designated Popular Music Study Group Planning Committee, which will accept ideas from the public at a later date and will decide upon the topic. The Committee now consists of Mandy Smith (chair), Dave Blake, and Whitney Henderson.
- It was decided that we will reach out to SMT and SEM in order to suggest a collaborative panel that we can submit.