

NERWHA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ZOOM MEETING MINUTES, 18 SEPT
2021

Present: David Kalivas, (president), David Northrup (vice-president), Dave Burzillo (treasurer), A. J. Andrea (secretary), Gustavo Carrera (EC), Tom Johnson (EC), Angela Lee (EC), Elizabeth Lehr (EC), Violetta Ravagnoli (EC), Luke Scalone (EC), Heather Streets-Salter(EC), Kerry Vieira(WHA)

President Kalivas called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon, and began by asking if NERWHA should hold its Fall symposium according to the plan set out at the previous EC meeting of 31 March 2021. He noted that David Northrup already has submitted a paper and he, David Kalivas, plans to submit one. If NERWHA goes ahead as planned, we must find reviewers and discussion leaders.

AA: And we have a second issue to discuss, the Fall election of officers.

DK: Right!

HSS: Does the president have to step down? He has done an excellent job.

DK: I love the job, but we need new blood. But let's first return to the symposium. Two papers, the keynote and David Northrup's, have been written. That makes a fine session. What we need are commentators.

AA: Correction, I have given many lectures on the topic and authored this book,¹ but I have not yet written the keynote address. It will be ready by the end of this month.

DK: I will write a paper of reflections. Is anyone interested in being a commentator?

TJ: Will participation be wider than NERWHA?

AA: We decided that, as with earlier Zoom symposia, it would be WHA-wide.

KV: I will make this WHA-wide and advertise it broadly as such.

DK: There being no objection to the structure as established at our last meeting, let me ask if we want to postpone it to November. Is October 15 still OK?

¹ Specifically "Holy War in World History." The book, of which he composed about 95 percent, is *Sanctified Violence: Holy War in World History* (2020).

There follows a good deal of interchange that unanimously supports the position that mid-October is far better than November.²

DK: OK. Consensus is good. October 15 it is.

HSS: How long should the commentaries be?

AA: Well, I plan to write a keynote address of about 7,000 words, or about 15 pages. The commentary on the keynote need not be more than several pages.

DK: Yes, 2-5 pages, and commentaries for the two shorter papers--2 pages.

HSS: The commentators should set up a list of questions for reflection and discussion. I would like to respond to David Northrup's paper.

TJ: Will the commentators need to write out their comments in advance?

AA: Yes, our agreed-upon procedure is to post commentaries and responses as well as the papers prior to the Zoom discussion.

DK: Yes, the commentaries are intended to generate discussion. And we need a commentator for my paper. Violetta?

VR: I am teaching a session of world history to 1500. What do you think if I assign students the task of commenting on David K's paper?

AA: A super idea!

HSS: David K's paper would be great for students, with, of course, Violetta's guiding them.

DK: I could do a podcast on the paper with A/V stuff if the students prefer.

AA: Will you still submit a written paper?

DK: Yes. I am insane.

DN: I will also send Violetta a copy of my paper.

AA: I will also send her well in advance a copy of the keynote address.

DN: And she will get my paper.

² The secretary and keynoter, being somewhat out to lunch, fails to note in the exchange that he will not even be in New England in November.

VR: This can all be beneficial for the students and can have a nice outcome.

TJ: We need to reach out to people abroad with whom we have been previously in contact.

AA: Yes, they are on our listserv.

DK: Are there any other volunteers for commentary? No. OK.

AL: We must attract teachers. I need to let them know about the teaching aspect.³

HSS: We should all think of this topic from a teaching perspective.

DK: Papers should go out to the commentators and other EC members no later than October 10.⁴ With proper outreach, there will be plenty of time between now and 15 October for people to register.

KV: Announcements through the WHA's various media will go out as soon as I get the information.

AA: You will have a one-paragraph description suitable for promotion no later than Monday morning.

VR: We need to set a time for the 23rd.

HSS: Not too late or early. 11:00 AM?

AA: 11:00 to 12:30?

Unanimous agreement.

VR: When can we send out a call explaining the rationale? If Al writes up a paragraph, I can make a flyer.

AA: You will have it no later than Monday. I also have plenty of images, many my own photos, relating to holy war over the past 5,000 years.

³ Off in his own little world and scribbling madly to record the essence of the conversation, the secretary fails to note that his address focuses on teaching holy war in world history.

⁴ At its March meeting, the EC decided on the following symposium schedule: 15 OCT placement online of the keynote paper; 16 OCT placement online of the other papers; 19 OCT online distribution of commentaries; 20 OCT online response by presenters to the commentaries; 23 OCT Zoom meeting for 1 ½ hours open to all registered persons and broken into discrete discussion groups.

DK: Are we all set? OK. Will Kerry moderate?

KV: Sure.

AA: A question for Kerry. Where best to register? The NERWHA website?

KV: Yes, it is best on that website.

DB: Agreed.⁵

TJ: Yes, it should be NERWHA.

DB: Is there an H-site for religion? If so, we should post on it. And H-medieval?

AA: Although medieval religious history is my area, I do not subscribe to either and do not know how to gain access to them. H-World is my only subscription.

There follows a discussion of how bloody impossible it has become to navigate H-World since it "improved" its procedures and how readership has dropped off precipitously.

DK: Let's discuss elections.

DN: I asked Christoph Strobel to run, and he agreed to run for any office. I nominated him for vice-president.

TJ: I am satisfied with all four officers.

AA: But it is not healthy for NERWHA for the same people to stay on indefinitely. We need new people.

HSS: Yes, but we need people who are committed to NERWHA and willing to do the work.

DB: There is good gender balance already, seven women and seven men, but we should have a greater diversity among our officers.

VR: In theory we should have balance. Maybe I will stay on for another term.

AL: I also am interested in staying on for another term.

AA: Let me ask the three EC members whose terms end in December: will you stand in nomination for another three-year term?

⁵ Let it be noted that earlier Dave Burzillo had put the secretary's mind to rest by informing him that already Boston College was up 14-0 in its football game at Temple.

Unanimous YES from AL, VR, and HSS.⁶

K: The work is not onerous. I will stay on.

Unanimous agreement that DB should remain treasurer for life. The secretary says nothing about himself or his office, thinking, "Whom can I finagle into standing for scribner?"

DK: Our work is completed. Go in peace.

The Zoom meeting ends at 1:08.

⁶ Much to his embarrassment, the secretary subsequently consulted the list of NERWHA officers and saw that the three seats coming vacant on 31 December are currently held by Heather Streets Salter, Michele Louro, and Violetta Ravagnoli. Angela Lee has one more year before having to decide whether or not to stand for election. Moreover, on his recommendation, the EC has recently and unanimously voted by email to make the director of Northeastern University's World History Program an ex-officio member of the EC, a position currently held by HSS. This means that at least one three-year seat is immediately vacant. Let this be a lesson to all. Review all relevant documents before a meeting.