

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
January 25 - 27, 2012
Chicago, Illinois**

**Report of the Executive Committee
(Prepared by Scott Cline)**

Executive Committee Actions and Discussions

- Conducted a conference call to discuss questions arising from the Standards Committee co-chairs regarding the Committee's mission, policies, procedures, and priorities. (October 4, 2011)
- In response to a Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) advance notice of proposed rulemaking regarding "Human Subjects Research Protections: Enhancing Protections for Research Subjects and Reducing Burden, Delay, and Ambiguity for Investigators (HHS-OPHS-2011-0005): Solicited input from the Oral History Section and the Issues and Advocacy, Privacy and Confidentiality, and Science, Technology, and Health Care roundtables; forwarded that input to Past President Mark Greene, who agreed to prepare a draft letter on SAA's behalf; reviewed the draft; and submitted the letter to HHS by the deadline of October 26, 2011.
- Signed on to an OpenTheGovernment.org letter in support of H.R. 3071, the Presidential Records Act Amendments of 2011, which provides a framework for the assertion of privilege by a former president and clarifies the rights and obligations of the incumbent president and the Archivist of the United States in dealing with such claims (November 2, 2011).
- Conducted a conference call, with Executive Director Nancy Beaumont and Finance/Administration Director Tom Jurczak in attendance, to discuss proposed cuts in the FY12 budget that were recommended by the staff and the Finance Committee. The Executive Committee agreed that all proposed changes should be made and that the changes should be put forward to the Council for discussion. (December 5, 2011)

Council Interim Actions and Discussions

- Encouraged members and component groups to review and comment on the International Council on Archives' Principles for Access to Archives (at <http://www.ica.org/9400/news-events/principles-for-acces-to-archives-give-your-opinon-now.html>). (September - December 2011)

- Adopted the minutes of the August 22 and August 27, 2011, Council meetings (passed unanimously on October 12, 2011).
- Voted to endorse the International Council on Archives' Universal Declaration on Archives (passed unanimously on October 12, 2011).
- Reviewed and submitted edits to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook Profile for Archivists (October 20, 2011).
- Reviewed and provided feedback to staff regarding the Member Needs and Satisfaction Survey that will launch in January 2012. (October – December 2011)
- Discussed news related to the Occupy Wall Street library and archives and asked the Issues and Advocacy Roundtable to monitor the situation (November 2011).
- At the request of National Historical Publications and Records Commission Executive Director Kathleen Williams, discussed individuals who might serve as SAA's representative on an NHPRC group charged to draft a new Report to the President that 1) will summarize the agency's progress since its last report in 1978, 2) describe current conditions and the challenges ahead, and 3) recommend future actions and initiatives. (December 2011)
- Conducted an online discussion of proposed cuts in the FY 12 budget that were recommended by the staff, the Finance Committee, and subsequently the Executive Committee, and agreed that all proposed changes should be made. (December 6 – 8, 2011)
- Approved an application to establish an SAA Student Chapter at the University of Oklahoma (passed unanimously on December 28, 2011).

In addition, it should be noted that Past President and Intellectual Property Working Group member William Maher represented SAA at the November 21 – December 2, 2011, meeting of the World Intellectual Property Organization's Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights, which convened to discuss a proposal for a treaty on exemptions for libraries and archives. SAA was granted NGO Observer status on the first day of the meeting, thus giving Maher an opportunity to deliver a brief statement on behalf of SAA (November 21, 2011, see SAA website, "Position Statements and Resolutions"). Maher's attendance at the WIPO meeting was supported in full by a grant from the Sloan Foundation.