

**Annual Meeting of the Northeast Chapter of the Society for Ethnomusicology (NECSEM)**  
**March 18, 2017**  
**Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT**

President's report (Corinna Campbell)

Topics discussed at SEM chapter presidents' meeting: pros and cons of centralizing chapter activities, particularly in terms of the SEM website and collecting membership dues. Many chapter members don't come to the NECSEM conference and thus forget to pay dues.

Participation was up this year with 30 submissions. An ongoing concern is low participation among senior members. This is a concern for students presenting, who would like the conference to provide opportunities for mentoring and feedback.

Questions about how to handle last minute paper cancellations. Should there be a penalty, like inability to participate the following year? Concerns about keeping the conference accessible. When people cancel last minute, there is not time to accept others from the wait list.

The financial support of Middlebury College was very important this year. There is a need to make the conference more financially sustaining, to support student paper prizes and the fund for the student representative to travel to SEM, as well as supporting programming for the NECSEM conference itself.

Treasurer's report (Susan Asai)

Plans to work on membership, sending out reminders for renewals via email, once in the fall and once in January to encourage people to pay their dues and remain current. Possibility of sending a separate letter to senior faculty to encourage them to come and support graduate students. Any suggestions are welcome. What can be done on social media? We have a Facebook page. About half of attendees are followers. Would it help to pay dues through the SEM site with annual membership? Paying dues is important so that NECSEM can continue to invite keynote speakers, like William Cheng. The society is not in debt, but \$2700 in the bank. Susan will prepare the report for 2017.

Student concerns representative (Paddy League)

Concerns raised by Corinna and Susan were brought up in student concerns meeting as well. Other issues discussed: the importance of having funds available for students to travel to NECSEM, especially in a location like Middlebury. This should be advertised more widely and advertised earlier.

Also, students would like to see a professional development panel made a permanent feature of the conference. This would provide several different perspectives from someone on the tenure track, someone doing something outside the academy, etc. It's important to have mentoring built into the conference, with senior faculty participating, or perhaps some kind of matching of graduate students with undergrads to give feedback on paper.

There is a question about where such a panel would fit in the conference, given that it is usually one day and there is usually a topical roundtable of some kind. Damascus suggests pairing the professional development panel with the Friday concert. Another suggestion is having a brown bag lunch with the keynote speaker to allow more informal interaction. This could attract more senior scholars. Could the conference start an hour earlier? This would not be possible for people coming from a distance. Discussion about how to contact senior scholars

directly and encourage their attendance. Roundtables are a good way to do this, but difficult given the scheduling challenges.

Question about the place of NECSEM relative to other chapters. We actually have many fewer geographical challenges compared to some other chapters, where people have to drive for many hours to attend, or cross bodies of water by plane. NECSEM has the benefit of that geographical closeness, but sometimes when the conference is in Boston, people in Boston institutions don't come because they are accustomed to lots of events in Boston. It helps to find a way to make the conference special. Some other chapters are much more informally organized. The Southern California chapter was very well organized with senior scholars participating like Anthony Seeger, and this was very valuable to graduate students. If we just rely on junior pre-tenure scholars, they will get burned out and not be able to work on getting tenure.

Question about why the same people seem to come to NECSEM every year. People appreciate the opportunity it represents to interact with more senior scholars, and to gain experience for the national meeting. David Locke says that it is the responsibility of PhD programs in the region to support their graduate students, which is why he attends. Anchoring institutions like Harvard, Brown, and Wesleyan should reflect on their importance. Participating in the conference should be a part of supporting and advocating for the discipline as a whole.

Corinna reminds us that the meeting is being recorded, and says that many of these issues are felt by people at different stages in their careers.

New business

NECSEM 2019 will be hosted by Wellesley College. Kariann Goldschmitt will take over as local arrangements chair. There is no one lined up for the year after Wellesley in 2020, so that will be a priority for the incoming president. We have Boston College in 2021 and Wesleyan after that.

New elections: terms concluding for president (Corinna Campbell) and secretary (Ann Lucas). Susan has been treasurer for a long time, and says she would be willing to pass it on. She is also ok to stay. We will also elect a new student representative. Discussion of the role of president and secretary. Susan emphasizes that she could use help with membership organization. Discussion of the role of student representative.

Damascus Kafumbe elected president. Sarah Politz elected secretary. Payam Yousefi elected student representative. Susan Asai remains treasurer. Karl Haas remains vice president.

Meeting adjourned