Southeastern Archaeological Conference
Meeting of the Executive Committee
17 January 2023

In attendance (remotely): Kandi Hollenbach, Jane Eastman, Ramie Gougeon, Karen Stevens, Lindsay Bloch, Shane Miller, Jon Marcoux, Tony Boudreaux, Carol Colaninno, Lee Ann Wendt, Sarah Herr, Beau Carroll

[R Gougeon, reporting]

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss specific procedures that would need to be developed to enact the "image policy" approved at the 4 November 2022 meeting and rolled out at the annual meeting. President Kandi Hollenbach opened the meeting and asked for questions or comments from the attendees. Questions included whether the policy applied to parts of objects or only to objects in their entirety? There was a suggestion to tag or flag articles in the journal that had line drawings of objects falling under the image policy. Another noted that there was not universal support for the image policy, even among Native SEAC members – for instance, one Indigenous SEAC member proposed that the policy be enforced on a case-by-case basis and opposed ideas about holding these images (or articles containing sensitive images) on a separate website. One committee member thought that developing a way to have "supplemental materials" that might include sensitive imagery was a reasonable compromise. The Digital Archaeological Record (TDAR) was proposed as a repository for supplemental materials, with SEAC likely picking up that expense. One participant with editorial experience noted that this would affect so few articles to date that establishing a contract with TDAR might be an unnecessary expense.

Costs associated with generating line drawing versions of images were discussed. It was noted that software exists that makes the generation of a line drawing from a photograph much easier. Working with existing images of objects (instead of generating new ones, which is a common request during repatriation consultations under NAGPRA) is also preferred by many Tribes. Another committee member wondered if a grant could be developed to help students cover the costs of generating line drawings.

There was considerable discussion about who was going to have the ultimate authority to decide whether a line drawing would need to be or could even be produced, or if an item was too sensitive to be displayed in *Southeastern Archaeology*. The policy as currently read puts that decision in the hands of the appropriate Tribe(s). A question was raised about whether an archaeologist should work with a single Tribe or multiple ones? The editor suggested that a list would be provided that would point archaeologists to the appropriate THPO, which should encourage archaeologists to know at the outset of their project who the appropriate parties are. Southeastern Tribes could be asked for their specific areas of interest and a list be kept current as their interests change with new information, NAGPRA consultations, etc. Peer reviewers may also be in a position to make recommendations about appropriate Tribes for imagery consultation. SEAC should be very proactive in disseminating news and information about the image policy and appropriate consultant lists.

A follow up question asked what 'adequate' documentation of consultation with a Tribe might look like. Editors would need to develop a rubric for this. A committee member suggested that the Executive

Committee might be an appropriate "backstop" for making final decisions about whether there is adequate documentation of consultation with Tribe(s) and to potentially handle appeals to image policy decisions. Another participant on the call suggested that an Editorial Board might be a better option than the Executive Committee. Sarah Herr noted that the Society for American Archaeology (which publishes *American Antiquity*) issues a charge to the editors to alert the President of pending potential issues, which might include the publication of an image of a skeleton from outside the United States or Canada. A policy would need to be developed to cover cases where consensus between multiple consulted Tribes could not be reached.

A participant on the call with ties to a Southeastern Tribe expressed their appreciation that SEAC is taking this step of developing an image policy. In their view, the Tribes see that it is appropriate to work more closely with other Tribes to get the "other half" of the story. Some committee members voiced the opinion that developing resources, including a webinar, for authors and Tribes will make this process much smoother for everyone involved.

Lastly, the Editor and Editor-elect were asked if the image policy was having an impact on submissions to the journal. They noted that the most recent 4-5 manuscripts had no images that fell under this policy.

At the end of the meeting, President Hollenbach asked that the issues be summarized and sent out for a vote of the Executive Committee. The issue, "The SEAC EC approves of the adoption of the image policy for the journal Southeastern Archaeology circulated 26 Jan 2023" was sent to voting members for a vote to close on 3 February 2023 and received eight (8) affirmative votes, with two Executive Committee members abstaining.

Meeting adjourned.