ARO Council Meeting
Date: May 15, 2025
Attendees: Lisa Cunningham, Kristin Johnson, Jeffrey Holt, Katharine Fernandez, Sunil Puria, Anna Lysakowski, Alain Dabdoub, Avril Genene Holt

1. Welcome and Introductions
Summary:
Lisa Cunningham opened the meeting and welcomed new participants. Alan Dabdoub and Jeff Holt were introduced. Jeff was congratulated on his induction into the Academy of Sciences.
Decisions Made:

- Jeff's induction will be publicly acknowledged by ARO.

Action Items:

- Kristin will include the announcement in the upcoming ARO newsletter.

2. Review of Previous Minutes
Summary:
The council reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. Anna noted a discrepancy in the summary section regarding decisions made.
Decisions Made:

- The format of the minutes will be updated to include a summary at the end.

Action Items:

- Kristin will revise the format of the minutes accordingly.

3. Executive Summary Review Summary:
Kristin presented the executive summary, highlighting attendance trends, feedback on new session formats, and financial updates. Attendance from outside the U.S. has declined significantly over recent years and an effort must be made to encourage international participation in the meeting and ARO year-round.
Decisions Made:

- Membership Committee will be tasked with addressing international attendance.

Action Items:

- Kristin will coordinate with the Membership Committee to develop strategies for increasing international participation.

4. Diversity and Minority Affairs Committee (DMAC) Summary:
Discussion centered on the impact of political climate on DMAC. Several members resigned due to concerns about visibility and safety. The council discussed the possibility of rebranding the

committee while maintaining its mission.
Decisions Made:

- Council supports exploring a name change to ensure safety and compliance while reaffirming commitment to diversity.

Action Items:

- Genene will gather feedback from the DMAC and report back to Council.
- Kristin will prepare a draft communication strategy if a name change is recommended.

5. Journal Report Summary:
Kristin shared the annual journal income report. There was discussion about royalty structures and potential for additional journal affiliations.
Decisions Made:

- Council will invite Dr. Cederroth to present more details on journal performance.

Action Items:

- Kristin will schedule a session with Dr. Cederroth for a future meeting.

6. Future Meeting Locations Summary:
The council discussed potential locations for the 2028 and 2029 meetings. Considerations included weather, accessibility, political climate, and international travel.
Decisions Made:

- Florida will be avoided for future meetings.
- Locations under consideration include Savannah, Charlotte (or other more affordable coastal North Carolina cities), Atlanta, Nashville, and New Orleans.

Action Items:

- Laura, ARO's Meeting Manager will begin the RFP process for 2028 and explore feasibility of the suggested cities.

7. Council Liaison Assignments Summary:
Open liaison roles were discussed. Alain was asked to consider available positions. Sunil confirmed he will remain on the Education Committee. Lisa confirmed that she will take the liaison position that is left after Alain chooses.
Decisions Made:

- Alain will review and select a liaison role.

Action Items:

- Kristin will send Alain details of the open liaison positions.

8. Long Range Planning Committee Feedback Summary:
Genene requested feedback on the Long Range Planning Committee's recent meeting.
Decisions Made:

- Council will review the committee's suggestions and determine if full council discussion is needed.

Action Items:

- Kristin will send Genene the Council meeting calendar invites.
- Kristin, Lisa, and Sunil will review Genene's email and provide feedback.

Summary
The ARO Council Meeting addressed key organizational topics including member recognition, meeting attendance, diversity committee support, journal revenue, and future meeting planning. The council reaffirmed its commitment to diversity and inclusion while acknowledging the need for strategic adjustments in language and structure. Decisions were made to publicly recognize member achievements, engage the Membership Committee on international outreach, and begin planning for future meeting locations. Action items were assigned to Kristin, Genene, and other council members to follow through on these initiatives.