

2025 Report of the Ethics Committee

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The AABA Ethics Committee, co-chaired by **Dawnie Steadman and Maja Šešelj**, is beginning a revival. After excellent work up through 2020, Committee activity declined during the Covid years. As AABA emerged from Covid, focus was appropriately placed on a rapid response to the unethical use of human remains, which was tackled by the AABA Task Force on the Ethical Study of Human Remains Recommendations. Thus, our current 2025 efforts were focused on:

- 1) Collecting documents to learn about the institutional history and actions of the committee,
- 2) Taking stock on where the committee is at this moment concerning organization, membership and tasks, and
- 3) Recruiting new committee members in conjunction with communication with HCARE and update the website accordingly.

To date, we have received documents and minutes from the 2015-2018 Ethics Committee, and one 2020 report was sent to help prepare this report. Otherwise, we have no previous documents and so we are reaching out to previous chairs to close those document gaps. We have not yet recruited new Committee members as we need to understand who was on the previous Committee but also want to wait until the results of the Survey so that we can be intentional with the invitations to serve on the Committee based on the needs identified by the membership (see below).

Once the re-organization is complete and the co-Chairs can review past documents, we will be able to better focus on the following tasks:

- 1) Revise and rewrite the AABA Code of Ethics to fit contemporary standards and as well as the current needs of AABA membership, and
- 2) Populate the education portions of the AABA website with updated materials, including educational materials and case studies

To achieve Task 1, we have created a Zotero library of relevant publications and Ethics statements/codes from peer associations and institutions. In addition, **we would like to update the 2018 survey, “Assessing the Ethics Needs & Interests of the AABA Membership Survey” by Tisa Loewen**, that was sent to members to gauge the topics that are important at this moment (and in the future) to address in the ethics statement.

To achieve Task 2, we will create a subcommittee to collect contemporary and relevant educational materials and organize the website in a way that reflects the current activities of the Committee.