

SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE

Subject: Executive Director Transition Announcement

Dear Colleague,

After twelve years of outstanding service as the Executive Director of SBL, John Kutsko will step down on 29 December 2022 to assume the Executive Director position at Atla (formerly, the American Theological Library Association). You will find a letter from John to all SBL members [here](#).

My Council colleagues and I will be working immediately to design and implement a process to search for our next Executive Director. We will do our best to keep you updated as the process unfolds.

During his tenure, John has led a dedicated and professional staff, increased the public facing programs (e.g., Bible Odyssey), improved membership benefits (e.g., SBL Central), built financial reserves (from under a million in the unrestricted endowment to nearly six million), prioritized the international nature of the mission, and established much needed policies (e.g., the professional conduct policy) for SBL. He also launched the initiative to form the International Qur'anic Studies Association and directed the updated edition of the New Revised Standard Version (NRSVue). With his steady hands, John has guided the Society through many uncertainties and negotiations, particularly those associated with and necessitated by COVID-19 in the last three years. By highlighting SBL Press's membership in the Association of University Presses (AUP) and serving his peers in the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS)—including his role as the Chair of Executive Committee of the Conference of Executive Officers—John has also raised the profile and visibility of SBL. For these and many other significant achievements, we are indebted to John. Council will make sure that there will be a chance for you to express your appreciation to John at our annual meeting in Denver.

The good news is that John is only ending his employment at SBL; he is not leaving SBL. We wish him every success as he begins his new role at Atla, and we look forward to developing closer collaborations in the future between SBL and Atla.

Sincerely,
Tat-siong Benny Liew
Chair, SBL Council