

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES - May 27, 2002.
Toronto, ON

Present: There were approximately 40 persons present including but not limited to: Leona Anderson, Will Oxtoby, Morny Joy, William Arnal, Paul Bowlby, Darlene Juschka, Kenneth MacKendrick, Paul Bramadat, Randi Warne, Bill James, David Seljak, Earl Waugh, André Couture, Herb Berg, Aaron Hughes, and Faydra Shapiro. As the AGM attendance list was not returned to the recording secretary, some names have not appeared. If you attended and wish this to be acknowledge in the Minutes, please send an email to Darlene.juschka@uregina.ca.

Regrets: Adela Sandness, Mavis Fenn

1. Welcome/Bienvenue

2. Adoption of the Agenda/Adoption de l'ordre du jour

Warne/Bowlby carried

**3. Adoption of the minutes of the (May 25, 2001) meeting of the Annual General Meeting/
Adoption des procès-verbaux de l'assemblée annuelle (le mai 25, 2001)**

Arnal/Seljak carried.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes/Suivis aux procès-verbaux

There continues to be work on teaching 100 level intro level courses panels in Religious Studies at the CSSR. However, the individuals who were to report on this to the AGM were not present. None-the-less interest on this matter is ongoing among the membership of the CSSR.

In light of a past suggestion made by David Seljak that an email distribution list be created Paul Bramadat created an email list of current CSSR members. This list will be use in order to remind members of upcoming events.

Warne thanked Paul Bramadat for his work.

5. Reports/Rapports

5.1 President/Présidente, Randi Warne

1. Warne reported that her travels were successful. In addition to discussing the association with Religious Studies Departments, she brought information about CSSR to graduate students many of whom did not have a clear idea about the association.

2. Warne indicated that the archives project going forward. There is missing historical information concerning the CSSR and to deal with this gap she will request submissions of information from CSSR members.

3. Warne indicated that the May 28th to June 5th 2003 Congress focus is Conflict and Cooperation.

4. Warne brought her concerns to HSSFC in August of 2001 in regard to the compressed congress and lack of signage that occurred at the 2001 congress in At Laval University. She received a reply Jan 8th 2002 wherein, she reports, 1. That the HSSFC agreed to expand the conference by one day. However, it would appear that the one day will be filled with HSSFC focused events and therefore of little value to associations in that it does not remedy the problem of an overly dense programme;

2. It was reported to her that the signage problem at Laval was caused by ill-doers. Warne also noted that Morny Joy's HSSFC sponsored event "Breakfast on the Hill," wherein Canadian

scholarship is brought to the attention of Canadian politicians, was a success and useful in order to increase awareness of Religious Studies in Canada to said politicians.

5. Warne brought to the members attention special sessions: 1. Johannes Vorster, a South African biblical scholar would speaking and 2. A session on women and war, and remapping the body at the current Congress.

6. Warne suggested that because of the current events at the University of Alberta, the reduction of the RS department to "Abrahamic" traditions that the chairs of RS in Canada might prepare a 1-2 page description of departments and how they are faring.

7. Margaret MacDonald and Randi Warne met with Barbara DiConcini at last year's Congress at Laval. DiConcini had approached both the CCSR and the CSSR with a request to provide/ensure a Canadian presence at the AAR meetings in Toronto in November 2002. The best way to do that, in the opinion of the CCSR executive, was to have a Canadian featured in one of the Special Speaker sessions. (The AAR had previously suggested that there be a section for Canadian scholars that the CCSR rejected as both token and ghettoizing.) DiConcini informed MacDonald and Warne that there was not enough time to provide space for special Canadian speaker at the Toronto AAR, as the CCSR had requested. Instead, Di Concini indicated that the AAR would try to achieve a Canadian presence by including Canadian RS scholars in various sections throughout the AAR program. However it was unclear to the President of the CCSR and the CSSR how this would create a Canadian presence given the fact that Canadians are already widely active in the AAR across the board. With some dismay, it was noted that there appears to be a pattern of dismissiveness in the AAR's attitude toward Canadian Scholars. Based on recent experiences, specifically the treatment of Canadian content in the Lilly funded AAR project on a Census of Programs in Theology and Religion in North America, the treatment of officers of both the CCSR and CSSR in this context, and treatment of Canadian scholars, and CCSR and CSSR concerns regarding the Toronto AAR, Bowlby and Warne agreed to express their concern in regard to organizational relations between CSSR, CCSR and the AAR, for publication in the Bulletin.

8. Warne thanked Paul Bowlby for acting as program chair this year in light of Adela Sandness' illness. She went on to thank Juschka and Herb Berg for their organization of the Haddad symposium.

5.2 Treasurer/Trésorier, Ken MacKendrick

Ken MacKendrick presented the budget. He indicated there was a surplus of \$946.92. The drop in projected surplus is due to usage of Special Speaker Fund dispensed this year in order to arrange Yvonne Haddad Address and Symposium (\$3000).

Charitable Status was discussed. It was felt that the cost in time and money did not warrant the CSSR initiating this process. It was decided that the President or her/his designate from the executive keep in touch with the Society of Socialist Studies president, an organization of which recently established charitable status, to see how they fare over the next few years. It was agreed that charitable status would be an ongoing discussion to be revisited when and if increased money held by the CSSR warranted this action.

MacKendrick indicated that thanks were due to Irene Kao Departmental Officer at the Centre for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto for her work as controller.

MOTION to accept Treasurer's report MacKendrick/Bramadat carried.

MOTION to the members in regard to Congress Fees for the CSSR to increase current fee to \$35.00 for members, \$15.00 for students, underwaged, and unwaged, and \$50.00 for non-members. Mackendrick/Bowlby carried.

Mackendrick provided the executive's rationale to increase Congress fees:

1. The current rate of 10.00 has not changed in ten years.
2. HSSFC rates change in 2002 from \$7.00 to \$10.00 .
3. In order to provide financial support a new student exec member.

In the discussion that followed it was noted that in principle fees should be raised. But why raise Congress fees and not membership fees and affect those who attend Congress? Warne pointed out that fees for the congress had not changed for many years and the exec felt that membership fees were connected more to the cost of the journal and production of the Bulletin. She also noted that the current CSSR conference fees are out of line in regard to other associations while membership fees are not. There was discussion in regard to charging non-members more than members. It was felt there was no good rationale for doing this other than other societies did so. After further discussion as to how the increase of fees would affect members if was decided to amend Congress fees to \$40 members and non-members; \$15 for students, underwaged and unwaged.

Bowlby/Oxtoby carried.

GENERAL VOTE on proposal of \$40 members; \$40 non-members; \$15 unwaged, underwaged, and students for Congress Fees. Passed with all present in favour.

5.3 Membership Secretary/Sécretaire aux admissions, William Arnal

Arnal indicated that membership figures remain stable with 248 members. He noted that there continued to be a problem in regard to acknowledgment of membership as there nothing in place to notify new and old members in regard to WLU Press's processing of payment. Arnal indicated that some mechanism should be in place. In light of this the costs would be determined in order for WLU Press to automatically generate an income tax receipt. If \$1.00 dollar per person or less the Exec has determined they will go forward with this plan. If more than \$1.00 this decision will come back to exec.

Arnal indicated that in regard to recruitment to the CSSR the focus should be on two major constituencies: grad students and members of other societies related to Religious Studies, e.g., CSBS.

Thanks to Bill Arnal for his labour as membership secretary.

5.4 Nominations Committee/Comité pour les nominations, Bill Arnal (Chair), Randi Warne Paul Bowlby, and Darlene Juschka

Arnal reported on behalf of the nominations committee.

The following person were put forward for the vacant positions (MAL as Paul Bramadat stepped down due to paternity leave, President, Membership Secretary, and a second MAL who would act as programme chair):

MAL (Graduate Student Essay Contest) Dr. Aaron Hughes (University of Calgary)

MAL (Programme Chair) Dr. Faydra Shapiro (Wilfrid Laurier University)

President Dr. André Couture (Laval University)

Membership Secretary: There were no nominations put forward by the committee, nominations were opened to floor. No nominations were made. Empowered by constitution James Mullens (U of Saskatchewan) was nominated to act as Membership Secretary for 1 year.

Nominations were open for the first position of MAL. None were forthcoming.

MOTION: That nominations be closed. Joy/Warne carried.

Aaron Hughes (U of C) was acclaimed member at large.

Nominations were open for the second position of MAL. None were forthcoming.

MOTION: That nominations be closed. MacKendrick/Anderson carried.

Faydra Shapiro was acclaimed member at large.

Nominations were open for the positions of President. None were forthcoming.

MOTION: That nominations be closed. Warne/Arnal carried.

President Dr. André Couture (Laval University) was acclaimed president.

5.5 2002 Programme Chair/Présidence pour le programme 2002, Acting Paul Bowlby

Warne thanked Mavis Fenn her preparation work in the role as Programme Chair.

Thanks were made to Ken MacKendrick as local arrangements officer.

Thanks to Darlene Juschka and Herb Berg for their work of arranging the special speaker Yvonne Haddad and symposium that followed.

Paul Bowlby, acting Programme Chair, indicated that was a pleasure to work with material sent in and that it all worked together very nicely. Bowlby recommended to CSSR executive that because there is nominally a four day programme the CSSR executive come one day early in order to hold their meeting and use the four days to fill programme which could include special speakers or papers on the first day. He also suggested that because of time constraints that folks may want to think about 2 paper panels instead of 3. The floor was open to comments and suggestions in regard to the programme. No comments made.

Thanks to Paul Bowlby for all his work and for stepping in to take over the role of Programme Chair in light of Mavis Fenn's illness.

There was discussion in regard to the local coordinator for Congress 2003 at Dalhousie in NS. It was decided that Juschka will approach Tom Faulkner in order to act as local arrangements officer. If Faulkner cannot act as such, Randi Warne indicated her willingness to take up the position. Terry Woo, who has currently taken up a limited term position at Dalhousie, will also be approached to assist in this matter.

5.6 Student Essay Awards/Prix pour les essais étudiant(e)s, Paul Bramadat and Kenneth MacKendrick

Paul Bramadat reported that there were nine papers submitted all of which were excellent papers for the most part. The winner of the graduate student essay contest was Jane Margaret Mulesion ("Wittgenstein and Feminist Hermeneutics.") Kenneth MacKendrick reported that there were 14 undergraduate papers submitted, 80% of which were women, with the majority of papers written on the subject of Hinduism and Buddhism. The papers were adjudicated by Ken MacKendrick, Terry Woo and Andre Maintenay. 1st place went to Gord Cruess (University of Toronto) for his extraordinary paper "Buddhist Political History in Sri Lanka and the Rise of Modern Sinhalese Nationalism." 2nd place went to Sohrob Nabatian (Concordia University) "Cosmogony and Transcendence in Nasadiya Sukta and Purusa Sukta."

5.7 Canadian Corporation for Studies in Religion/Corporation canadienne des sciences religieuses representative, Randi Warne

Randi Warne reported that there is to be a restructure meeting formats with May meeting of the CSSR cancelled. This means that all business will be covered at the January meeting.

5.8 Société québécoise pour l'étude de la religion (SQÉR)

No rep present to report on SQER.

5.9 Allied associations (ACCUTE)

Attendance of a member of the CSSR executive was requested at a reception to be held by ACCUTE on May 29th. Warne indicated she would try to attend this meeting.

5.10 IAHR membership

MacKendrick reported that \$400.00 was earmarked each year to send a delegate (usually the President) to the IAHR, which meets every five years. The next meeting will be held in Japan in 2005.

5.11 Academic Freedom/Liberté academique, Paul Bowlby

Nothing to report.

5.12 CSSR Web Site/Site Web de la SCÉR

A website committee has been established consisting of Randi Warne, William Arnal and Kenneth MacKendrick. MacKendrick reported that he, Arnal and Warne are working on developing the web-site in terms of aesthetics and ease of moving around the CSSR site. This work will continue over the next year.

**6. Humanities and Social Sciences Federation of Canada Representative/
Représentative/Représentante de la Fédération canadienne des sciences humaines et sociales,
David Seljak**

David Seljak introduced Michael Owens and Jackie Wright

Seljak reported on HSSFC activities:

Seljak was elected to board of directors to represent medium societies for a three year term (has already served 2 years of his term Fall 2002).

1. As of July 1st 2002 HSSFC will change their name to Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences.

2. Under presidency of Pat Clements the organization is moving forward.

3. CFHSS has received a 60,000 grant from SSHRC to begin a broader study as to how Federation could further assist associations.

4. A New Scholars Task Force has been established in order to assess challenges for new scholars, e.g., teaching and admin load gone up for new scholars while exploitation of sessional labour continues.

5. The Aid to Scholarly Publications programme is celebrating its 25th year.

6. The Women's Issues Network has been quite active in Federation producing the Ivory Towers Feminist Audit as well as examining gender issues in regard to CRC's.

7. Breakfast on the Hill continues and this year Morny Joy from U of Calgary gave a talk entitled "Women and World Religions."

8. A fund raising campaign by the Federation has been initiated. This is in order to unhook the HSSFC from SSHRC and seek funding for themselves from government. Robert Merrett from U of Alberta is the new VP of Development at the Federation. His five year goal is to raise 11.4 million dollars. Guy Laforest has resigned his position as president elect and the Federation looking for new president elect.

9. Question and comments re HSSFC can be directed to David Seljak.

Warne thanked Seljak for his informative presentation.

Michael Owen reported that 69 Universities; 68 Associations belong to HSSFC. The upcoming congress at Dalhousie is May 28-May 31st. 2003. Congress 2004 will be in Manitoba. The issue of a lack of signage will be brought to the attention of the HSSFC for the meeting in Halifax.

7. SHRC representative/Représentative/Représentante de SSHRC

Michel Le Foi spoke and indicated that 26% of the research work was supported by SSHRC as opposed to 16% of 4 years ago. He also indicated that there was hope to support 50% of its community in the coming years. He noted that NSERC able to support 80% of community. Furthermore he indicated that funding will be made available to masters students, however, core SSHRC grant problems came in the form of an increase in new scholars submissions. Standard research grant money to be alloted to research work from the government amounted to 168 million. SSHRC received 1300 applications of these 738 were awarded while 525 applications were recommended but not funded. The success rate was 41%. In terms of Committee 1: 123 applications were received this past year with 46 awarded funding, 56 recommended (4A) and 24 not recommended. In terms of Religious Studies there were 25 applications with 9 being funded. This represents 36%. 33% of the applications received came from new scholars with a success rate of success rate 19.5%. 10% recommended but not funded. The Committee members advised universities of the problem of forcing young scholars, who might not be ready, to apply every year. In terms of the new (and regular) scholars the Committee suggests the need for mentoring in regard to applications. It was commented that there were a distressing large number of 4As. Ultimately the Grants and Scholarship budget is under great pressure.

8. President's letter on behalf of the CSSR in response to RS program at the U of Alberta

Warne sent a letter to the dean of Arts at the University of Alberta expressing her dismay over the lack of support to the RS dept there. She was informed in a letter from the dean that the "Abrahamic" traditions were covered. His response demonstrates his lack of knowledge in regard to the study of Religion, which to be viable must also ensure that current traditions with thousands and even millions of adherents (e.g., Hinduism, Taoism, Buddhism, to name but a few) be covered.

9. Religion and Violence proposal

Dr. William Morrow, of Queen's University, has approached several scholarly societies with a project to develop a theme on Religion and Violence to be featured at the next several congresses. There was a general discussion of proposal. In principal the members of the CSSR are happy to endorse the religion and violence proposal as an ongoing project at the CSSR congress meetings.

10. Remembering Julia Ching

There were a number of panels commemorating Julia Ching's contribution to the field. Will Oxtoby spoke of his long relationship both personal and professional with Julia. He also indicated that there would be a festivities and symposium on Julia works at the AAR in Toronto this year. Available to all is "The Butterfly Feeling," which are personal memories of Julia Ching. In order to acquire these memoirs please contact Will Oxtoby.

11. Other Business/Autres Affaires

Notice of motion to add a new office (filled by graduate student) to exec. This position is that of student liaison and a representation of student membership. (This position does not limit student members to the executive). The exec will attempt to appoint ex-officio for upcoming year. Bowlby/Anderson carried.

It was reported that the BC government has approved a RS programme at the University of Victoria. Circulated at the meeting were menus for CSSR dinner.

Randi Warne thanked all members of the Executive and gave special thanks to Paul Bramadat and Adela Sandness, both of whom are leaving the executive due to personal constraints. She also thanked Paul Bowlby for his support and expertise shared over the past two years in his role as Vice-president.

Morny Joy thanked Randi Warne for her excellent leadership over the last two years.

12. Adjournment/Ajournement

Seljak/Bramadat carried.