

CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION/SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE POUR L'ÉTUDE DE
LA RELIGION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING / ASSEMBLÉE ANNUELLE

28 May 2006
York University, Toronto

Minutes

Present: Leona Anderon, Christopher Brittain, Alain Bouchard, Mark Chapman, Andre Couture, Christopher Cutting, Darlene Juschka, Kenneth MacKendrick, Rubina Ramji, Patricia Dold, Aaron Hughes, Francis Landy, Michael Stoeber, Ron Neufeldt, David Feltmate, Randi Warne, Paul Bramadat, Donald Wiebe, Alison Marshall, Edward Chung, Peter Beyer, Chris Klassen, Mandy Furney, Alec Soucy, Terry Woo, Brian Clarke, Veronique Tomaszewski-Ramses, David Seljak, Paul Bowlby.

1. **Welcome/Bienvenue**

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

MOTION to approve: Ron Newfeldt/Randy Warne

3. **Adoption of the minutes of the 2005 meeting of the Annual General Meeting/ /
Adoption du procès verbal de l'assemblée annuelle 2005**

MOTION to approve: Randy Warne/Patricia Dold

Item 7e was corrected to clarify that the MAL positions involve no specific designations (by CSSR Constitution).

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

n/a

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

The membership were addressed by two representatives of the Humanities and Social Sciences Federation : Kel Morin-Parsons, and Jean-Claude Guédon. They informed the assembly of the current activities and initiatives of the Federation, emphasizing the following :

- the development of a database, requiring member organizations to offer input
- making available preliminary guides for 2007 (also in french)
- giving notice of a meeting next year – Sunday 27 May (or Wednesday 30th)
- information about the Federation available at : www.fedecan.ca
- in June 2006, the Federation will report with SHRCC on large scale research in the humanities, and this will be made available
- the membership were informed about a Women-in-equity Network, and of a mentoring session on May 30 (3 :30-5pm). The CSSR was asked to identify a contact person for this

network.

- The Federation is also involved in education advocacy, particularly in the area of university funding. It is also aiming to seek funding support for scholarly publications – aiming at a \$500,000. funding increase (185 titles at 8000 each).

One issue in particular was raised by the Federation representatives :

OPEN ACCESS

Prof. Guédon described this as a burning issue for the Federation. It involves attention to the tension between the desire to widely distribute academic research, and the concern to respect copyright. The Federation endorses Open Access, while highlighting two options, and hoping to support such initiatives: a) getting journals and other sources to change their business plans (making materials available online, etc); b) encouraging authors to ‘self-archive’ and reissue research in alternative forms.

6. Reports/Rapports

a) President/Présidente

L. Anderson welcomed the membership, and noted with appreciation the attendance. She thanked Alain Bouchard, Darlene Juschka, and Toni Michaels for their work in organizing the annual meeting. She highlighted the following items in the work of the current executive :

- an ongoing effort to respond to concerns of Graduate students
- the response of the meeting organizers to respond to last year’s suggestion that the annual general meeting be held during its own time slot to avoid conflicts.
- ongoing developments on the website. Special thanks were addressed to Don Eldershot and Mark Chapman for their work on this.
- the bid to host the IAHR (International Association for the History of Religions) in Toronto in 2010 (with other organizations like CSR, NASSR, etc.) has been accepted. This will be an important item on the CSSR’s agenda over the next few years.
- special thanks were extended to Rubina Ramki for her work on the student essay competition

Following her presentation, a question was addressed to the President from the membership. In response to the comment that the executive is seeking to become increasingly accessible for Graduate students. She was asked why the Annual dinner is so inaccessible to students, due to cost?

After explaining the reasons for the cost of the Dinner, , considerable discussion followed. It was agreed that students would be charged \$20.00 this year, and that next year the executive would seek to offset the cost of the dinner for students (see Treasurer’s Report below).

b) Treasurer/Trésorier

MOTION to approve: Paul Bowlby/ Patricia Dold

K. MacKendrick presented the Treasurer's Report for the year. It was accepted by the membership following a question about the possibility of investing in GICs.

The Treasurer then presented a proposed 2006-07 budget.

MOTION to approve: Ken MacKendrick/Francis Landy (carried)

An amendment to the budget, recommended by the executive, was noted – regarding increasing expenses for the essay contest (an increase of \$300.00).

The total proposed surplus was reduced, in order to identify some funds to partially subsidized the annual dinner for graduate students (12 individuals- \$20 each = \$270.00 total).

Amendment Moved by: Randy Warne/Veronique Mashefsky (carried)

c) Membership Secretary/Sécretaire aux admissions

M. Chapman reported that membership was up slightly from the previous year. He speculated that this might be in part due to the fact that a meeting in Toronto draws more people. He reported that the executive is exploring online options to support registration through Wilfred Laurier Press. This option would facilitate membership subscriptions and renewals.

MOTION to approve: Mark Chapman/ Ken MacKendrick

d) 2006 Programme Chair/ Responsable du programme 200

A. Bouchard reported that the CSSR received 120 paper proposals this year. Three of these were rejected, and ten proposal were eventually withdrawn. He thanked Darlene Juschka in particular for her assistance in organizing the panels, and making arrangements with the Federation.

In the discussion which followed the report, three items were highlighted.

- It was noted that it would be helpful next year if the Special Paper presentation did not conflict with any other panel session.
- R. Warne observed how helpful it was to have a special 'meeting room' set aside for members to meet together.
- The membership were alerted that conference organizers now required quite early deadlines for catering and Audio-visual arrangements. In future call for papers, therefore, firm deadlines for AV requests should be highlighted.

e) Nominations Committee/Comité pour les nominations

M. Chapman offered special thanks to A. Couture and D. Juschka for their assistance.

It was reported that there were three openings available on the executive. The Nominations committee offered the following nominations to these positions :

Leona Anderson – Past President
Peter Beyer – President
Francis Landy – Member at Large

The floor was opened for further nominations. None were offered.

MOTION to approve : Brian Clarke/Paul Bramadat (carried)

A NOTICE OF MOTION for next year's AGM was tabled. It recommended adding one Member-at-Large position on the executive (article 5 item D). This issue will be raised at the 2007 Annual General Meeting.

f) Student Essay Awards/Prix pour les essais étudiant(e)s

Rubina Ramji reported that she had received 35 undergraduate submissions, and 5 from high school students. She reported the following winners :

1st prize : Hannah McGregor (Carleton) : 'Word Made Flesh : A Study of Eucharistic Thought in the Fourth Gospel'
2nd prize : Ardith Bailey (UBC) : 'This Mortal Body, These Mortal Flames'
Runner Up : Mordecai Walfish (U King's College) : 'Derrida's Jewish Penis : Looking Beneath the Foreskin of Jaques Derrida's Circumfession'.

Darlene Juschka reported that she received nine submission for the Graduate essay competition. She reported the following winner :

Brian Carwana (WLU) : 'The Institute of Canadian Values conference : How the Canadian Religious Right Adopts Secularism to fight Secularism'.

Special mention was extended to Paul Josse (Alberta) and Tristan Sturm (Carlton).

g) CSSR Web Site/Site Web de la SCÉR & *The Bulletin*

M. Chapmen reported on the ongoing progress of the CSSR. Website. He highlighted the current policy regarding the website - that it was not to be used for advertisements or posting individual publications.

M. Chapman noted that steps are being taken to post the *Bulletin* on the website in html format. He also states that it was hoped that the *Bulletin* would be distributed in the future via email and in Pdf format on the website. This would save postage cost. Preference of delivery will be specified on the membership form.

A question was raised regarding the possibility of posting the membership list on the website, and of other means of promoting interaction between members ? The membership was assured that numerous options are being explored by the executive.

h) Canadian Corporation for Studies in Religion/ Corporation canadienne des sciences religieuses

Peter Beyer informed the membership that the annual meeting of the Corporation would be held the following day. He confirmed that it was now in solid financial shape (with a surplus of about \$170,000), and that the journal *Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses* was now caught up to the 2006 issues.

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

A. Bouchard reported two items in particular from the SQÉR :

- The government of Quebec is currently changing how religion is taught in public schools, moving it from Primary school to Secondary. The SQÉR is working with the government to help prepare teachers for this development (as most schools have operated out of a theological background and teachers now need to shift to a religious studies perspective).
- It was noted that the CSSR needs to augment the number of French presentations at its annual meeting.

j) Student Representative

C. Cutting reported on his activities on the executive on behalf of students. He noted developments in the awarding of student essay awards, and his initiative of hosting lunch panels on professional development for students over the last three years (this year on how to get published). He also mentioned a number of creative ideas he has for the future, including a CSSR student representative liaison to the AAR

8. Other Business/ Varia

The IAHR: Donald Wiebe addressed the membership, to inform them about the 2010 IAHR conference being hosted in Toronto, which the CSSR is involved in sponsoring. He invited the members to a planning meeting the following day, and he raised the issue of the need for financial support for the conference. Sponsoring societies are responsible for assistance. He identified a goal of assisting 100 scholars from developing countries with housing, and between 20-50 individuals with their travel expenses. A number of questions were directed to Prof. Wiebe about specific expenses and obligations. He clarified that, at this stage, the CSSR did not face any specific financial obligations, but that he hoped the society would be able to commit some resources to support the conference.

Francis Landy informed the membership that the University of Alberta (Edmonton) was drafting a proposal for a PhD programme, and he hoped the members would support this initiative and inform potential students.

9. Adjournment/ Levée de l'assemblée

A motion to adjourn was unanimously approved at 4 :11pm.

