

**Annual General Meeting Minutes / Procès-verbal de l'assemblée annuelle
University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon
Le 27 mai 2007 / May 27, 2007**

Present: Leona Anderson, Mary Ann Beavis, Peter Beyer, Paul Bramadat, Mark Chapman, Christopher Cutting, Pamela Dickey Young, Patricia Dold, David Feltmate, Karljorgen Feuerherm, Mandy Furney, Cheryl Gaver, Chris Klassen, Janet Klippenstein, Francis Landy, Alison Marshall, Richard Mann, Evan Radford, Rubina Ramji, Thom Parkhill, Donna Seamone, David Seljak, Braj Sinha, Terry Woo

1. Welcome / Bienvenue

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m.

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

MOTION to approve with the addition of one item (presentation by Braj Sinha and Mary Ann Beavis of the University of Saskatchewan): Leona Anderson/David Seljak (carried).

**3. Adoption of the minutes of the 2006 meeting of the Annual General Meeting /
Adoption du procès-verbal de l'assemblée annuelle 2006**

MOTION to approve: Braj Sinha / Mary Ann Beavis (carried).

4. Business arising from the Minutes / Suivi au procès-verbal

None.

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

The membership were addressed by three representatives of the Humanities and Social Sciences Federation: Kel Morin-Parsons, Jim Frideres, and Stephanie Turple. They informed the assembly of the current activities and initiatives of the Federation, emphasizing the following:

- The new President of SSHRC, Chad Gaffield, is present at the Congress and is focussed on promoting the Social Sciences and Humanities.
- The federation will address the issue of travel grants in the coming year.
- The federal budget announced \$11,000,000 in SSHRC funding, while NSERC And CIHR each received \$37,000,000.
- OPEN ACCESS This issue involves attention to the tension between the desire to widely distribute academic research on the internet, and the concern to respect copyright. The Federation would welcome inquires about these possibilities.
- A report on ethics and student plagiarism is forthcoming.
- A small fee increase for Associations is proposed for 2008-09. These fees have not changed since 2000. However, the minimum fee for a small association (\$500.00) and the maximum fee (\$7500.00) for a large association will not change.

5.1 **Special Order of Business.**

MOTION, F. Landy/D. Seljak (carried unanimously): The CSSR/SCÉR expresses its support for the Department of Religious Studies & Anthropology at the University of Saskatchewan. The membership authorizes the President of the CSSR to write the administration of the University of Saskatchewan urging the university to maintain the departmental integrity of the discipline of Religious Studies at the University of Saskatchewan.

Braj Sinha and Mary Ann Beavis of the Department of Religious Studies & Anthropology at the University of Saskatchewan addressed the AGM articulating the situation faced by this department. They appealed for the support of the membership of the CSSR/SCÉR, soliciting letters, arguments and comparisons from those attending the AGM. In addition to formally endorsing the motion, other members of the CSSR/SCÉR agreed to write letters of support individually.

6. **Reports/Rapports**

a) **President / Président**

P. Beyer began by noting there was not a lot to report. He highlighted the following item:

- The CSSR/SCÉR executive received a request from Don Wiebe that the society make a meaningful contribution to the IAHR (International Association for the History of Religions) meeting in Toronto in 2010. This request was discussed by the CSSR/SCÉR executive.

MOTION, L. Anderson/F Landy (carried): The membership supports in principle the executives exploration of possibilities for involvement at the IAHR.

b) **Treasurer / Trésorier**

Peter Beyer reviewed the annual Treasurer's Report on behalf of Ken MacKendrick.

MOTION to approve the Treasurer's report: Pamela Dickey Young/ Thom Parkhill (carried).

The following issues were highlighted:

- The Treasurer's report shows a deficit of \$932.44. The deficit is accounted for by the lack of participation in the CSSR/SCÉR dinner (2006), some WLUP cheque deposits which will appear next year, and a double payment of the Congress Fees (\$2,030.00/annum). Considering the double payment of the Congress Fees there is, in reality, a \$1,000 surplus.
- Our Society has three sources of income. The sources of income include membership dues (WLUP), interest on investments, and registration fees. Alongside this we receive a SSHRC Grant which we must set aside to fund travel to the Congress.
- Expenses are fairly consistent from year to year. We pay AGM expenses (outlined above), membership fees (HSCF, IAHR), the cost of publishing the *Bulletin*, administration fees from WLUP, the maintenance of the website, office supplies and

bank charges, as well as the defrayal of travel expenses for students, special speakers, and participation in organizations of particular interest our membership.

MOTION to approve the budget, Mary Ann Beavis/Braj Sinha (carried).

c) Membership Secretary / Secrétaire aux admissions, CSSR Web Site / Site Web de la SCÉR & *The Bulletin*

MOTION to accept, Mark Chapman/ Christopher Cutting (carried).

M. Chapman highlighted that:

- There are currently 296 members of the CSSR, 109 members have not yet paid their dues.
- Membership is holding steady.
- Students comprise 27% of the membership.
- The *Bulletin* was produced as usual. Members were encouraged to accept electronic rather than paper copies.

d) 2007 Programme Chair / Responsable du programme 2007

Rubina Ramji alerted members that revised conference schedules are posted and reminded attendees that happy hour and the annual dinner will both to be held this evening.

e) Nominations Committee / Comité pour les nominations

M. Chapman reminded the assembly that last year the membership was given notice of motion for a change to the CSSR/SCÉR constitution, adding two members to the CSSR/SCÉR executive.

MOTION, Mark Chapman/Thom Parkhill (carried): That Article V: Executive d) of the CSSR/SCÉR constitution be changed to, “Five members-at-large elected to a three year term of office at the Annual General Meeting of the Society. Election of members-at-large will follow a staggered pattern such that no more than two members-at-large will be elected or will retire in any one year.”

Mark Chapman presented the report of the Nominations committee. The committee offered the following nominations to these positions :

- Treasurer, 3 year term –Kenneth MacKendrick
- Recording Secretary, 3 year term – Donna Seamone
- Graduate Student Member-at-Large, 2 year term - Janet Gunn
- Member-at-Large, 3 year term – Chris Klassen
- Member-at-Large, 3 year term – No Nominee

The floor was opened for further nominations.

NOMINATION of Richard Mann, Patricia Dold/Leona Anderson.

NOMINATION of David Feltmate, Christopher Cutting/Mandy Furny.

MOTION that nominations close, Braj Sinha/Patricia Dold.

The President declared the Treasurer, Secretary and Graduate Student Member elected by acclamation.

Ballots were cast to elect two persons to fill the Member-at-Large, 3 year term positions. The President announced the results of the election, declaring Chris Klassen and David Feltmate elected to Member-at-Large positions.

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

Francis Landy announced the following winners in the undergraduate essay contest:

- 1st prize : Gabriel Jones (Department of Classics and Religious Studies, University of Ottawa): “Gender Equivalence, Samkhya and Mahadevi”
- Runner Up : Brynna Hambly (Department of Religious Studies, University of Calgary) “The Manufacturing of Saints in Early Christian Homiletic and Martyrological Literature”

Leona Anderson reported that she received three submissions for the Graduate essay competition. She recommended that no award be given this year.

g) CSSR Web Site / Site Web de la SCÉR

Covered in the report of the membership secretary.

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

David Seljak announced that there was nothing to report and encouraged the membership to attend the annual meeting on May 28th.

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

No report.

j) Student Representative / Représentant des étudiants

Christopher Cutting reported on his activities, drawing attention to the following:

- Organized a student professional development panel on “Netting a Job with a degree in Religion inside and Outside of the Academy” (May 2007).
- Provided a list of student panels organized 2004-06.
- Established a graduate student contact person at each institution in Canada.
- Contacted the AAR graduate student representative committee to establish a student liaison from the CSSR to the AAR.
- Published statements from the student desk in the Bulletin and circulated announcements of contests and events.

Cutting emphasized the 100% discount for student attending the annual dinner of the Society.

MOTION, Christopher Cutting /Francis Landy: That the CSSR/SCÉR establish approve, in principle, the establishment of an annual Graduate Student Scholarship.

After discussion, the mover and seconder agreed to add an amendment to the motion by adding the following: The President and Treasurer be authorized to investigate reinvesting the CSSR investments for the purpose of generating income for the proposed Graduate Student Scholarship.

After discussion, C. Cutting and F. Landy agreed to withdraw the entire motion.

MOTION, David Seljak /Pat Dold: The AGM empowers the Executive to reinvest the GICs to generate additional income.

The President expressed thanks to Christopher Cutting for his service on the executive

8. Other Business/ Varia

Francis Landy informed the membership that the University of Alberta (Edmonton) is soon to gain the approval from the Alberta Government for a PhD programme.

The President declared a vote of thanks to Mary Ann Beavis for local arrangements and to Rubina Ramji and Alain Bouchard for their work in preparing the program.

A reminder was announced of two events, the reception at the faculty club and the CSSR/SCÉR annual dinner.

9. Adjournment/ Levée de l'assemblée

A motion to adjourn was unanimously approved at 4:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna L. Seamone
