

**Canadian Society for the Study of Religion/Société canadienne pour l'étude de  
la religion**  
**Annual General Meeting Minutes / Procès-verbal de l'assemblée annuelle**  
**June 1, 2008 / Le 1 Juin, 2008**  
**University Of British Columbia**

**Present:** Edward Bailey, Peter Beyer, Paul Bramadat, Mark Chapman, Harold Coward, André Couture, Christopher Cutting, Jennifer Davis, Patricia Dold, David Feltmate, Aaron Hughes, Karljürgen Feuerherm, Janet Gunn, Chris Klassen, Francis Landy, Richard Mann, Alexandra Pleshoyano, Rubina Ramji, Donna Seamone, David Seljak, Matt Sheedy, Braj Sinha, Veronique Tomaszewski-Ramses, Hans Joachim Wiens

**1. Welcome / Bienvenue**

P. Beyer called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m. and welcomed the assembly.

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

**MOTION** to approve with the addition of one item under other business (presentation by Braj Sinha): M. Chapman/A. Hughes (carried).

**3. Adoption of the minutes of the 2007 meeting of the Annual General Meeting / Adoption du procès-verbal de l'assemblée annuelle 2007**

**MOTION** to approve: F. Landy/P. Bramadat (carried).

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

None.

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

The membership were addressed by a representative of the Humanities and Social Sciences Federation: Jodi Ciufo. She informed the assembly of the highlights of the current activities and initiatives of the Federation, emphasizing the following :

- The federation is undertaking special emphases on :
  - Inclusivity
  - Interdisciplinarity
  - Language Connections
  - Internationality
  - Stewardship
  - The membership itself :
    - Efforts to improve the membership experience. The general assembly representative is important in this process.
    - The federation is encouraging a two-way exchange.
    - Three positions are coming open the federation is looking for active, engaged people to take part.
- There is a new project to set up an association finder to increase the awareness of the scholarly associations.
- Advocacy to the federal government, not just for SSHRC, to ensure an equitable distribution of funds.
- Work with national associations regarding ethics.

- Copyright. Lobbying the federal government to ensure restrictions are not too restrictive.
- Future Congress gatherings will be held at: Carlton (2009); Concordia (2010); St. Thomas (2011); WLU/Waterloo (2012).

## 6. Reports/Rapports

### 6.1 President / Présidente

P. Beyer noted two issues on which he would report:

1. Last year the AGM supported exploration of possibilities (by the executive) by which the CSSR/SCÉR might raise funds to sponsor a guest speaker at the Toronto meeting of the IAHR in 2010. P. Beyer outlined three possibilities:
  - i. Initiate a IAHR fund and solicit optional contributions. (This option is not feasible given the cost of changing CSSR/SCÉR registration forms).
  - ii. Raise the membership rates.
  - iii. Utilize monies from our reserves.
2. Last year we discussed the issue of exploring more responsible and fiscally responsible investment of our surplus funds. Together with K. MacKendrick, P. Beyer decided to take a more aggressive and responsible course of action by investing the association's surplus monies in mutual funds.

**MOTION B. Sinha /P. Dodd** (carried unanimously): The CSSR/SCÉR allocate \$5000.00 from the reserve funds, either in 2009 or 2010, for the support of an international speaker at the meeting of the IAHR in Toronto in 2010.

### 6.2 Canadian Corporation for Studies in Religion / Corporation canadienne des sciences religieuses

The meeting agreed to reorder the agenda moving this item forward.

Aaron Hughes addressed the meeting in his capacity as manager of SR. He reported that SR has had an offer from Sage Publishing wanting to take over publication of the journal. He identified the benefits as:

- Increasing the international profile of the journal
- Giving the journal an immediate digital presence.

He identified one liability: the journal would be taken out of Canadian hands.

There was an open discussion of this issue. See the minutes of the CCSR annual meeting for more details.

The meeting resumed the regular order of the agenda.

### 6.3 Treasurer / Trésorier

Richard Mann, acting treasurer, reviewed the annual Treasurer's Report and proposed budget prepared by Ken MacKendrick highlighting the following:

- Membership Dues (WLUP). The inordinately higher number is accounted for by a deposit (approximately \$10K) made in May 2007. The average is typically about \$9,900.00.
- At first glance it certainly looks like we had a banner year: \$30,124.99 total income!!! This needs to be explained. About 10K is a WLUP deposit that is really from the year before. Another 5K is the "double" SSHRC grant. This essentially means things are running as usual.
- The rest is fairly par for the course. This was a "cheap" year since we did not defray any travel costs or invite any special speakers. Next year, i.e. this 2008 Congress, will be a more expensive.

- SSGRC Grants. Nothing unusual to report. The 2007 and 2008 SSHRC Grants have been received and were deposited this year, thus appearing double.

MOTION to adopt the Treasurer's report and the budget F. Landy/C.Klassen (carried).

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

M. Chapman highlighted that:

- Membership numbers of the association are stable.
- The default convention of the circulation of the Bulletin (unless paper copy is requested) will be in electronic format.
- The website has been and will continue to be updated.

Harold Coward expressed a special vote of appreciation for Mark's work on the Bulletin. The membership endorsed this affirmation with applause.

#### **6.5 2007 Programme Chair / Responsable du programme 2007**

Rubina Ramji presented a brief report on behalf of herself and Chris Klassen. She reminded attendees of the annual dinner to be held this evening.

Patricia Dold expressed her thanks on behalf of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute. The Institute is celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a full day of panel sessions in this year's program.

#### **6.6 Nominations Committee / Comité pour les nominations**

M. Chapman presented the report of the nominations committee (Dr. Leona Anderson, Dr. Peter Beyer, and Dr. Mark Chapman). The nominating committee presents the following nominations:

President: Michel Desjardins (Wilfrid Laurier University), 2 year term

Treasurer: Richard Mann (Carleton University), 3 year term

- Currently serving in the position in a temporary capacity

Member-at-large: Alain Bouchard (Collège de Sainte-Foy), 3 year term

Member-at-large: Rubina Ramji (Cape Breton University), 3 year term

The floor was opened for further nominations.

**MOTION** that nominations close. Braj Sinha/P. Bramadat.

P. Beyer declared the President : Desjardins, Treasurer : Mann, and 2 Members-at-Large: Ramji and Bouchard, elected.

D. Seljak announced that his term is up as FedCan representative.

#### **6.7 Student Essay Awards / Prix pour les essais des étudiant(e)s**

##### **6.7.1 Undergraduate Essay Contest**

David Feltmate reported that the Undergraduate Essay Contest received twenty-five submissions in 2008, two papers were disqualified because of length and one other was disqualified because it was submitted by a high school student. The winner of the contest was

- David Joubert-LeClerc, Bishop's University. "Christianity's Trial: Christian Heresiology from the first to the third century CE."

The runner up was:

- Jennifer Baker, Wilfrid Laurier University. "Incorporating all Conversion Motivations: Exploring the "Crisis Stage" of Religious Conversion."

##### **6.7.2 Graduate Essay Competition**

Francis Landy announced that there were 20 entries in the Graduate Essay Competition. There is a tie for the winning essay (\$250.00 each) between:

- Joel Buenting, Department of Philosophy, University of Alberta. Essay: "Can someone choose hell?"

And

- Matthew King, University of Toronto. "Ideological Geography and Narrative Work of a Periphery Buddhist History"

Landy requested special commendation of the following essays:

- Meredith Warren, McGill University. "Honeycomb and Transformation: the Role of Food in *Joseph and Aseneth*"
- Aaron Rick Parks, McGill University. "The Greco-Roman Rhetorical Foreign Tyrant and Mark 10: 42"

Landy announced the decision of the executive to expand the eligibility for participation in this competition to include graduate students registered in programs outside of Canada who are members in good standing of the CSSR in addition to graduate students registered in academic programs in Canada.

**Motion** P.Dodd/D. Seljak. Carried. That the 1st prize for the Graduate Student Essay Competition be raised to 700.00.

**Motion** P.Dodd/D. Feltmate. Carried. That there be a 2<sup>nd</sup> prize of 300.00 for the Graduate Student Essay Competition.

#### **6.8 CSSR Web Site / Site Web de la SCÉR**

Covered in the report of the membership secretary.

#### **6.9 Société québécoise pour l'étude de la religion (SQÉR)**

No report.

#### **6.10 Student Representative / Représentant des étudiants**

Janet Gunn reported on her activities:

- Updated list of student liaisons across the country, submitted student reports to the Bulletin and maintained regular communication with liaisons.
- Planned luncheon and strategic planning session for Graduate students at 2008 Congress meeting.
- In cooperation with the Graduate Student Committee of the AAR, a "Canadian corner" will be established in the student lounge at the AAR Annual Meeting in Chicago.
- In response to student request explored ways of putting Canadian Students studying in the U.S. in touch with one another. She will continue to pursue these efforts.

#### **7. Other Business/ Varia**

- Braj Sinha thanked the CSSR/SCÉR for the support of the Department of Religious Studies & Anthropology at the University of Saskatchewan. In their difficulty in the previous year and reported the department was successful in maintaining its status.
- David Seljak announced that the Waterloo/Wilfrid Laurier Ph.D Program in Religious Diversity has had their first graduate in the program.
- Paul Bramadat announced that he will be taking up a new position as Director of the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society at the University of Victoria.
- Landy also announced that the doctoral program at the University of Alberta is in operation.

#### **8. Adjournment/ Levée de l'assemblée**

**Motion** to adjourn C. Klassen/R. Ramji. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna L. Seamone