

CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION/SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE POUR L'ÉTUDE DE LA RELIGION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING / ASSEMBLÉE ANNUELLE
29 May 2010
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, MONTREAL
MINUTES

1. Welcome / Bienvenue

M. Desjardins called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. and welcomed the assembly thanking members for coming. Quorum was established.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Adopted by consensus.

3. Adoption of the minutes of the 2009 meeting of the Annual General Meeting

MOTION. Carried. B. Arnal/ A.Marshall that the minutes be adopted as corrected (spelling of Dold).

4. Special Order Don Wiebe: August 2010 International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR) Congress in Toronto

D. Wiebe gave a report on the upcoming meeting highlighting the following:

- Thanks to the CSSR for donation of \$5000.00 to sponsor a major speaker
- Process for proposing panels closes June 15th
- Bumps along the way have included volcanoes; construction on campus; downturn in economy; high registration fee
- Registration at 500. He reviewed the breakdown of this number by country.
- CSSR members were encouraged to attend
- Announced that Dr. Bill Arnal will serve as a plenary speaker

5. Reports

5.1 Presidents Report

M. Desjardins thanked the members of the executive committee for their work during the year. He noted the health of the society and its active operation noting especially his gratitude for the work of volunteers engaged in service to the society.

5.2 Treasurer's Report

R. Mann presented the annual Treasurer's Report and proposed budget highlighting the following:

- Explanation for the 9021.21 surplus (in circulated document)
 - Appear to have made money because of a double SSHRC grant (one for the previous year and one for the current year)
 - Cash surplus is 800.00
 - Expenses down and revenue is up
 - Due to Mutual fund investments, AGM Expenses were low in 2009, AGM travel was lower last year

R. Mann presented the proposed budget for 2010-11.

MOTION R. Mann/P. Dold (carried): To adopt the Treasurer's report and approve the budget for 2010-11 as presented.

5.3 Membership Secretary

M. Wilkinson highlighted the following issues:

CSSR experienced some major changes in 2009 for administrating its membership and the *Bulletin*. Upon taking the responsibility of membership secretary in 2009 he not only had to learn about the position but also worked on several transitions.

- First, Wilfrid Laurier University Press (WLUP) ceased to administer our membership enrolment in December 2009. In previous years members sent applications and

payment fees to WLUP. New members and the membership secretary were sent a notification. Membership reports were also generated by WLUP. This is no longer the case. The process now relies upon members to renew online with payment through Paypal. While this process has worked well with the majority of renewals occurring online, we still received about a dozen renewals through mail with payment by cheque.

- Authority to deposit cheques for CSSR was required and he is now able to make deposits locally. All membership data is accounted for and maintained by the membership secretary on a “member database.” Informing members of the new procedure occurred through email and the Bulletin.
- He was able to hire a student to help to input member data and is currently maintaining additions as many renewals occur on occasion of the annual meeting.

Membership figures, January 1 – May 28, 2010

	2010
Regular	54
Associate	10
Student	27
Associate Student	1
Other (retired, part-time)	16
TOTAL	108

- Following Fall and Spring pattern for issues of the CSSR *Bulletin*. It was published and posted online. Members also received a pdf document through email. No hard copies were mailed.
- Discussion followed regarding other societies’ practices regarding membership fees and whether there will be a charge related to the federation’s new centralized membership service.

5.4 Special Order: Humanities and Social Sciences Federation of Canada Representative

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

- The nature of the federation in the past several years as a « lobbying group » with the federal government, especially as regards the Federal budget
- Emphasized there is more money for research, especially for Post=docs. There has been an emphasis on trying to maintain current levels of funding rather than seeking increases.
- The buzzword on capital hill is *digital economy/ digital society* and applicants are encouraged to think of ways to present research initiatives in line with this emphasis.
- There is a new project to set up an association finder to increase the awareness of the scholarly associations.
- Future Congress gatherings will be held at: St. Thomas (2011); WLU/Waterloo (2012).

5.5 Student Essay Awards

5.5.1 Undergraduate Essay Contest

D. Feltmate reported that **2010** CSSR/SCER Undergraduate Essay contest saw fewer submissions than in past years. There were only two submissions, one of which was not about religion. The other paper was of average quality, but did not reach the exceptional standards of past winners. He recommended that the CSSR/SCER not award either a first or second place prize in this year’s competition

5.5.2 Graduate Essay Competition

C. Klassen reported that the **2010** CSSR/SCER Graduate Essay Contest received fewer submissions than in past years. There were only four submissions for the MA award and one submission for the PhD award. She recommended that the MA award go to Tenzen Eaghll for

the paper "From Pietism to Romanticism: The Early Life and Work of Friedrich Schleiermacher". She expressed thanks to Richard Walker (WLU) who provided some outside consultation. While the one PhD paper was deemed okay, it was not stellar and so Klassen recommended that we not award the PhD prize in this year's competition.

Klassen recommended that members think about ways to make this competition more appealing. It was suggested that keeping a posting of past winners on the website would be one way of high-lighting the competitions.

5.6 Nominations Committee

The nominating committee this year was composed of Dr. Peter Beyer and Dr. Michel Desjardins.

The nominating committee has nominated individuals for positions as follows:

- Member-at-large (2 positions): Mavis Fenn and Paul Crowe, 3-year terms
- Secretary: Pat Dold, 3-year term
- President: Darlene Juschka, 2 year term

The floor was opened for further nominations.

MOTION That nominations close. C. Klassen/R.Mann.

M. Desjardins declared the nominees elected.

5.7 2010 Programme Chair

A. Marshall offered a brief report :

- Robust program for the current year. Sessions for the annual meeting: ten roundtables and 130 people in program
- Acknowledged the work on local arrangements by Laurie Lamoureux Scholes.
- Announced the availability of a general meeting room for our members during the Congress.
- Offered thanks to all for their co-operation on behalf of herself and R. Ramji.

5.8 Student Representative / Représentant des étudiants

A. Mulhern reported on her activities with student members of the society. She noted that she acts as liaison with graduate student departments nationwide. She continues to update the email list sending monthly emails to schools distributing CFPs and other relevant announcements via e-mail lists and on Facebook. She offered a summary of the other activities promoting the involvement of students in the society.

5.9 CCSR Report

M. Desjardins noted a new research award for graduate students will be announced at the corporations' AGM on Monday.

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

A. Bouchard gave a verbal report indicating there was not much to report.

8. Other Business/ Varia

MOTION D. Juschka/D. Feltmate. Carried. That an additional member at large technical Liaison position be added to the CSSR Executive.

9. Adjournment/ Levée de l'assemblée

MOTION to adjourn C. Klassen/R. Ramji. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna L. Seamone