

**CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION/SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE POUR L'ÉTUDE DE LA
RELIGION**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING / ASSEMBLÉE ANNUELLE

St. Catherine's, Ontario

Brock University

May 24, 2014 14:00 – 16:00

Minutes

Present: Yasaman Munro (WLU-UW), Richard Mann (Carleton), Noel Salmond (Carleton), Braj Sinha (U of Saskatchewan), Mary Beth White (WLU), David Feltmate (Auburn U @ Montgomery), Patricia Dold (Memorial), Ruby Ramji (Cape Breton), Darlene Juschka (Regina), Judith Brunton (Toronto), Binish Ahmed (Ryerson), Booker T. Alston (Carleton), Chris Medland (Huron College), Eryl Bourd (Canadian Peace Research Association), Leah McKeen (WLU), Heather Shipley (Ottawa), Mark Chapman (Tyndale/WLU)

1. Welcome/Bienvenue: Ruby Ramji

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

Consensus on adoption of the agenda

3. Adoption of the minutes of the 2012 meeting of the Annual General Meeting/ /
Adoption du procès verbal de l'assemblée annuelle 2012

Consensus on adoption of the minutes

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

None

5. Reports/Rapports

a) Membership Secretary/Sécretaire aux admissions
Arlene MacDonald (in absentia)

Membership up from last year, stable since 2010

140 members now

Website has increased visibility of association and increased membership

Working on generating membership list from website (rather than tracking in excel files)

b) Treasurer/Trésorier
Richard Mann

Have not yet received a bill from President's reception in 2013, will contact registrar for invoice

Have also not received bill for CFHSS for the year, which means budget shows surplus that isn't 'true' for 2014

SR subscription; hadn't received invoice for 2013, had to pay double for this year so \$5900 pushed into next year's budget, hadn't yet been recorded on April statement

Have made changes to compensate for loss of SSHRC travel funds; reduced receptions, removal of small honorarium for executive, have been able to maintain travel fund contribution

Have added \$500 in travel funds for student representatives; current total at \$1500 for students involved in representing association to pay accommodation at conferences (not always used)

Investments running at \$54K; with account balance total on books looks like \$100K but is closer to \$93K (given balance 'hangovers' for next year's books)

Cost of AV for conferences very high; large expense for SR needs to be paid – projecting deficit of \$8K for next year to account for amounts not charged this year

Dues to IAHR have tripled this year; proposing a motion to increase yearly dues: \$5/member, \$2/students, \$2/unwaged

Two motions; one to accept budget for upcoming year; one to accept proposal to increase dues

Motion (budget): Pat Dold, seconded by Mark Chapman, carried unanimously

Motion (dues): Pat Dold, seconded by Mark Chapman; carried unanimously for final motion to pass at AGM in 2015

c) 2014 Programme Chairs/Responsables du programme 2014
Alison Marshall and Joe Velaidum (in absentia)

Thanks to Marybeth White and David Feltmate for their work.

Event announcement tonight, Traveling Guru, Darrol Bryant.

Ron Grimes is international keynote; have a graduate student luncheon on Sunday and a total of 41 sessions for CSSR.

Book prize will be awarded tonight at the reception, to be followed by a screening of a documentary film and discussion with the producer.

Continue to have a healthy balance across eastern and western traditions, interdisciplinary approaches. CTS has expressed interest in a joint panel on religion and ecology; always open to having joint sessions

SUNFLOWER very helpful in organizing submissions, received a few suggestions which will be passed to Yasaman

Alison created a CSSR twitter account, has asked members to use #CSSR2014 or send her info to tweet; if successful she'd like someone to take it over next year

Although keynote's talk on Sunday conflicted with session times, it was chosen by her (as she is conducting a speaking tour) had no way to change that

Ruby: Thanks to Alison and Joe for their work.

d) Graduate Student Member at Large/ Conseiller étudiant
Judith Brunton

Co-organized a graduate luncheon with CCSR student rep on research design

Concerned about reaching graduate students, not sure that systems in place are the best way to communicate with grad students studying religion

Will work with Yasaman to develop a better system, perhaps through website, and to add 'student corner' to listserv circulations with Yasaman & heather

Asking attendees to get in touch with Judith with contact info for best person in department to circulate news

e) Communications Liaison/Liaison de la Communiton
Yasaman Munro

Focus last year was largely on SUNFLOWER, was a very smooth process and thanks to Joe for bringing in the developer to implement the system

Late 2012-2013 changed web server from CCSR, adopted new URL – has been more stable and increased traffic

Added category of 'Friend of the CSSR' in January 2013, also receive newsletter without being paying members, have since added 400 contacts to listserv

In coming year, will work with Judith to connect to more graduate students; with treasurer and membership secretary to integrate PayPal and membership data

f) President/Présidente
Rubina Ramji

Thanks to the executive who are all volunteers.

Thanks to executive members coming to the end of their terms.

SUNFLOWER has successfully streamlined conference submissions process, CSSR is becoming seen more as a public institution with new web presence, creates a media hub and we are hoping to get CSSR brand out even further

Thanks to Marybeth White and David Feltmate, who are not part of the executive and have made conference organization much easier

Travel budget cuts from SSHRC made it necessary to pare down so that we could maintain money for students.

CCSR is looking to revitalize their book series, and are currently searching for an editorial board; attend CCSR AGM if interested

CSSR exists for our members, want to continue high caliber of discourse, want our website to serve you and want you to be sure to continue with us; use the site and the options so that we can best serve you.

Thank you to Marybeth White for being best local coordinator we've had, many challenges at Brock this year, it's a strenuous position to hold.

g) Nominations Committee/Comité pour les nominations
Darlene Juschka

Nominations for:

President: Rubina Ramji (second term) – Acclaimed.

Past President: Peter Beyer – Acclaimed.

Member-at-Large/Program Chair: Marybeth White - Acclaimed.

SQER rep: Alain Bouchard – Acclaimed

Treasurer: Bethany Berard

Moved by Darlene Juschka, seconded by Richard Mann; one abstention.

- h) Student Essay Awards/Prix pour les essais étudiant(e)s
Brenda Anderson and Catherine Caulfield (in absentia)

Undergraduate:

First place: Jenna Modhan, Manitoba, "What Not to Wear: Hagiographic Representations of Cross-Dressing Saints"

Second place: Erin Sobat, McGill, "The Pharaoh's Sun-Disc: the Religious Reforms of Akhenaten and the Cult of the Aten"

Graduate:

No PhD prize awarded this year, need to encourage more students to submit papers, only 2 PhD paper submitted and not of quality required

MA prize: Roxanne Korpan, "To what Extent is Religion an Expression of Rational Thought? A Question of Methodology."

- i) CSSR Book Prize
Darlene Juschka, Committee Chair.

First prize \$100; second is honorary mention

First to Eldon Hay, The Covenanters in Canada: Reformed Presbyterianism from 1820 to 2012

Honorary Mention: Pamela Dickey Young, Religion, Sex and Politics: Christian Churches and Same-Sex Marriage in Canada

Don't know if Eldon has been informed; had been submitted by press. Trying to get in touch with him.

Reminder that edited collections are not eligible; also need committee members to review (winner is automatically asked to be on next committee). Also looking for submissions for next year.

David Feltrate volunteers to be on committee; passed.

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

The Corporation will again run its doctoral travel scholarship competition. Please encourage PhD students at the dissertation stage to apply.

CSSR members encouraged to attend CCSR AGM; will discuss moving the book series to a different publisher, defining a general book series, important for CSSR to have a voice in this. Let Ruby know if you're interested.

k) Allied Associations/Associations alliées: no reports. SSHRC no longer attends these meetings; will remove this from future agenda.

l) Société québécoise pour l'étude de la religion (SQÉR)
no report.

8. Other Business/ Varia

IAHR proposal call ends in September, make sure to submit, CSSR pays fees to IAHR so all CSSR members are IAHR members; next meeting in Germany

9. Reminders/Rappels

Presidential Reception/Réception présidentielle

Saturday May 24 18:00 – 19:00 Alphie's Trough

Enjoy a free drink and hors d'oeuvres (along with a cash bar)

Announcement of Book Prize and Student Essay Prizes [sessions may be videotaped]

Film Presentation

Saturday May 24 19:00 – 22:00 Thistle 248

Travelling Guru, presented by Dr. Darrol Bryant

International Speaker

Sunday May 25 18:00 – 19:00 South Block, Room 203

Dr. Ronald Grimes, Visiting Professor of Religious Studies at Charles University, Prague will give a talk entitled *Celebrative Ritual and Fictive Religion: Prague's Velvet Carnival*

10. Adjournment/ Levée de l'assemblée

15:45; Submitted by Heather Shipley, recording secretary.