

**CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION/SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE POUR L'ÉTUDE DE
LA RELIGION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING / ASSEMBLÉE ANNUELLE
Ottawa, Ontario
University of Ottawa STE/AO150
May 30, 2015 14:00 – 16:00**

Minutes

In attendance: Heather Shipley (Ottawa), Paul Gareau (Ottawa), Rubina Ramji (Cape Breton), Alison Marshall (Brandon), Marybeth White (Wilfrid Laurier), Spencer Bullivant (Ottawa), Saliha Chatttoo (Toronto), Alyshea Cummins (Ottawa), Scott Craig (Ottawa), Pat Dold (Memorial), David Feltmate (Auburn), Richard Berg (Lakehead), Chris Duncanson Haley (Sudbury), Mark Chapman (Tyndale), Colleen Mahy (George Brown), Christine Cusack (Ottawa), Christine Pugh (Waterloo), Bethany Berard (Winnipeg)

1. Welcome/Bienvenue

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

Moved by David Feltmate, seconded by Pat Dold

3. Adoption of the minutes of the 2014 meeting of the Annual General Meeting/ / Adoption du procès verbal de l'assemblée annuelle 2014

Question: name to be recorded as Yasaman Munro or Samīkṣā Munro?; Samīkṣā from now on.

Adoption of the minutes:

In favour: 11

Abstention: 1

Motion carried.

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

None

5. Reports/Rapports

a) Membership Secretary/Sécretaire aux admissions

Arlene MacDonald (in absentia)

Although membership is fairly consistent over last few years, we are currently at 136 members, which is a bit low considering meeting is in Ontario

Drop in student membership in 2015 from 27 students to 17

Problems with connecting abstract submission deadline with membership payment; discouraged people from submitting when they were not sure their abstract would be accepted

Suggestion to separate membership renewal from abstract submission deadline (in December), have membership renewal deadline in March so that confirmation of acceptance is in hand and if they do not renew/become members, they will not be removed from the program. Will be changed for this year.

Working with Samīkṣā and Marybeth to streamline membership tracking, currently still dual system (which enables accuracy checks against website tracking)

Congress requires yet another type of tracking, not difficult work but time consuming

b) Treasurer/Trésorier

Bethany Berard

Significant challenges to transfer signing authority; created a document to detail process for future treasurers, has been an unnecessarily complicated process (made more complicated by home branch in Winnipeg)

Will transfer home branch to Ottawa when Bethany relocates in fall 2015: even without an exec member in Ottawa, it will be more central for association

Still have CSSR funds in a community account; pros and cons to this kind of account. Pros are that there are no fees; cons are that they only send a statement when a transaction has taken place in a given month (so no statements for months without transactions).

Other accounts have fees associated with them but might be worth it for sake of tracking monthly account balance

Three major bills have not yet been paid because of signing authority issues (SR, IAHR and CCSR dues)

Looking into getting an account with fees less than \$100, should be manageable expense

Worst case scenario is to find another bank

Proposal to increase travel funds to \$6500/year,

Remain with policy that we will cover applicants who do not have other funding, in addition to focus on graduate students and unwaged

Moved by Paul Gareau, seconded by Alison Marshall.

In favour: 16

Abstention: 2

Motion carried.

Second Motion: modify amount to be covered for applicant from maximum of 75% to minimum of 50% (and could be more, depending on number of applicants)

Moved Bethany Berard, seconded by Paul Gareau

Favour: 16

Abstention: 2

Motion carried.

Third Motion: Travel fund pre-approval application deadline March 1, funds still distributed after conference with receipts

Moved by David Feltmate, seconded by Pat Dold

Carried unanimously.

c) 2014 Programme Chairs/ Responsables du programme 2014

Alison Marshall and Marybeth White

Planning went smoothly because of the work of Paul Gareau and Spencer Bullivant; Spencer in particular did a tremendous amount of work

Will need LAC for next year at Calgary; Spencer might be there and would be willing to help out if so (also Morny Joy is at Calgary, might have a suggestion)

Thanks to Samīkṣā for all her assistance, particularly after the initial program went out – lots of changes and corrections needed to be made

Will work with Samīkṣā & Arlene on streamlining the SUNFLOWER system, will help with program development next year

Have a live theatre event after president's reception and a documentary premier, different kinds of events this year on the program

Crossover panels David Feltmate set up with CSA are in Fauteaux, which is not really close, perhaps in future years work to have them in the same building (organized by CSA, out of CSSR control)

Work of LACs is necessary, particularly in times of restrained funding but need to find way to communicate with Congress re LAC burnout (and increasing number of meetings)

Thanks to David Feltmate for everything he has done for the past two years

New MAL will take over Twitter account, perhaps coordinate with new grad student MAL, ensure it continues to be active and connect it with Facebook page; goal is to become more active on Twitter this year, start making Twitter use more interactive

Abstract submission date will change to December 1 (system is already open, people can send abstracts now)

Make sure to send notice of the new deadline on a monthly basis when the call is ready and circulate reminders

Members will be notified by February 1 as to whether their abstract is accepted (and then will need to become members by March 1)

d) Graduate Student Member at Large/ Conseiller étudiant

Judith Brunton (in absentia)

Wants to thank exec for support and patience as first year of PhD was being navigated; capacity for innovation as grad student MAL was limited

Has been communicating via email with graduate students, struggled to find key people to send updates to – had been hoping it was going through community networks

Had updated information on Facebook but unsure how successful that was

Planning graduate lunch with Paul and Christine; working with Paul was a great experience

Grad lunch this year features Emma Anderson, will present on creativity in communication

Looking forward to welcoming incoming grad MAL and transferring information; will indicate need to connect with graduate students and find key people to distribute information

Thanks to Heather & Samikṣā for ongoing communication and for creating the graduate section on the website and listserv

Some communication issues in last year; universities in Quebec in particular were not made aware of CSSR opportunities, especially the student essay competition

Graduate lunch information hadn't been posted to Facebook page until May 29 (two days before lunch)

Need to create better system of communication for grad MAL; use of departmental contacts to circulate information (dept secretary but also find reps for graduate associations)

Bethany created a CSSR brochure for a school project, happy to update it and circulate – can be used to encourage new student members to join and to communicate about student opportunities

Will develop a guide for the roles and responsibilities of the graduate rep; clear that what Aldea had been doing was not necessarily transferred to Judith (Marybeth will draft and circulate)

Create a clear mandate for the rep, what we expect and what you can do for yourself

Include Christine Cusack and Paul Gareau's contact info as mentors in student role

New student rep for CCSR, Marie-Josée Blanchard, will work with new CSSR rep to find ways to connect two associations

Paul to suggest at graduate lunch the designation of official "Central Associate Grad Rep," "Western Associate Grad Rep," etc., get people from key universities and locations across Canada involved and use their networks

New ideas to follow up for future programming: Creation of undergraduate sessions on programs, for local undergrads where conference is being held, connect it to courses that were taught in the year – use part of final day that is currently without session

New graduate student rep will need to develop Facebook and Twitter activity, integrate Bethany's brochure, and be in touch with departments

e) Communications Liaison/Liaison de la Communion

Samikṣā Munro (in absentia)

Friends of CSSR/newsletter very active, lots of news and dynamic circulation
SUNFLOWER works well for conference organization, is already backed up and ready to use again next year
Have administrator pages for several key roles - membership, secretary, program co-chairs – only viewed by these exec members and have files useful to position; can add more or modify in future if we want
More connection with Facebook page would be good; Heather & Samīkṣā have added more grad content to newsletter, but still need more graduate student specific content
Have next CSSR Twitter administrator use program like HootSuite to connect Twitter & Facebook and maybe also link to graduate section of site, will update all with same content

PayPal: should consider synthesizing with membership to streamline systems, working with Arlene & Marybeth

Suggested Samīkṣā contact Sage to discuss finding ways to reconcile lists but can't use Studies in Religion or listserv information (don't have permission)

f) President/Présidente
Rubina Ramji

Thank you to everyone for your hard work, it is awesome to work with you.
Thank you personally to Alison Marshall for her work with the society, it is richer for her contributions.
SSHRC has cut our travel funding for the annual conference but we have worked to maintain the funding, it is our primary mandate to continue encouraging student and unwaged participation
This is the third year in a row giving out a book prize, we are proud to acknowledge the work of our members
Craigie Lecture: it is more difficult to get funds to support this lecture; CSBS is in charge this year and we didn't have the information we needed to apply for interdisciplinary funds this year to support them
CCSR business: they are focused on their book series and will confirm details soon. Their AGM is June 1 from 12-1:30, attend to find out more about their corporation.

We used to invite Congress rep to our AGM but no longer an option; want to communicate with them about the increasing number of pre-conference meetings and pre-conference requirements; perhaps unnecessary amount of work for our LACS/program chairs.
Congress doesn't formally liaise with associations, hard to discuss these issues.

IAHR conference in Germany; Morny Joy has been asked to be our rep
Wabash is at Congress this year and would like to meet members of the CSSR; they have many programs that would be of interest to our members so make sure to stop by their booth

g) Nominations Committee/Comité pour les nominations
Peter Beyer (in absentia)
i) Nominations for: Member-at-Large (Program Co-Chair)

Graduate Student Member-at-Large

Member-at-large and Program Co-Chair:

Nomination: David Feltmate

No nominations from the floor; David Feltmate is acclaimed.

Graduate Student Member-at-large:

Nominations: Saliha Chattoo and Alyshea Cummins

Bios: Alyshea Cummins is currently a Phd student at the University of Ottawa, focusing on Canadian Ismaili Muslims and working with Peter Beyer on an RDP funded research project. Being Grad MAL would be a great opportunity to work with faculty and students; will be attending faculty meetings at Ottawa U and can coordinate information well, has a strong network and feels she can be successful getting students involved

Saliha Chattoo is a 3rd Phd student at the University of Toronto looking at performance based conversion events in Southern US, directed at youth. The CSSR has been a great resource as MA and PhD student, has been involved in writing book reviews, organizing a conference panel, and networking with lots of great scholars. Knows how important it is to reach out to grad students, is currently editor of the online publication Religion Beat. Is interested in figuring out new and productive means to connect with students.

Vote by anonymous ballot:

Alyshea: 8

Saliha: 9

Saliha is elected as new Grad MAL; Alyshea will act as associate program chair for 2015-2016

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

Undergraduate:

First place: Claire Dunn, Concordia University, "Muslim Women through the Orientalist Gaze: Western Perspectives pre and post 9/11"

Second place: Benjamin Sherick, University of Calgary, "Islam Observed: Issues of Interpretation in Religious Histories"

This year had about 30 papers submitted, which is great.

Graduate:

PhD Winner: Yasmin Merchant, University of Alberta, "The Karbala Narrative, Performance, and Politics in Iran"

MA Winner: Roxanne Korpan, University of Regina, "Androgyny and Authority in the *Apocryphon of John*"

Only had 4 submissions for PhD and 6 for MA, need more submissions in the future.

Motion to approve winners; moved by David Feltmate, seconded by Paul Gareau

Carried unanimously

i) CSSR Book Prize
Peter Beyer (in absentia)

This year we awarded a book prize for a first published book, between the years 2011-2014

Winner: Alison Marshall, *The Way of the Bachelor: Early Chinese Settlement in Manitoba* (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 2011).

Other two submissions were excellent and deserve honorary mention:

Hillary Kaell, *Walking Where Jesus Walked: American Christians and Holy Land Pilgrimage* (New York: New York University Press, 2014).

Sarah J. King, *Fishing in Contested Waters: Place Community in Burnt Church / Esgenoôpetitj* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2014).

Motion to approve winners : moved by Pat Dold; seconded by Mark Chapman

In favour: 13

Abstention: 1

Motion carried

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

They are focusing on their book series, we should receive more information soon. Also undergoing transition with Studies in Religion to an online submission system.

Travel fund for students: information on their website - \$7500 total available

k) Allied Associations/Associations alliées

N/A

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

Paul Gareau is looking to reinvigorate the association with Marie-Josée Blanchard, new CCSR student rep; will speak with Alain to see about restarting the association and to expanding it to Francophone scholars outside Quebec (perhaps inquire if they are willing to change the name to

incorporate other Canadian Francophone scholars)
Find ways to connect through Religion and Diversity Project to Quebec/Francophone scholars;
have lost a lot of Francophone involvement in CSSR
Could add extra day to annual meeting to add Francophone sessions

8. Other Business/ Varia

Studies in Religion: have completed online submission system for English articles and a website developed for English language book review (srreviews.ca), which shows books that have been submitted for review and how to use the site to review the books. Working on the French language submission system still.

Gemma Hickey has foundation called Pathways which provides support for survivors of clergy sex abuse. HopeWalk is a walk across the island of NFLD, from July2-Aug2, to raise awareness about issues and serves as a fundraiser (information will be circulated on the listserv). A press conference will be held June 2 to propose a bill for national day for survivors of sex abuse (by Ryan Cleary)

9. Reminders/Rappels

Presidential Reception/Réception présidentielle

Saturday May 30 18:00 – 19:00 SITE STE/Cafeteria

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]

Performance Presentation

Saturday May 30 19:00 – 22:00 SITE STE/AO150

My Data Are Being Performed by Tom Sherwood (Carleton University)

10. Adjournment/ Levée de l'assemblée

Moved by David Feltmate, seconded by Pat Dold; 16:01