

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING / ASSEMBLÉE ANNUELLE

24 MAY 2009

CARLETON UNIVERSITY, OTTAWA

MINUTES

Present: Alain Bouchard, Paul Bramadat, Mark Chapman, André Couture, Christopher Cutting, Michel Desjardins, Patricia Dold, David Feltmate, Cheryl Gaver, Chris Klassen, Nathan Loewen, Anton (Tony) Lovink, Richard Mann, Allison Marshall, Aldea Mulhern, Margie Patrick, Rubina Ramji, Mark Ruml, Donna Seamone, Matt Sheedy

1. Welcome / Bienvenue

M. Desjardins called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. and welcomed the assembly.

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

MOTION to approve P. Bramadat /R. Mann (carried).

3. Adoption of the minutes of the 2008 meeting of the Annual General Meeting / Adoption du procès-verbal de l'assemblée annuelle 2008

MOTION to approve: R. Mann /D. Feltmate (carried).

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

None.

5. Reports/Rapports

a) President / Présidente

M. Desjardins thanked the members of the executive committee for their work during the year commending these members for their volunteer service. He then introduced the matter of the likely transfer of SR from WLU Press to Sage, an issue discussed for the previous one and half years by the CSSR. He outlined benefits of the transfer and noted his own personal sadness and feelings of regret at this change but had spoken with B. Henderson at WLU press and he recommended the "sad but sensible" move. The President alerted the membership that this matter will be discussed at the CSSR meeting at the congress and more details presented there.

Discussion followed.

MOTION P. Bramadat/ A. Marshall **MOTION:** That the executive of the CSSR recommends that the membership support the proposal by Sage Publications to take over publication of SR. Carried.

b) Treasurer / Trésorier

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

This report was presented in two parts: Part One provided explanation of the past budgetary year and PART TWO provided a justification for the budget. The several forms attached to the report included: chronology of income and expenses (includes expenses from 2005-2009); budget comparison for 2008-2009; register report of all transactions between 1 May 2008 and 30 April 2009; summary of the income and expenses for the past fiscal year and category reports.

R. Mann highlighted issues such as the following:

- **Losses.** There was a total loss of \$5,822.46 for the 2009-09 fiscal year. Operating Deficit \$2,813.51 and an Investment Loss of 3,008.95.
- **Closing Balance.** The treasurer commented on the closing balance for the year Total "on the books" \$58,378.29 explaining the make-up of this balance in operating funds and investments and offered his assessment that the society is relatively healthy financially.

MOTION to adopt the Treasurer's report and the budget for 2009-10. R. Mann/P. Dold (carried).

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

M. Chapman highlighted:

- Membership numbers of the association are stable.
- Produced a revised copy of brochure and our one page ad (in French and English), which was used to advertise the CSSR/SCÉR.
- The website could use an update. Several areas that would benefit from a refresh include: the style of the website, the very static nature of the site (e.g., information does not automatically update), the lack of links to other sites relevant to our members, and the lack of content (e.g., member publications, regular conference listings).
- Things that need to be addressed in the future
 1. Implement a new website with a cleaner design and more information of use to members
 2. Redesign our promotional literature to better reflect contemporary design
 3. Redesign the Bulletin to a format more appropriate for onscreen viewing

Notice of motion: M. Chapman/C.Klassen That the CSSR executive be expanded by one member, at large position: "technological liaison", with special responsibility for electronic presence on the web and dissemination of information.

The regular reports were interrupted to take up item 7 on the Agenda :

SPECIAL ORDER : CSSR support for the August 2010 International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR) Congress in Toronto

Don Wiebe and Ivan Kahn invited association members to participate in the IAHR meetings in Toronto and distributed a brochure. They outlined organizational highlights of this conference and encouraged members to make tax deductible donations to a fund dedicated for the purpose of enabling participation of persons from countries that might otherwise be unable to attend.

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

d.1 Undergraduate Essay Contest

David Feltmate reported that the Undergraduate Essay Contest received twenty-three submissions in 2009, with two papers disqualified. One paper was disqualified because it was submitted by a graduate student and another because it was written by a high school student.

The winning essay was:

- "Re-considering the Utility of Goddesses in Religious Feminism: An Examination of Candomble in Relation to Hierarchical Theism and Egalitarian Nontheism" by Dakin McDonald of Acadia University.

The runner up was:

- "Children Dining at the Lord's Table: A sociological Analysis of Mennonite Communion" by Raymond J. Taylor of the University of Waterloo.

d.2 Graduate Essay Competition

R. Ramji announced that there were 13 entries in the graduate essay competition, Although the papers, especially the top four were of very high caliber. She noted the vast difference between Masters and PhD student submissions. Ramji suggested that in the future the CSSR consider creating two categories for the graduate student essay competitions.

FIRST PRIZE WINNER \$700

- Amarnath Amarasingam, Laurier-Waterloo PhD in Religious Studies.
Essay: "Religion and Ethnicity Among Tamil Youth in Ontario"

SECOND PRIZE WINNER \$300

- Matt Sheedy, Memorial University of Newfoundland
"Religion in the Public Sphere: The Limits of Habermas' Proposal and the Discourse of "World Religions"

Special Mention:

- Sean Otto, Wycliffe College.
Essay: "Kenosis – Theosis: Gregory of Nazianzus' Christology and the Bible"

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 2nd prize of 300.00 for the Graduate Student Essay Competition.

e) Nominations Committee / Comité pour les nominations

The nominating committee this year was composed of Dr. Peter Beyer, Dr. Michel Desjardins and Dr. Mark Chapman. The nominating committee has nominated individuals for the positions of Member-at-large, Graduate Student Member-at-large and Membership Secretary.

- Member-at-large: Alison Marshall, 3-year term
- Graduate Student Member-at-large: Aldea Mulhern, 2-year term
- Membership Secretary: Michael Wilkinson, 3-year term

The floor was opened for further nominations.

MOTION That nominations close. C. Klassen/C. Gaver.

M. Desjardins declared the nominees elected.

MOTION A. Bouchard/C. Klassen. That the responsibility for facilitating the nominations committee on a year to year basis fall to the past-president of the CSSR rather than to the membership secretary. Carried.

Special Order : Humanities and Social Sciences Federation of Canada Representative / Représentant de la Fédération canadienne des sciences humaines et sociales

The membership were addressed by a representative of the Humanities and Social Sciences Federation: C. Vandendorpe and K. Morin-Parsons. They informed the assembly of the 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.

- They emphasized new initiatives of the federation.
 - There is a new project to set up an association finder to increase the awareness of the scholarly associations.
 - Work with national associations regarding ethics.
 - Future Congress gatherings will be held at: St. Thomas (2011); WLU/Waterloo (2012).

f) 2009 Programme Chair / Responsable du programme 2009

Chris Klassen offered a brief report :

- Alison Marshall assisted in putting the program together
- final program details: 63 regular papers in 22 sessions; 1 special paper; 6 prepared panels; 5 roundtables; 1 full-day colloquium (on Islam, Pluralism and Globalization): Total 124 presenters
- requested funds from the Congress and local universities to help fund the Craigie lecture. The Congress is supplying \$600 and University of Ottawa's Religious Studies department is supplying \$100. The Craigie lecture will be given by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine on "Resurrecting Late Judaism: Archaeology, Analysis and Apologetic" on May 25, 19:30
- There were some problems with room bookings. She was able to change original assignments that had put us in multiple buildings throughout each day to the same building for at least one whole day. But because they could not give us the same building for the full 4 days, we have a different meeting room for CSSR members each day.

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

A. Bouchard gave a verbal report on the activities of the society.

j) Student Representative / Représentant des étudiants

Janet Gunn submitted a written report on her activities:

- Organized and hosted the Annual Student Luncheon at the CSSR 2008 Annual Meeting. The theme of this event was "Strategic Planning for Graduate Students".
- Established the Facebook Group "Student Members of the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion (CSSR)". At the time of writing this group has 123 members. Co-ordinated the installation of a "Canadian Corner" in the student lounge of the 2008 American Academy of Religion meetings in Chicago. This information table provided CSSR brochures and one-page flyers as well as back copies of SR.
- Co-ordinated and hosted a Canadian pub night for CSSR student members at the 2008 American Academy of Religion meetings in Chicago.
- Submitted regular quarterly reports to the Bulletin.

Continued role as liaison with graduate student departments nationwide, distributing CFPs and other relevant announcements via e-mail lists. Updated list of contacts where necessary.

8. Other Business/ Varia

9. Adjournment/ Levée de l'assemblée

Motion to adjourn C. Klassen/R. Ramji. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna L. Seamone