

**CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION/SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE POUR
L'ÉTUDE DE LA RELIGION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (2012) / L=ASSEMBLÉE
ANNUELLE (2012)**

Present: Patricia Dold, William James, David Feltmate, Michel Desjardins, Paul Crowe, Mark Chapman, Michael Wilkinson, Ruby Ramji, Alex Damm, Richard Mann, Yasaman Munro, Leah McKeen, Aldea Mulhern, Mary Beth White, Alain Bouchard, Adam Stewart, Sharon Lindenberger, Arlene, McDonald, Mavis Fenn, Peter Schuurman.

Regrets: Alison Marshall, Darlene Juschka, Brenda Anderson

1. Welcome/Bienvenue: Michel Desjardin welcomes.

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

Agenda was adopted without additions, but adjusted the order of business.

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

Correction to spelling: Zenia Mulhern.

Motion: D. Feltmate, seconded, Leah McKeen. Passed

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

No business arising.

5. Reports/Rapports

a) President/Présidente:

Michel Desjardins (for Darlene Juschka):

Book Prize: Information is on our website. Deadline: July 5, 2012. Volunteers were requested for the adjudication committee: Sharon Lindenburger (been involved in publishing for many years), Aldea Mulhern, David Feltmate (if his expertise will be useful);

Mark Chapman recommends D. Juschka find people for the committee according to the areas of the nominated books.

Other highlights:

CCSR – Book series asking us to encourage manuscript submission; very few submissions received now for a few years.

CAUT's campaign to save the archives: libraryarchives.ca – D. Juschka requests members to

help with this campaign.

CSSR Membership involvement: it is up to us to keep our society helpful. We need to find ways to support new scholars: brown bag events dealing with issues relevant to new scholars. More to come from D. Juschka on this.

b) Treasurer/Trésorier Richard Mann

How we did last year: \$2300 surplus, but actually only \$1000 is real surplus. We are doing better in terms of accurately estimating and sticking to our budget.

Healthy bank account and investments. We can deal with a shortfall.

Clouds: Change in SSHRC rules: must now spend grant, or amount of under-spending will be deducted from next year's grant. Our accumulation SSRHC subvention fund can help if we have shortfalls. We are asked to help students first. We have been able to refund all requests so far.

When Congress is held in central locations, we don't get as many or as large claims. More remote: we get larger claims. Encourage students to submit claims.

Fiscal year: new budget, with a surplus.

Questions on budget?

MOTION: accept budget: Aldea Mulhern, seconded by Mark Chapman. Passed.

c) Membership Secretary/Sécretaire aux admissions

Michael Wilkinson:

Highlights of his term:

Change from WLU to in-house membership process, move of journal to Sage.

Also, on-line renewal/membership payment. Still get about 15 renewals by mail.

Change in how we count members – WLU kept unpaid members on their list for 2 years of non-payment, but actual dues collected were lower when membership # supposedly at 215.

Sage does not carry people if they don't pay. We now have more accurate picture of our actual paid membership.

We are still working on transferring and reconciling various lists of members. The plan is to move to one list: paid and friends/ separate list of paid.

Bulletin is defunct as such; info integrated into website.

working in future to improve website so you can renew, check status, even submit

abstracts.

Grad students have difficulty paying all their bills in January, but if payment is delayed, you can get from Sage the journal issues retroactively.

Bill James: paypal receipt is non-specific – Richard: can change format to satisfy institutional expense receipt.

d) 2012 Programme Chair/ Responsable du programme 2012:

Ruby Ramji:

Thanks to all volunteers

Reception will be held, followed by a film.

Meeting Room available: up-to-date program available there.

Good balance in program; religion in Canada, eastern/western, thematic.

Clear that we have media-worthy expertise on religion in Canada.

Tried to arrange program so people can follow their interests.

No sponsored key note lecturer this year. I.e., no "Craigie lecture." Ours to pick for 2014.

We have interesting groups contributing to our program this year.

Unfortunate trend in delinquent membership fees:

We have a rule that panels and roundtables rep more than one institution.

We didn't realize conflict with Shavot, this meant some could not attend.

Presidential Reception tonight: Michel to walk over; Ruby has free drink tickets; short film to be finished by 9 pm

Program on website:

Late cancellations, mean some individual papers in sessions – so use that time!

Spousal conference fee needed.

Dean of Arts of U Waterloo gave 1000 dollars for coffee for us.

Alex Damm, thanks CSSR for opportunity to have subconference on Gandhi in Canada Conference. Because of some cancellations, Alex has had request to give presenters a more time. Alex has some copies of revised schedule for Monday and Tuesday sub-conference.

Big thanks to CSSR for hosting this event.

e) Nominations Committee/Comité pour les nominations

President: Rubina Ramji.
Membership Secretary: Arlene MacDonald
MAL (program): Alison Marshall (2nd term)
MAL (program) : Joe Veladium
MAL (undergrad essay): Brenda Anderson

Motion to accept these nominations: Leah McKeen, seconded by Yasaman Munro.
All acclaimed.

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

Graduate: Paul Crowe

PhD: Joose, Paul, "The Presentation of the Charismatic Self in Everyday Life: Reflections on a Canadian New Religious Movement." Department of Sociology, University of Alberta. This essay is forthcoming as a publication.

Honorable mention King, Matthew, "Authorizing Origins and Civilizing Texts." University of Toronto. Paul Crowe will encourage him to submit for publication.

MA: Chomyn, Lauren, "Riddles From the Margins of the Strange Sex: The Wisdom of Solomon's Judgment Story (1 Kgs 3:16-28)." University of Alberta.

Undergraduate: Patricia Dold (for Brenda Anderson, acting MAL)

There was a healthy number of submissions, though several had to be disqualified for exceeding the length restriction.

1st: Sarah Moselle (U Vic), (\$300) Title of Paper: "An Insult to National Honour: Investigating Canadian Public Perception of the Shafia Trial."

2nd to Steven Haines (Carleton), (\$100) "Historical Jesuses and Reality: Contemporary Historiography, Cognitive Neuroscience, and the Implications for Historical Jesus Questing"

We will post winners and abstracts on the website so people can contact winners if they want to read the paper.

g) Graduate Student Member at Large

Aldea Mulhern:

Overview of her efforts to communicate using local liaisons and facebook page.

Encouraging participation through development and so profession development luncheon is on again this year: this year distance education and on-line education. Lunch is again provided.

Passing of Nick Schonhoffer – information re: donating to a travel bursary in his name is on the U of T website.

M.Desjardin asks about key concerns of grad students with regard to CSSR:

Students note the value of talking to people who don't do exactly what you do, makes CSSR attractive over more specialized societies. There has been some backlash after CSBS cut back on students presenting at Congress.

h) CSSR Web Site/Site Web de la SCÉR:

Yasaman Munro:

New website launched just prior to last year's Congress. Website development ongoing – Challenges: reconcile membership lists; want to integrate all of these for ease of use
Make site a place where people want to visit; send your feedback so website can serve you.

Suggestions for website:

Mark Chapman: Transitions might be reported.

David Feltmate: have profile updates flagged – a facebook-like news reel.

Make membership database more accessible, alphabetical listing so you can identify who you are looking for.

Yasaman needs help to get people to participate on website:

David: bring in a rollover mechanism, so names and profiles emerge when you roll over

Ruby: eventually we want website to be the hub where everything you need is located.

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

Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses: contribute submissions! Patricia Dold is incoming English language editor.

j) Allied Associations

FEDERATION REPS coming, see item below.

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

Alain Bouchard: Six new academic positions in Rels in Quebec – sudden increase when for a

while there was nothing.

Demonstrations everywhere in Quebec, people joining in with students. Still the government is not taking the students with appropriate seriousness. But people who have not had any political involvements are active. Do not know as yet what will happen to this term. Waiting for how things will develop.

Protest in Ottawa on the May 29.
Paul Crowe: SFU students also went out
CAUT has made official announcement.

6. Other Business/ Varia

Congress fee, CSSR conference fee, in addition to membership fee.

a) discussion and notice of motion - Additional fee category for partner/family of CSSR member/ catégorie de frais supplémentaires pour le partenaire / la famille d'un membre CSSR - la discussion et avis de motion

FEES

Member: \$40.00
Non-member: \$55.00
Retired Member: \$20.00
Retired Non-member: \$55.00
Student Member: \$20.00
Student Non-member: \$55.00
Unwaged Member: \$20.00
Unwaged Non-member: \$55.00

Proposal from Exec: Introduce a fee category for partners: \$20 or \$40 and if partner is non-member, then the usual non-member fee of \$55.

Bill James questions the need to impose any fee for a spouse? When there are other societies that do not charge?

Richard: no real cost consequences because we already have to pay for rooms etc.. As this is likely going to be a small number, we could allow a spouse at no charge.

Mavis Fenn: a donation? Richard: Can't do that, not allowed.

Bill James has tried writing to Congress on this issue, but got no response.

David Feltmate: important that we open up to people who want to check us out, want to come to a session, hear a spouse's paper.

For Exec to reconsider these three options for spousal/partner fee

1. 20/40
2. zero
3. minimal: say 10? Just to come and check out session/sessions.

Notice of MOTION: To add a fee category for Congress registration for spouses, partners, family members, as described in the list above (20, 40, or 55).

The motion can be amended at next year's AGM.

b) discussion and notice of motion that presenters at the CSSR congress meetings be members in good standing/ discussion et avis de motion que les présentateurs lors des réunions du congrès CSSR être membres en règle

David Feltmate: will this discourage cross-pollination, prohibitive cost for roundtable
Richard Mann: it is about fairness.

7. Humanities and Social Sciences Federation of Canada Representative/ Représentative/ Représentante de la Fédération canadienne des sciences humaines et sociales

Federation reps:

1. Wants to make Congress more open and accessible, encourage internationalism and interdisciplinarity. They are considering a single passport. But this would take time to solidify and get all societies on board.

Big thinker events open to community; so another idea is to also have a community pass.

In Frederickton, many people just attended all kinds of presentations and Federation received a lot of positive feedback.

Alain Bouchard warned that when this passport was introduced in Quebec, it ended up costing the societies and benefiting Federation! Beware!

2. Budget cuts, SSHRC money coming out of administration, doing more in partnership program (where you need one industry member). 31% now, way up from few years ago.

Internship ala Mitacs – push for more of this.

But outside the utilitarian box: no engagement from SSHRC, there is marginalizing anything that does not relate to job creation.

Aid to students not touched, but no increase.

Copyright bill: tired to contribute but proposed amendments not in bill.

Federation is moving to a smaller board 11-13 down from 25, lots of committees to involve specialists.

Have considered a new name, but no appetite for this. But still trying to find an easy label for communication purposes.

Richard asks about annual meeting: will it continue to move?

Yes, to open up to community, will continue to move, but will also be held in Ottawa.

And want to continue to make event more than just the AGM, have a conference that is of interest. Next year, a Western University interested. Year after, in Ottawa. A local rep can be appointed as meeting moves.

Michel points out problems with this: neophytes will be overwhelmed and this will be detrimental in terms of communicating what Federation is to their society. To have one representative who can go wherever meeting is, is both a large financial and time commitment.

A temp representative could just report to permanent representative.

Richard offers thanks and kudos for help Federation Staff gave him when he began as treas.

Federation website is being redone.

Do not hesitate to contact Federation with questions.

8. Reminder/Rappel - Presidential Reception/Réception présidentielle

17:00 – 19:00, UW-Davis Centre 1301

Enjoy a free drink and hors d'oeuvres (along with a cash bar) [these sessions may be videotaped]

19:00 - Film Presentation of *The Gates of Heaven* and discussion with producer Dr. Brenda Beck

9. Adjournment/ Levée de l'assemblée

Motion: Bill James, seconded by David Feltmate. Passed.

Submitted by Patricia Dold

May 30, 2013