

**CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION/SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE POUR  
L'ÉTUDE DE LA RELIGION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING (27 MAY 2003) /  
REUNION DU CONSEIL (LE 27 MAI 2003)  
University of Dalhousie, Halifax NS**

Present : Randi Warne, Kenneth MacKendrick, Darlene Juschka, Faydra Shapiro and André Courture

Regrets : Mavis Fenn, Aaron Hughes, James Mullens

1. Welcome/Bienvenue

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

**Motion:** to adopt agenda MacKendrick/Juschka carried.

3. Adoption of the minutes of the meeting May 25, 2002 /Adoption des procès-verbal des reunions du conseil du Mai 25, 2002

**Motion:** to adopt minutes Warne/Courture carried

4. Business Arising From the Minutes/Suivis aux procès-verbaux  
No business arising.

5. Reports/Rapports

5.1 President/Président (André Courture)

Courture thanked the executive for its work. His general impression was that things were running smoothly.

Courture noted that the quality of French in Bulletin was poor, and suggested that the new membership secretary send him the template in order to made the French make sense. He also noted that the representation of francophone scholars was minimal, with only 5 papers being given, 2 in French and 3 English, and that bilingual presentations have grown fewer each year.

**Motion:** To accept President's report Courture/Juschka carried

5.2 Treasurer/Trésorier (Kenneth MacKendrick)

MacKendrick pointed out that expenses appear as if they are going down but this was because several large expenses had come in late or had not been submitted. For example, the Bulletin expenses have not yet been sent to MacKendrick and Y. Haddad costs (special speaker 2002) did not arrive until May of 2003 while CFHSS congress costs did not arrive until after the end of our fiscal year. This amounts to approximately \$5000.00 not being represented in this year's costs. If these costs are included, our general running costs remain the same as the previous year. MacKendrick indicated that there was a

surplus this year 1800.00. This money continues to be banked in order to build up the society's reserves. MacKendrick noted that the travel reimbursement form was not published in April Bulletin and therefore had brought forms to the congress to pass out at the AGM. MacKendrick also noted that the transfer of the Treasurer's files held at Victoria college, U of T needed to be arranged. The possibility of audit requires that the files be immediately accessible to the Treasurer.

**Motion:** To accept Treasurer's report and to recommend approval of the budget at the AGM  
MacKendrick/Warne carried

5.3 Membership Secretary/Sécretaire aux admissions (read by Darlene Juschka) James Mullens' reported:

**Membership**

The membership enrollment procedure in 2003 remained the same as in previous years, with members sending their applications and dues payments to Wilfred Laurier Press with a notification copy to the membership secretary. Membership dues for 2003 were set at: \$90 for regular members, \$60 for other members; \$50 for students; and \$50 for Associate members.

According to the information provided by Cheryl Beaupre at Wilfred Laurier Press, the 2003 membership count as of May 1 totaled 267. This represents a marginal increase from 250 members in 2002 due to a larger student membership (see category breakdown on page 3 below).

Payment of both 2002 and 2003 membership dues is still being received.

**Bulletin**

Fall and Spring issues of the CSSR Bulletin were published this year : Vol XXVI Nos.1& 2. The Bulletins were prepared in printed format and sent by regular mail to all members. They were also posted electronically on the CSSR website at the time of mailing.

**Motion:** To accept Membership Secretary's report Juschka/Courtire carried

5.4 Nominating Committee/Comité pour les nominations (Darlene Juschka, Randi Warne, André Courtire)

Darlene reported that she approached a number of people to fill the positions of Membership Secretary, Recording Secretary and MALs. Two scholars will allow their names to stand: Terry Woo for the position of Recording Secretary and Mark Chapman for the position of Membership Secretary. Two MAL positions remain open: the ad-hoc new graduate student MAL position and MAL Graduate student essay judge to come from the floor.

**Motion:** To accept Chair of nominating committee's report Juschka/Warne carried.

5.5 Programme Chair/ Responsable du programme (Faydra Shapiro)

Shapiro indicated she had received 60 abstracts and of these 42 papers were included in the program. These represented folks from 30 institutions of higher education from as far away as Japan. However, there were 13 cancellations of papers, which amounts to 22%. It was wondered if this year were higher than in last due to location of the Congress. There was some discussion as to whether or not it be helpful to set categories in terms of areas of concern? The consensus was to re-write the call for papers to reflect conference focus, areas of concerns, and general interest. Included would be a final withdrawal date (emergencies are of course exempt from this) and a request for volunteer chairs for sessions. In light of the continued effort to keep membership address information up to date, the Programme chair would pass along email addresses to membership/recording secretaries. Finally, in light of last minute changes to the programme, the programme chair would ensure that a final version of the programme be available at the CSSR Web-site and at the association table.

**Motion:** to accept Programme Chair's report Shapiro/Warne carried

5.6 Student essay contests Prix pour les essais étudiant(e)s (reports read by Darlene Juschka)  
Graduate Essay Contest/Concours d'essai pour Graduate étudiant(e) du 1er cycle Mavis Fenn reported :

In total there were seven submissions. Andre Courture and Mavis Fenn vetted the submissions. First place went to Nicole Goulet, PhD Candidate, University of Manitoba for her paper "Ramakrishna and Becoming: Deleuze and Guattari's Becoming-Animal".

Undergraduate Essay Contest/Concours d'essai pour Undergraduate étudiant(e) du 1er cycle Aaron Hughes reported :

In total I received nine submissions, which I thought was a rather disappointing number. First place went to Erin Dyck (University of Manitoba) for her "The Spin Doctor: Irenaeus of Lyon and the Second-Century Reidentification of Paul." Ms. Dyck's paper argues for the important role of Irenaeus in reclaiming Paul from the Gnostics for what would eventually emerge as "normative" Christianity. Second place went to Stephanie Bumstead (University of Calgary), for her paper "Merkabah Mysticism and Gnosticism: An Analysis of Gershom Scholem's Theory."

**Motion:** to accept reports of essay contest Juschka/MacKendrick carried

5.7 Canadian Corporation for Studies in Religion/Corporation canadienne des sciences religieuses rep (André Courture)

The Corporation meeting was held in Montreal in January. Courture reported that there would be an update of CCSR web site. It was felt that it requires re-designing. There was some discussion in regard to hiring a professional to do this. Courture also indicated that Nicole Denzey had created a new logo that the CCSR will officially adopt.

**Motion:** to accept CCSR report Courture/Juschka carried.

5.8 Société québécoise pour l'étude de la religion (SQÉR) rep (André Courture)

At this time Couture had nothing to report as the general meeting had been held recently and the minutes were not yet available. Courture will meet president of SQER Alain Bouchard the week of June 2, 2003.

- 5.9 Canadian Federation for the Humanities and the Social Sciences (CFHSS) /Fédération Canadienne des Sciences Humaines (FCSH)  
David Seljak will report at the AGM
- 5.10 Website committee/ Site Web de la SCÉR (Kenneth MacKendrick)  
It was commented that there are problems re the CSSR web site and that the site certainly needs redesigning. However, steep costs tend to inhibit this kind of overhaul of the web site. MacKendrick suggested that he would have his web-savvy student survey the CSSR web site and make recommendations for changes of which he would report to the executive.

**Motion:** to renew of Don Eldarshaw at \$750.00 for the year Juschka/Warne carried

- 5.11 Academic Freedom/Liberté académique (Randi Warne)  
Warne indicated there was nothing to report.
6. Discussion of drop in institutional memberships in the Corporation Membership (cost benefits, which institutions have dropped out, possible reasons, etc). Members of the board should make sure that their respective institution renew their membership. An ad-hoc committee was formed to develop ideas about increasing institutional commitment.
7. There was a discussion in regard to which CSSR executive member would be responsible for updating and adding information to the CSSR web site. It was agreed that the President would continue to vet information that would be posted at the web site. The president's role in this, it was noted, should be indicated at the CSSR web site.
8. Local arrangements representative for 2004 Congress in Winnipeg, MB  
Kenneth MacKendrick has agreed to act as local arrangements person for the 2004 congress at the University of Manitoba. MacKendrick indicated he would speak to Allan Kirk and Johannes Wolfart both at University of Manitoba to request their assistance.
9. There was a brief discussion as to the job description of Graduate Student representative. The executive prepared a job description for the new ad-hoc grad student MAL position:  
Responsibilities include:  
Liaison with the student representative on the CCSR  
Promote graduate student essay competition  
Be responsible for increasing student profile and participation in the society  
Preparing Graduate Student page for Bulletin twice yearly  
Investigate possibility of arranging Graduate Student Event at the Annual Meeting
10. AAR/CSSR relationship (Randi Warne)

Warne reported that five years of ostensible outreach to the CSSR and CCSR by the AAR has been somewhat problematic. She indicated that there has been no real attempt on behalf of the AAR to properly understand the Canadian Scene as distinct from the American scene. To give but one example, their Lilly-funded research project, the Census of programs in Religious Studies and Theology in North America did not accurately represent what is going on in Canada, in part because no attempt was made to set questions that would flag these differences. Indeed, when the first draft of the questionnaire was circulated, a number of differences between the American and Canadian scenes were noted by Canadian scholars. Rather than frame the questions to highlight these differences, the questions in the next draft were “homogenized” so as to be generic (with the American case as the norm). It was decided that rather than produce a full report on the relationship between the AAR and CSSR, there ought to be appropriate scrutiny of any future liaisons that CSSR has with the AAR. Warne indicated that they may be well meaning but are uninformed about (and apparently disinterested in) the specificities of Religious Studies in the Canadian scene.

11. Other business/Autres Affaires

1. Warne reported that Paul Bowlby would like to see a day-long session on “State of the Art in Religious Studies.” This would consist of a discussion about the future shape of RS in Canada by examining faculty and department needs.. In line with this, senior people could report on departmental retirements and the directions departments are moving, to provide a map of Religious Studies for the future. Ideally it would be best if every graduate programme in Canada participated. He also felt that the executive needed to endorse the project. The exec suggested that Bowlby provide more information to the executive as to the form the symposium would take. Further, the exec suggested that a round-table format to discuss the future of the discipline might be a good place to begin. Warne also indicated that the issue of professional interest should be regularly discussed in a forum at the annual meeting.

2. Funding of Exec to attend congress

Several members of the executive were unable to attend the Congress as their institutions did not provide funding for their travel. Currently the executive members are not funded through the CSSR for their travel to the Congress. What the executive does receive is the cost of one night’s lodging based on the resident room fee. This has amounted to each member receiving \$45.00. It was noted that \$45.00 does not cover the cost of even a resident room. There was discussion of increasing the amount received by each executive member, but this would reduce the surplus that the CSSR has managed to ensure each year. It was decided to defer any increase in money received by the exec members until the extra revenue generated by increase in registration fee can be determined. At best, MacKendrick indicated, two-nights accommodations at the residential fee might be offered.

3. Robin Schlaht “Journey-Modern Pilgrimages on Ancient Paths”

The filmmaker of this project contacted Juschka in order to garner a letter of support from the CSSR for his project. It was agreed, after examining the material sent by Schlaht,, that a general letter of support will be written. Juschka will write the letter and pre-circulate it prior to sending it out.

4. International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR) 2005 Tokyo meeting  
MacKendrick continues to put funds away for CSSR rep to attend IAHR . \$2500.00  
should be available for travel. There was discussion as who might attend the upcoming  
IAHR. Juschka indicated she was willing to go as the CSSR rep. To look at upcoming  
comments re the Tokyo meeting see IAHR web site <http://www.iahr.dk/>

5. Archives

This is an issue we need to resolve: Where should we locate a secure and permanent site  
for the archives, given that the National Archives in Ottawa is accepting no new  
material? At this juncture, CSSR archives from approximately the mid-1980s to the  
present are held by Randi Warne in her home. This problem has been ongoing and  
continues to remain unanswered.

12. Adjournment/ Levée de l'assemblée

**Motion:** to adjourn Juschka/Warne carried