

**Procès-verbal du réunion du conseil (le 28 mai 2004) / Executive Committee  
Meeting Minutes (May 28, 2004)  
University of Manitoba, Winnipeg**

**Present:** André Couture, Randi Warne, Darlene Juschka, Kenneth MacKendrick, Aaron Hughes, Mark Chapman, Christopher Cutting, Terry Woo

**Regrets:** Faydra Shapiro

**1. Welcome/Bienvenue** André Couture

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

**MOTION:** to adopt agenda; Warne/Juschka carried

**3. Adoption of the minutes of the May 27 2003 meeting of the Executive Committee/**

**Adoption du procès-verbal de la réunion du conseil exécutif du 27 mai 2004**

**MOTION:** to adopt minutes; Couture/Warne carried

**4. Business Arising From the Minutes/Suites au procès-verbal** No business arising.

**5. Reports/Rapports**

**a) President/Président**

Couture noted that this is the end of his two-year term and that the dedication of the members is wonderful. He commented on how hard it is to attract people, and referred to particularly difficult areas in non-world, non-Buddhist, and non-West Asian religions. He suggested that established specialists do not attend because of a lack of good feedback noting that he was alone on a panel which was supposed to have two others from Ottawa. A lengthy discussion about this ensued.

Couture's point about feedback was reinforced. Limited funding was also brought up and it was suggested that this issue should be taken to the Congress. There was support for this idea; the funding should be dedicated to Canadian conferences.

It was also noted that the Congress needs to encourage attendance that is balanced for example, between larger and smaller departments, and theological and Religious Studies components. The Congress representative, Jackie Wright, should be targeted by David Seljak; it was noted that neither the CSSR nor Women Studies were consulted by the congress concerning special events relevant to them. It was suggested that more joint thematic sessions might garner better funding.

French remains another area of concern: for example, the quality of the website is compromised by weak expression in French; Couture hopes that the consideration for French representation will be encouraged.

Warne suggested that the president might write a letter requesting better information on Special Events for next year – Jackie Wright is the person to approach on this. Couture ended by saying that all suggestions for improving membership and diversity in panels should be sent to him.

**MOTION:** to accept President's Report; Mackendrick/ Chapman & Juschka carried

**b) Treasurer/Trésorier**

MacKendrick remarked that costs could be kept down if participants were to use slides instead of computers in their presentations because the former costs nothing while the latter costs \$25. Warne suggested that this information should be included in the call for papers.

Chapman was complimented for his effective cost control, the best in years, for the production of the Bulletin. It was pointed out that the SSHRC grant of \$4350 has not yet been deposited but there is, nevertheless, \$10,000 has been maintained from previous grants in case the Congress does not continue funding. Juschka suggested that graduate students and part-time faculty be encouraged to apply for travel funding instead of tenure-track people. It was suggested that MacKendrick write a short blurb in the Bulletin about this.

The IAHR has not yet billed the CSSR. Juschka will be representing the CSSR in Tokyo. \$800 has been dedicated to the website. Question was posed about interest from the savings: Should the \$300 from interest be directed for student awards?

**MOTION:** to adopt the Treasurer's Report; Chapman/Juschka carried

**c) Membership Secretary/Secrétaire aux admissions**

Chapman reported that there are conflicting reports in the number of members: 229 and 245. He noted that WLU Press has purged the membership of those who have not been paying dues. 18 to 20 names were deleted. Parameters have been set for a regular monitoring of membership: 18 months of non-payment of dues will result in the delisting of name.

New strategies for recruiting new members were tried. They included: a) U of T example of brochures in the Common Room where graduate students congregate; b) WLU where the Chair, Michel Desjardins distributed the brochures to the graduate students; c) staff booths at other member groups; d) get student representation. This brought forward the necessity to change the constitution for a position for an Ad-Hoc graduate student at the AGM. The proposed wording was: "The composition of the executive committee will be amended to add a position of student representative. The position is ex-officio, with a term of two years, renewable once."

Chapman also reported that WLU Press now accepts VISA/Mastercard for all payment of dues and that the membership forms should be changed to reflect this. Cutting asked if the secretary is apprised of new members. The answer was yes; Juschka noted that, the agreement with WLU Press was to provide new members with notification of membership at \$1 per name. The general trend for membership from 2001 to 2004 is one of decline with membership of graduate students as the only exception.

Two points were made about the Bulletin: First, it is posted electronically on the society website, copies were sent to members via email, and back copies will be archived at Mount St. Vincent; with the use of credit cards, personal information can be blacked out after five years. Second, the cost of the issue was approximately \$1,500.

**MOTION:** that 1) a change to the constitution to include an Ad-Hoc graduate student on the executive committee be brought to the AGM for approval, and that 2) the Membership secretary's report be accepted; Warne/Juschka carried

**d) Nominations Committee/Comité pour les nominations**

Warne, Juschka and Chapman were the members of the Nominations Committee. MacKendrick was re-nominated as Treasurer and accepted. Leona Anderson was nominated as President and has accepted the nomination although she was apprehensive of the fact that she is not bilingual; she believes diversity is good for the CSSR and accepted Francophone representation through Couture. Couture will present the nominations at the AGM as Chair.

Hughes expressed concern that he will be at Hebrew University in Israel from January 2005. He was assured that his absence from Canada during this time should not prove an impediment to his participation on the executive. In the past, executive members such as Roxanne Marcotte and Randi Warne served on the executive under similar circumstances.

A question was raised about how to keep track of members who express interest in serving the society by becoming members of the executive. The process of nomination and election is in the constitution. However, it is useful for members of the nominations committee to pass along information regarding those who have expressed interest in the past. Darlene Juschka volunteered to serve in that capacity for the upcoming year.’

**MOTION:** to accept the Nomination Committee’s Report Couture/MacKendrick carried

**e) Programme Chair/Responsable du programme**

Shapiro’s report was read by Woo. Shapiro noted in her report that there are papers being read by scholars from as far away as Australia and Brunei and as close as Winnipeg. There is a greater variety of papers being presented this year than there was last year.

The planning and execution worked more easily this year. There were fewer problems with last- minute cancellations; this might be due to the cancellation “deadline” presenters were given. “Suggested themes” in the call for papers also worked out very well.

Shapiro asked if the program chair ought to be a three-year position on the executive rather than a job given to a MAL? She noted that it would be extremely useful to have continuity.

Juschka volunteered to serve as the program chair for the upcoming year. In commenting about the idea of continuity for program chair, it was suggested that it needn’t be too formal; an apprenticeship for one year can be served and then chairing for two. This consultation about the program and the selection of papers would be quite intensive, possibly to be carried out with the Past President who would have experience with senior members of the society.

The delicate nature of a junior MAL rejecting the paper proposal of a senior scholar was noted. It was suggested that the MAL should work with the Past President in case of the need for intervention and further suggested that a template for the planning be taken from Shapiro.

**MOTION:** to adopt the report of the Program Chair; Woo/Chapman carried

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

**Undergraduate Essay Contest/Concours d'essai pour les étudiant(e)s du 1er cycle**

Hughes reported that a total of five essays were received: Two from Concordia, one from Wilfrid Laurier, another from York, and a final one from Dalhousie. The winner is Sohrob Nabatian from Concordia, "The Use of Eastern Spirituality in the Marketing of Tea." It was sponsored by Leslie Orr.

**MOTION:** to accept winner of contest; Hughes/MacKendrick carried

**Graduate Essay Contest/Concours d'essai pour les étudiant(e) du 2e cycle**

Juschka reported that there were three submissions. Sarah Parkes Ricker won; she will attend next year's Congress with the available travel funds. Bill Arnal and Yuan Ren also read the papers submitted.

**MOTION:** to accept the winner of competition; Juschka/MacKendrick carried

**g) Canadian Corporation for Studies in Religion/Corporation canadienne des sciences religieuses (CCSR)**

Couture will email Peter Beyer for information.

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

Couture will meet with appropriate people in June. There was nothing to report.

**i) Canadian Federation for the Humanities and the Social Sciences (CFHSS)  
/Fédération canadienne des sciences humaines (FCSH)**

David Seljak was not present to make a report.

**j) CSSR Web Site/Site Web de la SCÉR**

Shapiro's report as read by Woo.

It was reported that the biggest holdup was trying to make the website bilingual, simple and aesthetically pleasing all at the same time. She thinks that the balance of these needs have been achieved.

Jeremy, the website designer, will teach Shapiro how to make updates to the site this summer and she will teach this to whomever will actually be responsible for maintaining the site in future.

Couture added that the website was only in English but that he has translated all of the content. MacKendrick indicated that he understood that Don Eldershaw is to maintain the website as before and that Jeremy should contact Don. Juschka then suggested that funds should be set aside in the budget for someone to translate the website content on a regular basis; she said that another society had paid \$1500 for a complete overhaul of their site. MacKendrick noted that there would be budget implications for this. Warne asked if a Francophone student can be brought in to do this.

Couture closed this portion of the discussion by noting that a letter should be written to Don Eldershaw informing him of the people from whom he should accept materials to post to the website.

**k) Academic Freedom//Liberté académique**

No business to report from Warne.

**6. Local arrangements rep Congress 2005**

Possibilities from the various church-affiliated colleges at UWO and Cary Tagagaki, a U of T graduate now teaching Japanese history at UWO were discussed. MacKendrick advised all that forms are given out at the one and only planning meeting and that because UWO is only one hour away from Waterloo, someone from WLU which is just an hour away might also be a possibility for the local representative. It was suggested however that it would be better that there be a person who knows the campus and is a member of the CSSR.

**7. Other business/ Varia**

William Morrow's letter asking for support for an interdisciplinary forum on "Faith and Terror" was presented. There was unanimous support of the request for \$1450 from the CFHSS. A letter should be written to Morrow indicating this support.

Ron Grimes' letter about the COMMON CV site was brought forward. It was agreed that the CSSR is not the appropriate venue to deal with this issue and the CCSR would be a better one. Grimes, Couture, Juschka and Harold Remus will be working on this.

**8. Adjournment/ Levée de l'assemblée**

**MOTION:** to end the meeting; Couture/Juschka and Warne carried