

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING / REUNION DU CONSEIL

YORK University, Toronto
28 May 2006

Minutes

Present: Leona Anderson, Kenneth MacKendrick, Mark Chapman, Alain Bouchard, Christopher Cutting, Rubina Ramji, André Couture, Christopher Brittain

Regrets: Darlene Juschka

1. Welcome/Bienvenue

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

MOTION to approve: Rubina Ramji/Ken MacKendrick (carried)

3. Adoption of the minutes of the May 2005 meetings of the Executive Committee/ Adoption des procès-verbal des reunions du conseil du Mai 2005

MOTION to approve (carried)

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

none

5. Reports/Rapports

5.1 President/Président

L. Anderson reported on the recent arrangements made in preparation for the Annual Meeting, and welcomed the new members on the executive: Rubina Ramji, Alain Bouchard, and Chris Brittain.

5.2 Treasurer/Trésorier

MOTION to approve Treasurer's Report: K. MacKendrick/M. Chapman (carried)

K. MacKendrick circulated two copies of the annual Treasurer's Report – a fully detailed version, and a shorter version for general circulation at the AGM. This is in keeping with the practice of his predecessor, and is intended to facilitate clear communication of basic details to the membership.

The Treasurer's Report highlighted issues such as the following:

- The executive's practice of issuing travel grants for members to attend the AGM needs to be more closely monitored in the future, since this expenditure last year exceeded the funds we received from our SHRCC grant. This may eventually necessitate not fully funding applicants (as has been our practice in recent years).

- Given that his term expires in one year, K. MacKendrick recommended that an accountant be hired to ensure that the books are in order prior to handing them over to the next Treasurer.

Some questions of detail were fielded, including: the creation of a “travel (other)” budget line; and the question of where to locate advertising expenses (under “publications”).

2006-07 BUDGET

MOTION to approve: K. MacKendrick/Rubina Ramji (carried)

Following the presentation of the proposed budget, the executive discussed the current prize awards for the student essay contest (raised by R. Ramji and C. Cutting).

The award for a graduate essay was raised to \$500, and the first prize for the undergraduate essay context was raised to \$300. This was received as a friendly amendment (K.MacKendrick/C. Brittain) and was approved by the executive.

The question of the student essay contests closed with a discussion over how to best support the presentation of the winning papers. C. Cutting raised the possibility of having student presentations over a lunch. This issue should be discussed during the planning of next year’s annual meeting.

5.3 Membership Secretary/Sécretaire aux admissions

Motion to accept the Report : M.Chapman/K.MacKendrick (carried)

M. Chapman thanked A. Couture and D. Juschka for their service to the society, as they are now leaving the executive.

It was reported that the society currently has 254 members, which is up slightly from last year. It was noted that the increase was largely due to an increase in student memberships. There was speculation that one reason for this was that the conference location in Toronto.

A discussion developed over the question of requiring members to pay their society dues prior to being accepted on the conference schedule. The executive agreed that this was the expectation and that this policy should be made explicit on the call for papers.

M.Chapman reported that members appear to prefer faxing their credit card number for making membership dues payments.

Some attention was given to a discussion of the *Bulletin*’s and the Website’s policy regarding personal publications and advertising. The executive reaffirmed the practice of excluding both of these, as both the *Bulletin* and website are intended to provide information and communications to the society membership. Although members are invited to suggest that web resources be added to the site, advertising and personal publications will be omitted. The final decision on this policy will rest officially with the CSSR President. It was also noted that the French version of the website still requires some editing and correction.

5.4 Nominations Committee/Comité pour les nominations

MOTION to accept: M.Chapman/C.Brittain (carried)

M. Chapman reported that three vacancies were opening on the executive : President, Past President, and a Member-at-Large position. It was noted that next year the Treasurer's term will end.

The Nominations Committee tabled the following recommendations to fill the vacancies :

- President – Peter Beyer
- Past President – Leona Anderson
- MAL – Francis Landy

It was noted that a previous decision on the part of the executive to expand the number of MAL by one required a notice of motion to be given at the Annual General meeting (to be added in one year's time after a vote at the 2007 AGM).

5.5 2002 Programme Chair/Présidence pour le programme

A. Bouchard reported that he had received 87 paper and panels proposals, for a total of 116 papers. Of these, three were rejected, and ten others were withdrawn. The main challenge in dealing with submissions is that eighty percent of them are submitted at the last minute, and this caused problems with his email server. Special thanks were extended to D. Juschka and M.Chapman for their assistance.

The ensuing discussion covered the following issues:

- In response to a question about the number of papers being presented, A. Bouchard suggested that the society may have reached its maximum limit, as an extra day would be required to host more panels.
- It was recommended that next year the call for papers specify that email submissions be sent in Word .doc format. It was noted that submitting papers via the website would be desirable, but also expensive and complicated logistically.
- It was agreed that the aparmeters for early planning of next year's meeting work with the parameters of 3 consecutive panels, and four rooms/day.

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

MOTION to accept the reports: K.MacKendrick\C.Cutting

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

Rubina Ramji reported that she had received 35 undergraduate submissions, and 5 from high school students. She reported the following winners :

- 1st prize : Hannah McGregor (Carleton) : ‘Word Made Flesh : A Study of Eucharistic Thought in the Fourth Gospel’
- 2nd prize : Ardith Bailey (UBC) : ‘This Mortal Body, These Mortal Flames’
- Runner Up : Mordecai Walfish (U King’s College) : ‘Derrida’s Jewish Penis : Looking Beneath the Foreskin of Jaques Derrida’s Circumfession’.

It was agreed that the winners be given free society membership for one year (membership form to be sent to the treasurer, expenses from the student contest account).

R.Ramji also reported on her attendance to a Canadian Federation conference, between November 27-29 2005. She observed that the consultation amounted to a presentation of Federation information, and not a dialogue with member organizations.

5.6.2 Graduate Essay Contest/Concours d'essai pour Graduate étudiant(e) du 1er cycle

Darlene Juschka submitted a report stating that she received nine submission for the Graduate essay competition. She reported the following winner :

- Brian Carwana (WLU) : ‘The Institute of Canadian Values conference : How the Canadian Religious Right Adopts Secularism to fight Secularism’.
- Special mention was extended to Paul Josse (Alberta) and Tristan Sturm (Carlton).

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

The executive were informed of the following developments:

- For the journal *Studyies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses*, Francis Landy is now English essays editor, and Anne Marie Dalton is editor of English book reviews.
- The CCSR has also achieved good financial health, after a few difficult years.

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

A.Bouncard (President de SQÉR) informed the executive of current ongoing chanes within the Quebec public school system with regard to the teaching of religion. Religious studies is being moved from Primary to the end of secondary education. SQÉR is working with the government to help prepare teachers for this change (as most schools operate out of theological backgrounds and need to shift to a religious studies approach). A website to provide teachers with information about non-Christian religions, etc, is being developed.

5.10 Canadian Federation for the Humanities and the Social Sciences (CFHSS) /Fédération Canadienne des Sciences Humaines (FCSH)

Nothing to report

5.11 CSSR Web Site/Site Web de la SCÉR

Don Eldershot is working to get the *Bulletin* into html format, but this is proving to be difficult (due to charts, etc.)

6. Local arrangements rep Congress 2006

Toni Michaels was not present, but he was thanked for his efforts and his efficient organization. The executive agreed to send him official thanks.

7. Student Representative

C. Cutting reported on some initiatives he is considering:

- Establishing a student liaison with the AAR
- Encouraging each university department to establish a student liaison to the CSSR
- The expense of the Annual Dinner expensive was discussed, as students have expressed the concern that it is prohibitive. The executive discussed establishing a student plate price for next year's dinner.

8. Other business/ Varia

L. Anderson informed the executive that the bid to host the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR) in Toronto in 2010 had been accepted. The CSSR had joined with NAASR and other groups to sponsor the bid. The CSSR will now need to determine how it wants to support this conference, and the executive was informed about a planning meeting on 30 May during the conference. L. Anderson is on the steering committee involved with the planning. A presentation by Donald Wiebe will occur during the AGM.

9. Adjournment/Ajournement

MOTION: L.Anderson/C.Brittain (**carried**)