

Procès-verbal de la réunion du conseil / Executive Committee Meeting
Minutes
University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon
Le 27 mai 2007 / May 27, 2007

Present: Leona Anderson, Peter Beyer, Mark Chapman, Christopher Cutting, Francis Landy, Rubina Ramji, Donna Seamone

Regrets: Alain Bouchard, Kenneth MacKendrick, David Seljak.

1. Welcome / Bienvenue

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m.

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

MOTION to approve, Leona Anderson / Christopher Brittain (carried).

**3. Adoption of the minutes of the May 2006 meetings of the Executive Committee/
Adoption des procès-verbaux des réunions du conseil de mai 2006**

MOTION to approve (carried)

4. Business Arising From the Minutes / Suivi aux procès-verbaux

4.1 Legal status of CSSR.

Questions were discussed regarding the legal status of the organization. (Not for Profit? Non-profit?). The president and treasurer will explore this issue in consultation with Randi Warne.

4.2 Support of of the IAHR in Toronto.

Leona Anderson raised the issue of the request of the IAHR for the CSSR to sponsor a plenary session at the meeting in Toronto (in 2010), at the cost of approximately \$5000. Discussion followed regarding possibilities for sources of funds to support sponsorship of this event.

MOTION, R. Ramji/L. Anderson (carried): The president, with the membership secretary, is authorized to explore the possibility of amending the membership form to facilitate an opportunity for members to make a donation to an IAHR fund.

MOTION, F. Landy/C. Cutting (carried): That the president ask at the AGM if there is agreement in principle with this decision to participate in this way at the IAHR.

L. Anderson asked, on behalf of D. Wiebe, for suggestions from the executive for plenary speakers for this event.

4.3 CSSR Website.

M Chapman noted that the need for someone to check to ensure that the French side of the CSSR website is updated. P. Beyer will assess the state of the website and call on one of his graduate students or André Couture to correct the site.

5. Reports / Rapports

5.1 President / Présidente

P. Beyer announced there was nothing to report, all issues will be raised in the executive meeting and AGM today.

5.2 Treasurer / Trésorier

Peter Beyer reviewed the annual Treasurer's Report on behalf of Ken MacKendrick.

MOTION to approve, L Anderson/ F. Landy (carried).

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

- In the past year a surplus of \$600.00 was anticipated but there was a deficit of \$932.44. The deficit is accounted for by the lack of participation in the CSSR dinner which amounted to a loss of \$2,051.60 (about \$500 off budget), some May 2007 WLUP chq deposits which will appear next year, and a double payment of the Congress Fees (\$2,030/annum). Considering the double payment of the Congress Fees there is a \$1,000 surplus.
- Our Society has three sources of income. The sources of income include membership dues (WLUP), interest on investments, and registration fees. Alongside this we receive a SSHRC Grant which we must set aside to fund travel to the Congress.
- Expenses are fairly consistent from year to year. We pay AGM expenses (outlined above), membership fees (HSSCF, IAHR), the cost of publishing the *Bulletin*, administration fees from WLUP, the maintenance of the website, office supplies and bank charges, as well as the defrayal of travel expenses for students, special speakers, and participation in organizations of particular interest to our membership.

MOTION, L. Anderson/M. Chapman (carried): The budget for 2007-2008, as prepared by the treasurer, is accepted with the addition of \$500.00 to cover the cost of Graduate student attendance at the annual dinner.

Special Order of Business.

Braj Sinha of the Department of Religious Studies & Anthropology at the University of Saskatchewan articulated the threatened situation of this department, requesting support from the executive of the CSSR and permission to solicit letters, arguments and comparisons from those attending the AGM.

MOTION, F. Landy/R. Ramji (carried): The CSSR supports the Department of Religious Studies & Anthropology at the University of Saskatchewan and authorizes the President of the CSSR to write the administration of the University of Saskatchewan urging them to maintain the disciplinary integrity of the Department of Religious Studies & Anthropology.

It was agreed that Francis Landy will present this motion at the AGM and that Braj Sinha and Mary Ann Beavis will address the AGM.

5.3 Membership Secretary / Secrétaire aux admissions

MOTION to accept the Report, M.Chapman/L. Anderson (carried).

Mark Chapman highlighted the following issues :

- Membership enrolment procedure in 2006/2007 remained the same as in previous years.
- Produced a revised copy of the CSSR/SCÉR brochure and a one page ad (in French and English).
- Policy of only approving members for presentation at the annual conference who have paid their membership dues was implemented this year.
- 2006 membership total as of April 26 totalled 296. This is the highest membership level since 1995. Students now comprise 27% of our membership as compared to 32% in 2006 and 28% in 2005.
- Recommend that membership dues for 2007 remain unchanged from 2006.

MOTION, L. Anderson/C. Cutting (carried): The Executive of the CSSR authorizes M. Chapman to acquire an independent internet domain for the CSSR webpage, the cost of which is not to exceed \$200.00.

5.4 Nominations Committee / Comité pour les nominations

Mark Chapman presented the report of this committee (Peter Beyer, Ken MacKendrick, Mark Chapman). (Since this report was presented as part of the Membership Secretary's report the motion to accept is noted above in **5.3**.) There is continued effort to make the executive representative of our membership in terms of geographic area, gender, area of specialization, and language.

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

- Treasurer, 3 year term – No Nominee (Kenneth MacKendrick has agreed to serve as Treasurer temporarily, until a replacement is found.)
- Recording Secretary, 3 year term – Donna Seamone (current serving in the position in a temporary capacity)
- Graduate Student Member-at-Large, 2 year term - Janet Gunn
- If approved by the membership we will also nominate:
 - Member-at-Large, 3 year term – Chris Klassen
 - Member-at-Large, 3 year term – No Nominee

MOTION, L. Anderson/F. Landy (carried): That a constitutional amendment be presented at the AGM as follows: That Article V item d) of the CSSR/SCÉR constitution be changed to read:

Article V: Executive d) Five members-at-large elected to a three year term of office at the Annual General Meeting of the Society. Election of

members-at-large will follow a staggered pattern such that no more than two members-at-large will be elected or will retire in any one year.

5.5 2007 Programme Chair / Responsable du programme 2007

R.Ramji gave a brief verbal report on behalf of both she and A. Bouchard. She highlighted that they are pleased with both the number and the quality of panel submissions. She noted that since the program was printed there have been seven cancellations. P. Beyer expressed particular thanks to Alain and Ruby for their fine work in planning this year's program.

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

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

Francis Landy reported the following winners in the undergraduate essay contest:

- 1st prize : Gabriel Jones (Department of Classics and Religious Studies, University of Ottawa): "Gender Equivalence, Samkhya and Mahadevi"
- Runner Up : Brynna Hambly (Department of Religious Studies, University of Calgary) "The Manufacturing of Saints in Early Christian Homiletic and Martyrological Literature"

MOTION, F. Landy/C. Cutting (carried). The winners of the undergraduate essay contest for the current year accepted as reported.

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

Leona Anderson reported that she received three submissions for the Graduate essay competition. She recommended that no award be given this year.

MOTION, M. Chapman/R.Ramji (carried). The Executive accepts the report and recommendation as submitted.

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

P. Beyer is the representative to the CCSR. He gave a brief report on the status of the CCSR. They are doing well.

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

No report. (A. Bouchard, président de la SQÉR, absent.)

5.9 Canadian Federation for the Humanities and the Social Sciences (CFHSS) / Fédération canadienne des sciences humaines et sociales (FCSH)

No report. D. Seljak absent.

5.10 CCSR Web Site/Site Web de la SCÉR

Discussed under 4.3 and 5.4 above. No further discussion.

6. Local arrangements representative Congress 2007

No report, local arrangements committee chair not present.

7. Student Representative / Représentant des étudiants

Christopher Cutting reported on his activities:

- Organized a student professional development panel on “Netting A Job With A Degree In Religion Inside And Outside Of The Academy” (May 2007).
- Provided a list of student panels organized 2004-06.
- Submitted a revised schedule of duties for the student representative (which he will pass on to new student representative).
- Contacted the AAR graduate student representative committee to establish a student liaison from the CSSR to the AAR.
- Published statements from the student desk in the *Bulletin* and circulated announcements of contests and events.

Cutting requested clarification concerning the acceptable uses of the \$600 designated for the student representative. The treasurer will have to be consulted to clarify this.

MOTION, R. Ramji /C. Cutting (carried): The president and the treasurer are authorized to investigate CSSR investments.

MOTION, C. Cutting /F. Landy (carried): That a motion be presented to the AGM proposing the establishment of a CSSR Graduate Student Scholarship. It was agreed that C. Cutting will present this motion.

8. Other business / Varia

MOTION, L. Anderson/F. Landy (carried): The CSSR will have an annual keynote speaker. This matter will be organized by the President in consultation with the Program Chair and the executive.

F. Landy informed the executive that the Ph.D. Program at the University of Alberta is on the verge of being approved.

9. Adjournment / Ajournement

MOTION, L. Anderson/F. Landy (carried).

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna L. Seamone
