

**CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION/SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE POUR L'ÉTUDE DE LA  
RELIGION  
29 MAY 2010  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING / REUNION DU CONSEIL  
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY**

**Present:** Alain Bouchard, Peter Beyer, Michel Desjardins, David Feltmate, Chris Klassen, Francis Landy, Richard Mann, Allison Marshall, Aldea Mulhern, Rubina Ramji, Donna Seamone, Michael Wilkinson

**1. Welcome / Bienvenue**

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. Michel Desjardins welcomed all members to the meeting.

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

Agenda adopted by consensus.

**3. Adoption of the minutes of the May 2009 meetings of the Executive Committee/ Adoption des procès-verbaux des réunions du conseil de mai 2009.**

**MOTION** to adopt minutes. A. Mulhern /D. Feltmate (carried).

**4. Reports / Rapports**

**4.1 President / Présidente**

M. Desjardins reported that he had received correspondence from P. Bowlby regarding SSHRC and someone accomplished who applied and was not successful. He expressed concern that current alignment of Religious Studies with Classics is problematic for people engaged in ethnographic research and non-text-based methods in the discipline and that this alignment does not take seriously changes in the discipline. The president contacted SSHRC but has not yet received a response. Discussion of this matter followed centering on two questions: Do we need to follow up? How do we describe ourselves? It was decided that M. Desjardins will work with the incoming president to get data from SSHRC and to collect data to determine whether there is something with which we should go forward with the CCSR. The issue will be raised at the AGM. There was a consensus that this 2 pronged approach was best.

Desjardins raised the issue of the need for person to serve as a technological liaison on the executive, noting that such an appointment would not be costly (@\$45.00). He asked for direction from the executive as to whether we should try to fill the position at the meeting? Discussion followed with no conclusion reached.

Desjardins concluded his report with "musings after a few years" regarding the annual meeting, He raised the question as to whether the program could be organized more effectively than is presently the case where we big the meeting with the AGM. Time was spent brainstorming possibilities, including:

- Start with special speaker, i.e. address by president and coffee?
- Put AGM and president's address at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> day with a short AGM, president's address, reception dinner at the end of 1st day.

**4.2 Treasurer / Trésorier**

Richard Mann presented his report. He highlighted the following issues:

- How did we do? Noting the report looks like good news, showing a surplus @9011.00 (gain)
  - Received double SSHRC Grant for last year
  - Take about @4300.00 out
  - Money made in mutual funds, cash increase \$800.

- Why not the anticipated loss
  - some budget items went down
  - no hard copy of Bulletin (\$3300 budgeted)
  - reduced expenses by 10% by one measure
  - registration slightly up
  - Had SSHRC subvention
  - We need to spend it
- Can put worry about travel to back burner, looks like we are fine for about 5 years.
- How will we look
  - Expenses are dropping
  - Will be a cheap year
  - Paypal costs are much less than WLU Press.
  - Anticipate surplus of \$4000 next year
- What would executive like R. to do with surplus monies?  
 Discussion of possibilities followed regarding book prizes out of proceeds  
 First book every third year  
 General book award over three years  
 CSSR Book award

**MOTION P. Beyer/ C. Klassen.** Carried (unanimously). That the executive recommend to the AGM the establishment of a CSSR book prize to be awarded every year with one year out of every three to be a first book award. Eligible books have to have been published in the three years prior to the year of award. The prize will be awarded by a book award committee of three people appointed by the President of the Society. The amount of the award is \$500. The deadline for the nominations will be December 31<sup>st</sup> prior to the annual meeting.

It was noted that the Executive felt application for travel funds should be regarded favorably.

**MOTION R. Mann/C. Klassen** (carried): To accept the budget for 2010-11 as presented.

#### **4.3 Membership Secretary / Secrétaire aux admissions**

M. Wilkinson highlighted the following issues:

CSSR experienced some major changes in 2009 for administrating its membership and the *Bulletin*. Upon taking the responsibility of membership secretary in 2009 he not only had to learn about the position but also worked on several transitions.

- First, Wilfrid Laurier University Press (WLUP) ceased to administer our membership enrolment in December 2009. In previous years members sent applications and payment fees to WLUP. New members and the membership secretary were sent a notification. Membership reports were also generated by WLUP. This is no longer the case. The process now relies upon members to renew online with payment through Paypal. While this process has worked well with the majority of renewals occurring online, we still received about a dozen renewals through mail with payment by cheque.
- Authority to deposit cheques for CSSR was required and I am now able to make deposits locally. All membership data is accounted for and maintained by the membership secretary on a “member database.” Informing members of the new procedure occurred through email and the Bulletin.
- I was able to hire a student to help to input member data. I am currently maintaining additions as renewals occur on occasion of the annual meeting.

### Membership figures, January 1 – May 28, 2010

|                            | 2010 |
|----------------------------|------|
| Regular                    | 54   |
| Associate                  | 10   |
| Student                    | 27   |
| Associate Student          | 1    |
| Other (retired, part-time) | 16   |
| TOTAL                      | 108  |

- The Fall and Spring issues of the CSSR *Bulletin* were published and posted online. Members also received a pdf document through email. No hard copies were mailed. This is in accordance with the decision last year to distribute the *Bulletin* exclusively online. It will be important for members to maintain current contact information (mail and email) for distribution of society materials.

R. Mann agreed to follow-up to see if there is a way to syncretize membership dues/congress registration.

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

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

D. Feltmate reported that **2010** CSSR/SCER Undergraduate Essay contest saw fewer submissions than in past years. There were only two submissions, one of which was not about religion. The other paper was of average quality, but did not reach the exceptional standards of past winners. He recommended that the CSSR/SCER not award either a first or second place prize in this year's competition.

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

C. Klassen reported that the **2010** CSSR/SCER Graduate Essay Contest received fewer submissions than in past years. There were only four submissions for the MA award and one submission for the PhD award. She recommended that the MA award go to Tenzen Eaghll for the paper "From Pietism to Romanticism: The Early Life and Work of Friedrich Schleiermacher". She expressed thanks to Richard Walker (WLU) who provided some outside consultation. While the one PhD paper was deemed okay, it was not stellar and so Klassen recommended that we not award the PhD prize in this year's competition.

Klassen recommended that members think about ways to make this competition more appealing. She queried whether we could make arrangements for the PhD award winner (should there be one) to have their paper published in SR? Thus making it more desirable for PhD candidates to think of submitting essays.

#### 4.5 Student Representative / Représentant des étudiants

A. Mulhern reported on her activities:

- Keep up email list
- Monthly emails to schools
- See report for highlights

#### 4.6 Nominations Committee / Comité pour les nominations

P. Beyer reported that Peter Beyer, and M Desjardins served as the nominations committee this year. The nominating committee recommended the following nominations for presentation at the AGM:

President: Dr. Darlene Juschka, 2 year term

Secretary: P Dold, 3 year term

Member-at-large: Dr. Paul Crowe, 3 year term

Member-at-large: Mavis Fenn, 3 year term

Executive members received the recommendations of the nominating committee with thanks to the committee members for their work.

#### **4.7 CCSR Report**

Nothing much to report. New research award for graduate student.

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

- P. Beyer reported that the federation dealt a lot with SSHRC matters
  - Long presentation on new Grant Architecture SSHRC
  - Had a session on the service offered to member societies
  - Presentation health Canada – encouraging submissions
  - Three new groups, one of which Canadian Society for Asian Studies CASA

#### **4.9 2010 Programme Chair / Responsable du programme 2010**

A. Marshall reported on sessions for the annual meeting:

- ten roundtables
- 130 people in program
- for future: Change format of program to alphabetical format
- Local arrangements made by Laurie Lamoureux Scholes.
- Thom Parkhill has been asked to serve as local arrangements chair for next year.
- Program Co-Chairs will be R. Ramji/A. Marshall.
- Members should be reminded and we should enforce no person may appear more than 2x in program for presentations and panels need to increase

#### **5.0 Other business / Varia**

**MOTION C. Klassen /P. Beyer:** That CSSR increase the registration fee for Congress by \$5.00 from 35.00 to 40.00 across the board. Carried.

Cheques for extra day of housing were distributed by the treasurer.

#### **Adjournment / Ajournement**

**MOTION D. Feltmate/C. Klassen (carried).** The meeting adjourned at 12.30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, with apologies for such a long delay

Donna L. Seamone